

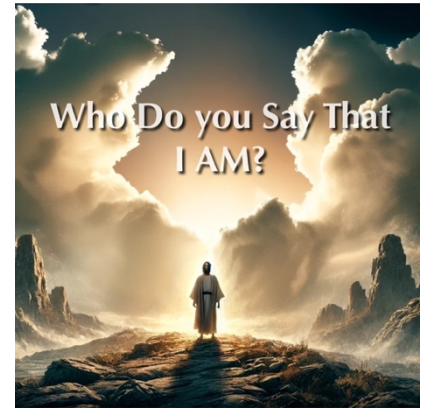
WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

A Journey Through the Life of Jesus in the Four Gospels

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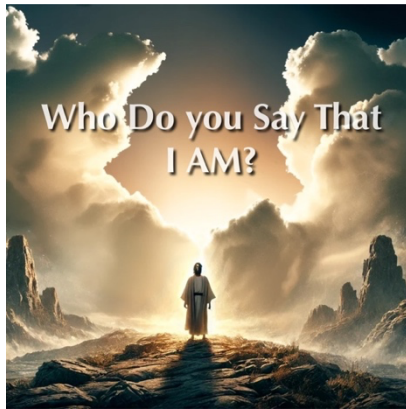
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WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

A Journey Through the Life of Jesus in the Four Gospels

CHAPTER 1: Introduction: A Question That Demands an Answer

It is the single most important question you will ever answer:



"Who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:15)

Jesus asked this question of His disciples almost 2,000 years ago, standing in Caesarea Philippi at the place known as the Gates of Hades, where false gods and empty religions surrounded them. It was not a casual question. It was not small talk. It was the question.

It was the moment of truth. And it still is.

The world has given many answers about Jesus—prophet, teacher, revolutionary, legend. Some ignore Him. Some admire Him from a distance. Some think they know Him but have never truly encountered Him.

But what about you?

Journal

Who is Jesus—to you? Take a moment and answer that question before continuing.



This study is not just about learning more information. It is about transformation—seeing Jesus clearly, not as the world defines Him, but as He truly is. It's about moving beyond what you have heard and into what you have personally discovered.



Read 2 Corinthians 3:18 – How does it apply to your life?

The Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—are not just books. They are a divine revelation, a firsthand invitation to walk with Jesus, hear His voice, witness His miracles, and wrestle with the weight of His words. They bring us as close as we can get to standing in the dust of His footsteps.

A Journey into the Heart of Christ

In this study, we'll follow Jesus' life through the four Gospels, seeking to answer five essential questions:

1. **Who He Is** – More than a good man or a wise teacher—Jesus made claims that demand our attention. Was He just a prophet, or was He God in human flesh? We'll let Him speak for Himself in the Gospels.
2. **What He Did** – The blind received sight. The lame walked. The dead were raised. But His greatest work was accomplished on a cross and through an empty tomb, changing everything.
3. **What He Taught** – His words weren't merely wise—they are alive. They confronted, convicted, comforted, and called people to a new way of living. His message still shakes the foundations of our hearts today.
4. **What He Does for Us** – His work didn't end at the cross. He is still moving, interceding, and transforming lives. What does He want to do in you?
5. **What He Asks Us to Do** – He didn't come just to be studied—He came to be followed. What does it mean to truly be His disciple?

This is not just another Bible study. This is an encounter waiting to happen.

- Some will come seeking knowledge but find something greater—relationship.
 - Some will come with questions but find a Person who is the Answer.
 - Some will come feeling distant, only to realize He has been pursuing them all along.
-



ACTIVATION: Set a Baseline

Try not to use overly religious language. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you an honest revelation about who Jesus is in your life right now.

1. In your group chat, write a sentence or two about who Jesus is to you right now.
2. Then write a sentence or two about who you want Him to be in your life.



CHAPTER 2 SECTION 1: WHO HE IS

Jesus didn't leave us guessing. He told us exactly who He is, repeatedly declaring "**I AM**" in the Gospels.

John's Gospel contains the most direct and profound "**I AM**" statements from Jesus, (**The Seven "I AM" Statements**) where He explicitly declares His identity and mission. Let's spend some time with them.

