Called by Name
ISAIAH 43:1

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him. John said, "Look! The Lamb of God! He takes away the sin of the world! This is the One I was talking about."

—John 1:29-30 NIrV

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Devotion
What Does a Name Mean?

- **What is the name of today?**
- **What is the name of your favorite vegetable?**
- **What are the names of the people in this room?**
- **Does anyone here have a nickname?**
- **Why are you called that name?**

When we use a name, it helps us know who or what we are talking about. In the Bible passage for today, we hear a few names. One name we hear is John. John was a friend and cousin of Jesus. Jesus is another name we hear. There's another name mentioned in the Bible passage. Listen again for the third name. (Reread the Bible passage.)

John called Jesus "The Lamb of God." That is an unusual name for a person! If John wanted to say Jesus was sneaky, he might have called him "Snake." If John wanted to say Jesus was fast, he might have called him "Speedy." If John wanted to say Jesus was strong, he might have called him "Ox." But John said Jesus was "The Lamb of God."

- **Why do you think he used the name, "The Lamb of God?"**

In Bible times, lambs were important animals for God's people. Lambs, sheep and goats gave milk, meat and wool. In fact, King David's first job was taking care of the lambs, sheep, and goats in his father's fields. Lambs were also used as a sacrifice. A sacrifice was a payment to God for sins. People would take the best lamb from their fields, or buy the best lamb in town, and take it to the temple. The lamb was put on the altar and killed a certain way by the priests. It was a gift to God. By giving God this gift, people would be saying they were sorry for their sins.

- **Did the lamb do anything wrong?**
- **Was it fair to the lamb that it should die?**
- **Did Jesus do anything wrong?**
- **Was it fair to Jesus that he died on the cross?**

Jesus, "The Lamb of God," lived, did nothing wrong, died and rose from death to be our sacrifice. Christians do not need to sacrifice lambs anymore because of Jesus. Let's pray a prayer which many Christians say:

Prayer: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us and grant us your peace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.