



I AM

LIFE GROUP RESOURCES

# Resources

## **Bible Project Gospel of John videos**

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/john/>

## **You Version Bible reading plan: Journey through John (21 Days)**

<https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/22757-journey-through-john>

## **I AM Video teaching series**

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/the-i-am-statements-of-jesus/#course-introduction>

## **Bible study with questions**

[https://thecrossing.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Come-See\\_Book\\_Week-8-I-AM.pdf](https://thecrossing.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Come-See_Book_Week-8-I-AM.pdf)

## **8-week bible study booklet available at Koorong**

[https://www.koorong.com/product/i-am-lifeguide-bible-study-series--douglas\\_9780830831333?gclid=EAlaIQobChMIoLTRysyl\\_QIViJImAh0XUgwxEAQYASABEgLFyPD\\_BwE#product-tabs](https://www.koorong.com/product/i-am-lifeguide-bible-study-series--douglas_9780830831333?gclid=EAlaIQobChMIoLTRysyl_QIViJImAh0XUgwxEAQYASABEgLFyPD_BwE#product-tabs)

## **In-depth Bible study of the Gospel of John I AM statements**

Some good questions here, including answers for leaders.

<https://graceoncampus.org/docs/john-study-guide.pdf>

# Introduction

## I AM

These two simple words give so much hope, and yet caused Jesus so much trouble. Throughout the gospel of John, Jesus claims His divinity by using the phrase I AM seven times, joining them to metaphors expressing His divinity, and inviting us all to experience a relationship with Him every day.

This series will unpack the seven I AM statements of Jesus in John's gospel to give us confidence in Jesus' divinity, and help us discover the promises that Jesus offers to everyone who believes.

## SERIES IDEAS

Here are some ideas of how you can make the most of this series with your life group:

- read through the Gospel of John
  - You Version Bible Reading Plan (see the resources)
  - read 3 chapters a week over 7 weeks
- watch the Bible Project book summaries
  - 2 videos—chapter 1–18 then 18–21 (see the resources)
- set the scene—some weeks lend themselves to a simple prop in the room (a loaf of bread, candle light in a dark room, pot plant/bunch of grapes).

## INTENT

Each week, the intent of the study is clearly stated. This gives you the big picture for each study. You can choose or change any of the discussion questions to suit your group and help them discover this truth in the best possible way.

## NOTE

The I AM statements presented in this booklet will not necessarily match the order in which they are preached in your campus. Use your discretion to match your life group conversation with the corresponding topic preached at church that week.

# I am the bread of life

John 6:25-51

Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry.”

JOHN 6:31

## INTENT

The bottom line for this study is: **Jesus is the only one who can truly satisfy our deepest need.** Through the discussion, help your group to:

- identify the appetites that drive us
- identify the counterfeit ways we seek to satisfy those desires
- recognise Jesus as the Bread of Life who alone can truly satisfy
- discuss practical ways we can feast on the Bread of Life in our daily walk with God.

## SET THE SCENE

Have a loaf of bread in the centre of the room. You can serve it with butter or olive oil if you like. Don't go to too much trouble. Keep it simple—it's about the bread.

## CONTEXT

God fed the Israelites with Manna from heaven (Exodus 16)

Jesus feeds the 5000 (John 6:5–15)

## SUGGESTED READING AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### The people found Jesus

John 6:25–34

- What were the people looking for?
- What does our modern culture look for to satisfy their desires?
- What are we looking for?

### Jesus' purpose

Read John 6:35–46

- Discuss the contrast between what the people wanted/expected and what Jesus offered.
- What does this passage teach us about Jesus' relationship with God the Father?
- What does this passage teach us about Jesus' divinity?

## **Jesus' Promise**

Read John 6:47–51

- What is Jesus promising the people?
- What does Jesus promise us? How do we know we are included in the promise?
- How can we live in the fulfilment of this promise? What would it look like for us to have our stomachs full of the Bread of Life?
- What do you think a life totally dependent on Jesus as the Bread of Life looks like?

# I am the light of the world

John 8:12–20

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

JOHN 8:12

## INTENT

The bottom line for this study is: **Jesus came to shine a light on the invisible God and to save us from a life of hiding in the shadows of sin.** Through the discussion, help your group to understand that:

- our sin makes us hide in the shadows, blinding us from seeing God
- we discover what God is like by looking at Jesus
- sin loses its power when it is brought into the light
- others can see the light of God’s goodness when we live in the light.