Remember Professor Pete Wilson's lessons on How to Study the Bible and use some of those tools here (For a refresher the lessons are still on the home page of EpicDisciple.com).



ONE: "I am the _____." (John 6:32-35)

- A. Context: This statement comes after Jesus miraculously did what?

- B. Read John 6:48-51. Jesus, in essence, repeats the miracle of **Exodus 16** providing bread and then makes a direct connection between it and Himself.
 - 1. Compare the manna in the wilderness with the Bread of Life being offered now.

Similarities

Differences

The manna in the wilderness **temporarily** sustained the Israelites, but those who ate it eventually died. Jesus, as the **true bread from heaven**, offers **eternal life** to those who believe in Him.



What does Jesus proclaiming Himself the Bread of Life mean for us today?



TWO: “I am the _____.” (John 8:12)

1. What immediate promise does Jesus give in John 8:12 for those who follow Him?

2. Compare with Exodus 13:21-22. What insight about light/fire applies here?

Next, consider:

3. Psalm 27:1 “The Lord is my light and my salvation...”

Insight _____

4. Psalm 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet...”

Insight _____

5. 1 John 1:5 “God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all.”

Insight _____

6. Isaiah 9:2 “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light...”

Insight _____



What do these teach us about Jesus as Light of the World?



CHAPTER 3

THREE: “I am the _____ for the Sheep.” (John 10:7)



Read John 10:1-10. Note Jesus’ promises or decrees in this passage.

The Gate

1. John 10:9: “I am the _____; whoever enters through me will be _____.”
2. John 14:6: “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father _____”
3. Acts 4:12: “Salvation is found in _____, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”
 - a. 1 John 5:11-12: “And this is the testimony: God has given us _____, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”



What Did Jesus mean by calling Himself “the Gate”?



There are some amazing promises here for those who enter through THE GATE!
We are going to do an extended Activation on these:

Activation 1: “Shepherd as Gate”

John 10:5 “But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.”

- In Jesus’ time, shepherds often slept in the pen’s entrance, acting as the “gate” that protected the sheep.
- The enemy’s voice often mimics our fears, culture, or doubts. But true sheep learn to reject any voice but the Shepherd’s.
- The Holy Spirit trains us to filter out counterfeit voices.

Identifying Competing Voices

1. Write three thoughts or beliefs that cause fear, doubt, or shame. (*Example: “I’ll never be a good spiritual leader in my home.” “I will never be good enough to deserve my wife/kids/parents love.” I will never be able to overcome my addiction/dependence on_____.*)
2. Ask, “Jesus, is this thought from You or from a stranger?”
3. Cross out every lie; next to it, write what Jesus says.

Fear, doubt, or shame (Lie)

Jesus Says (Truth)

4. In your group chat, share:
 - The lies or “stranger’s voices” you identified.
 - How Jesus responded to those lies.

Activation 2: Hearing the Shepherd's Voice

John 10:3-4 “The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep **listen to his voice**. He **calls his own sheep by name** and **leads them out**. When he has brought out all his own, **he goes on ahead of them**, and his sheep **follow him because they know his voice**.”

Pharisees heard Jesus' words but missed His heart. They were listening with their minds, not their spirits. Hearing Jesus is not just about knowing Scripture—it's about recognizing His voice personally in every moment of our lives. The Holy Spirit is the One who makes His voice clear.

We need the Holy Spirit to teach us to recognize Jesus' voice personally.

1. Sit in silence for 2 minutes. Pray, “Lord, I am listening. What do You want to say to me?”
2. Write down any words, impressions, or Scriptures that come (even if it's just one word, write it down.):

3. Ask, “Lord, what name(s) do You call me? What do You speak over me?”

4. He “leads them out”, “goes on ahead of them”, “and his sheep **follow him because they know his voice**.” Ask God where he is leading you:
 1. With your family:
 2. With your work:
 3. With your ministry:
 4. With your gift/talent development:
 5. **B.A.G.**: Big Audacious Goal – Ask Jesus what B.A.G. is He leading you to:

-
-

As always, **Test it**. Does what you heard align with God's character and His Word (Isaiah 8:20)? The Good Shepherd's voice always brings **peace, love, and truth**. (Note it may not always be comfortable.)

