

LESSON 14

Name: _____

Symbolic Sayings in John

John's gospel operates on two levels:

- The story or surface level on which the events are described and conversations are held between Jesus and someone else.
- The symbolic or contextual level. The symbolic meaning is the hidden, spiritual, suggested meaning of a given quotation.

Directions: Read and think about each quotation below. Use biblical notes as needed. Write what you think is the symbolic meaning of each passage. The first one is done for you.

1. (Jn 1:29) The next day [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." (Calling Jesus a "lamb" seems to refer to Exodus 12:3-13 and Isaiah 53:7.)
Answer: Jesus is like the paschal lamb whose blood saved Israel.
2. (Jn 2:19) Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."

3. (Jn 3:4) Nicodemus said to him, "How can a person once grown old be born again? Surely he cannot reenter his mother's womb and be born again, can he?"

4. (Jn 4:11f) [The woman] said to him, "Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep; where then can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?"

5. (Jn 6:51) "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

6. (Jn 7:27) "But we know where he is from. When the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from."

7. (Jn 8:33) They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How can you say, 'You will become free?'"

8. (Jn 9:40) Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not also blind, are we?"

9. (Jn 12:32) "And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself."

10. (Jn 13:36) Simon Peter said to him, "Master, where are you going?" Jesus answered [him], "Where I am going, you cannot follow me now, though you will follow later."