## SET THE SCENE

There are 2 contrasting ways you can set the scene: either have the room in darkness with a single candle or torch light. Or, collect lamps from around the house and fill the room with light.

## CONTEXT

The Fall (Genesis 3)

## SUGGESTED READING AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read John 1:1–9 and John 3:19–21

- What do these passages teach us about Jesus being the light of the world?
- What is our natural response to being trapped in sin? How can we live in the light instead?

John 8:12–20

- How does Jesus expect us to respond to Him being the light of the world?
- How would you describe the attitude of the Pharisees? How does their attitude affect their response to Jesus?
- What does this passage teach us about Jesus’ relationship with God the Father?
- What does this passage teach us about Jesus’ divinity?

Read John 1:18 and Hebrews 1:3

- How can we know what God is like? Give examples from the life of Jesus.

Read Matthew 5:14–16

- How have you learned about God through the example of others?
- Who is watching the way you live? How does your life shine a light on who God is? Give practical examples.

# I am the door

John 10:7–10

I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

JOHN 10:9 (NKJV)

## INTENT

The bottom line for this study is: **Jesus is the door that welcomes everyone into God's family and protects us from the evil intentions of the devil.** Through the discussion, help your group to:

- identify the walls we put around our lives, and why we build them
- identify the ways the devil schemes his way into our lives, and how we can stop him
- recognise Jesus as the only door to abundant life
- discover our role in opening the door to welcome others into God's family.

## SET THE SCENE

Decorate your door. Hang streamers or balloons, put up a welcome sign. Make the experience of entering your home a celebration.

## CONTEXT

Jesus heals a man born blind and confronts the Pharisees (John chapter 9)

## SUGGESTED READING AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read John 10:1–6

- Who is Jesus addressing in this passage? Why is that important?
- What is the message Jesus was trying to teach the Pharisees?
- What makes you feel secure? What measures do you put in place to protect yourself physically? How do you protect yourself spiritually?
- Discuss the walls we build around our lives. When and how are these walls helpful for us? When and how are these walls destructive?

Read John 10:7–10

- Why is it important to recognise Jesus as the door? What implications does this have for your life? What implications does this have for others outside the sheep fold?
- Discuss the contrast in verse 10. What impact does the thief (the devil) have in this world/our lives? What impact does Jesus have in this world/our lives?
- What does living an abundant life mean to you? Identify all of the promises Jesus makes in this passage. How are you living in the fullness of these promises?



- Who do you know who is outside of the fold? Do they know about Jesus, the door? How can you help to show them the door?

# I am the good shepherd

John 10:11–18

I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

JOHN 10:14–15

## INTENT

The bottom line for this study is: **We need to learn to recognise the voice of the Good Shepherd and obey His command.** Through the discussion, help your group to:

- Identify the voices we allow to influence our thinking, attitudes and behaviour
- Discover how to identify Jesus' voice among the voices demanding our attention
- Increase our trust in Jesus' voice to guide our lives

## SET THE SCENE

Play sheep videos on a screen while people are arriving. For example, here is a video of a shepherd calling his sheep: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDNj5a6qaoU>

## CONTEXT

The need for a Good Shepherd (Jeremiah 23:1–4, Ezekiel 34)

## SUGGESTED READING AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

John 10:11–16

- Jesus is the Good Shepherd. Who are the sheep? Who is the hired hand? Who is the wolf?
- How do you know if you are one of Jesus' sheep? How do you recognise Jesus' voice? How can you be confident you are hearing His voice clearly?
- What other voices do you listen to? Who and what influences the way you think, what you believe, how you make decisions and how you live?
- How can you filter the noise and distraction of the world to help listen to God's voice? Discuss practical strategies that you find helpful.
- What makes you hesitate to obey Jesus commands? Are there some areas of your life you are more likely to listen to Jesus' guidance than others? Why or why not? How can you be confident Jesus is leading you in the right way for your life?

John 10:17–18

- What does this passage teach us about Jesus' relationship with God the Father? What does this passage teach us about Jesus' authority? What does this passage teach us about Jesus' death? Why are these truths important?
- How are you contributing to the voices of influence in our world? What is your voice saying? Who is listening to your voice? Does it accurately reflect the voice of the Good Shepherd?

# I am the resurrection and the life

John 11:17–44

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

JOHN 11:25–26

## INTENT

The bottom line for this study is: **Jesus cares for us in our suffering, yet, because of His resurrection, we always have hope for the future.** Through the discussion, help your group to:

- recognise the humanity of Jesus, and his deep concern for our pain and suffering
- experience the comfort of Jesus in our painful circumstances
- nurture our empathy for those who are suffering in our world
- celebrate the hope we have because of the resurrection.