NEXT: There is also wisdom in the counsel of others (Proverbs 15:22). Talk to someone in your group (or who you trust for Spiritual Maturity) about your **B.A.G.**

Ask them to give you Spirit led advice and feedback about the B.A.G.

****Write in your group Chat:**

- What name(s) does Jesus call you?
 - What Is you B.A.G.?
-

Activation 3: Sheep **don't need to see the whole path**—they just need to see the Shepherd. Many of us hesitate to move forward in faith because we want to **know** exactly where we are going—but **Jesus invites us into** relationship, not control.

We often want every answer before moving in faith. Obedience brings clarity. Saying “yes” to Jesus, even in small things, helps us hear Him better. His voice becomes clearer.

1. **Ask Jesus:** “What is one thing You are asking me to do in faith this week?”
2. **Write it down.** No matter how small or big, commit to saying **YES**.
3. **Pray for courage** and ask the Holy Spirit for confirmation if needed.

Journal



- What step of obedience is Jesus asking?
 - How can you trust the Shepherd instead of needing every detail?
 - After obeying, write down how you obeyed and how it felt to do so.
-
-
-

Prayer of Surrender

“Jesus, I am Your sheep. You are my Shepherd. Teach me to hear Your voice above all else. Lead me, and I will follow You. I trust and love You. Amen.”



CHAPTER 4

FOUR: “I am the _____.” (John 10:11)



This was radical. **Psalm 23** and **Ezekiel 34** call God the Shepherd of Israel. By saying He is the Good Shepherd, Jesus is claiming divinity.

Read **John 10:11-18**. Notice more than just His divinity here.

1. Good Shepherd vs. Hired Hand

Who are the Hired Hands (John 10:6 gives a good clue) and how do they operate differently than Jesus?

This is a **prophetic picture** of:

- Religious leaders who care more about **power and position** than God’s people.
- False comforts (money, success, control) that **fail us in crisis**.
- Our own moments when we choose **self-preservation** over trusting Jesus.

2. I Know My Sheep and My Sheep Know Me

Compare this with

- a. If you really know Me, you will know My Father as well. From now on, you do know Him and have seen Him. **John 14:7**
- b. Now this is eternal life: that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent. **John 17:3**

What’s the point?

Jesus is saying our relationship with Him is as intimate as His relationship with the Father. Let that sink in!

This isn’t distant leadership—this is a deep, personal knowing.

3. I Lay Down My Life – The Ultimate Love

- a. **John 10:11** - I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd _____
_____ his life for the sheep.
- b. **John 15:13** - Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."
- c. **Romans 5:8** – *"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*
- d. **1 John 3:16** – *"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters."*
- e. **Ephesians 5:2** – *"Walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."*

Jesus' Love is Not Forced—It's Freely Given

No one **forced** Jesus to the cross—**He chose it**. His **love is not reluctant; it's extravagant**.

4. I Have Other Sheep

- a. Why is this here? What was Jesus pointing out?

- b. What did Jesus ask Peter to do in **John 21:15-17**?

- c. Is this a part of our calling as disciples?

Journal



Who/what have you trusted that abandoned you? How is Jesus different?



Activation

1. **Quiet Time** – Ask Jesus for a deeper revelation of Himself from this passage.
 2. **Receiving Love** – Men often struggle to receive love. Ask, “What part of Your love do I struggle to receive?” Write doubts/fears:
-
-

3. **Surrender** – Take ice cubes (one per fear). Name them with the fears.
 - Read Ezekiel 36:26: *"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."*
 - Let the ice melt, symbolizing your heart changing.
 - Pray: ***"Jesus, I choose to receive the love You freely give over the _____ (what you identified above.) Just as the ice has melted so has my heart of stone. I receive the new heart you offer and a deeper fullness of Your Spirit."***

4. **Who Are the “Other Sheep”?** – Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal someone you can help bring into the flock. Write their name:
-

Send that name to your group chat so everyone can pray.