## CONTEXT

Jesus hears Lazarus is sick (John 11:1–16)

## SUGGESTED READING AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read John 11:17–27

- Why did Jesus delay going to see Lazarus after hearing he was sick? How did this make Lazarus' family and the disciples feel?
- What statements of faith does Martha make? What does Jesus ask her to believe? Why does Martha continue to put her faith in Jesus?

Read John 11:28–37

- What does this passage teach us about God's heart for those who are suffering?
- If Jesus knows Lazarus is about to be raised to life, why does He cry?
- What breaks your heart? What makes you cry? How do you respond to the suffering in the world around you? Do you recognise your response as a reflection of God's heart?

Read John 11:38–44

- Jesus is the resurrection and the life. How does the truth of this statement change the way we live?
- Jesus delayed the miracle of healing in Lazarus' life. How do you respond when God does not answer your prayers? How can we keep our faith strong and steadfast while we are waiting for our miracle?
- How can we experience God's comfort during times of suffering? Give practical examples. How can we share God's comfort to others who are suffering?
- How can we share the hope of the resurrection to those who are suffering without being insensitive during times of grief?

# I am the way, the truth and the life

John 14:1–6

I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

JOHN 14:6

## INTENT

The bottom line for this study is: **A relationship with Jesus is the only way to God.** Through the discussion, help your group to:

- celebrate the eternal hope Jesus promises each of us
- discuss the exclusivity of Jesus' claim
- explore the difference between religion and relationship
- explore how we can grow in intimacy with Jesus

## CONTEXT

This conversation happens during the last supper (John 13)

## SUGGESTED READING AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read John 14:1–4

- Who is Jesus talking to? When is Jesus talking to them? Why is this significant?
- What encouragement do you take out of Jesus' statement? How does this promise impact your life today?

Read John 14:5–6

- How do you get to heaven? What are the requirements?
- What is the significance of Jesus' claim? Do you believe it is true? If so, how is this truth evident in your life? What difference does it make?
- How do you know which way to go? What tools do you use? Do you prefer to follow a map, or follow a person who knows the way? Why?
- What destination is Jesus the way to? Where is He leading? What other destinations are people chasing after? Who are they looking to for salvation?
- One of the reasons why Jesus being the only way to God is hard to accept is because we have reduced Christianity to a set of ideals, beliefs or truths, rather than a person. What aspects of your faith would you label 'religious'? What aspects of your faith would you label 'relational'?
- What are the implications of living a religious life? How is it easier and harder than following the person of Jesus? How can you guard against religious legalism?
- What is the difference between spiritual disciplines and religious rules?
- How can you grow a more intimate relationship with Jesus? Give practical examples.

# I am the vine

## John 15:1–16

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful...

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

JOHN 15:1–2; 5

### INTENT

The bottom line for this study is: **Stay faithful in our relationship with Jesus so we can be fruitful in our relationships with others.** Through the discussion, help your group to:

- describe the conditions for a fruitful life
- discover how we can be connected to the source of life
- discover how we can be made more fruitful through the pruning process
- recognise the relationship between remaining in Him, and loving one another.

### SET THE SCENE

Place a plant in a prominent position or display a bunch of grapes.

### CONTEXT

The continuation of the last supper conversation (John 13 & 14)

Prophecy of the faithless vine that fails to bear fruit (Psalm 80:8–16, Ezekiel 15)

### SUGGESTED READING AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read John 15:1–4

- Describe the relationship between the gardener, the vine, the branches and the fruit. According to these verses, how can we have a fruitful life?
- What are examples of unfruitful branches in our lives? How does God cut them off?
- What are examples of fruitful branches in our lives? How does God prune them?
- Jesus told his disciples to 'remain in me'. What does that mean? How can we do that? Give practical examples.

Read John 15:5–8

- What is the warning Jesus is giving in these verses? What is the promise?

Read John 15:9–17

- Describe the relationship between love, joy and obedience in these verses. What role does obedience play in our relationship with God? How does obedience to God affect our relationship with one another?
- What does friendship with God mean to you? How is it similar and different to other friendships? How can we live out the commandment in verse 12?
- What is the evidence of a fruitful life? What does a fruitful life look like? Is your life fruitful? How can your life be more fruitful?