CHAPTER 5

FIVE: “I am the _____ and the _____.” (John 11:25)

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.’”

Resurrection: Several Dimensions

Dimension One:

Fill in the blanks using the following scriptures:

1. **Eph 2:4-5** But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us _____ with Christ even when we were _____ in transgressions—it is by grace you have *been saved*.
2. **Colossians 2:13** *When you were _____ in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you _____ with Christ. He forgave us all our sins.*
3. **Galatians 2:20** "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer _____, but Christ lives in me. The life I now _____ in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."
4. **Romans 6:4** "We were therefore _____ with Him through baptism into _____ in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a _____."
5. **2 Corinthians 5:17** "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has _____, the new is _____!"
6. **Romans 8:11** – *"And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you."*



Reflection: From these verses what type of Resurrection is available in Christ:

Dimension Two:

Read and reflect on the following scriptures:

1. **John 5:28-29** - "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned."

2. **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** "For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever."
3. **Daniel 12:2**"Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt."
4. **Revelation 20:4-6**"I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge... They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them."
5. **1 Corinthians 15:51-52** "Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed."



Reflection: What and when is this Resurrection:

Dimension Three: Explore Jesus' power over death. What Happened in each of these accounts:

1. **John 11:43-44**
2. **Luke 7:14-15**
3. **Mark 5:41-42**
4. **Matthew 27:52-53**



Reflection: What is this Resurrection:



Beyond Eternal Life – What Else Is Jesus Asking Us to Do?

Matthew 10:7-8 "As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, **raise the dead**, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give."

1. Consider **John 14:12, Mark 16:17-18**
2. And what they did after Jesus Ascension: **Acts 9:36-42, Acts 20:9-12**

Do you believe this is possible today?

ACTIVATION: Come Out of the Grave



Ask the Spirit: Where am I still wearing "grave clothes"? (old mindsets, past wounds, dead places in your faith ...)

1. Write these things down.
2. Call someone (like on the phone – actually talk to them) and **declare resurrection over those areas**, similar to Jesus calling Lazarus out.
3. End by **praying and tearing up the paper**, symbolizing stepping into **new life** and asking the person you called to pray a prayer agreeing with what you just allowed Christ to bring back to life.

Calling the Dead to Life

Create a list of **people or situations** that need resurrection power (prodigals, struggling churches, nations in turmoil, etc.).

1. Just like Jesus spoke to Lazarus, spend time in **prophetic prayer** speaking **life, freedom, and awakening** over these things.
2. Finish by **declaring John 11:25-26 aloud** as a faith statement over each of those things.
3. Share in the group chat what you have proclaimed Resurrection Power over.

Bold Faith Challenge - Partnering with Resurrection Power

“In John 14:12, Jesus says we’ll do even greater things.”

1. Ask the Spirit for a bold step of faith:
 - Pray for healing
 - Share the gospel
 - Believe for restoration
 - Other...
- **Step out** in an act of faith that partners with Jesus’ resurrection power this week for what was revealed to you above.
- Write a **commitment statement** to walk in the Spirits power for the fulfillment of the above and bring it to the next session prepared to share testimonies about what you did and what happened (so far).

Commitment statement:



CHAPTER 6

FIVE (continued): “I am the Resurrection and the _____.” (John 11:25)

LIFE



1. Look again at second half of **John 11:25-26** – “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?'"

2. *John 3:16 (write it out)*

3. **John 10:10** - "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have _____, and have it to the _____."

4. **1 John 5:11-12** – "And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal _____, and this _____ is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has _____; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have _____."



What is the Life Jesus declared himself to be?

What did John mean by “Full” Life (or abundant life in some translations):

How is “life” in Jesus described in these verses:

1. Psalm 16:11:

2. Ephesians 3:20:

3. 2 Corinthians 9:8

4. Philippians 4:19:

5. Romans 15:13:

6. Colossians 2:9-10:

7. 1 Timothy 6:17:

A final thought on Life:

1. In Genesis 2:7, God (Jesus) dust to give it humanity life; to form us? (John 1:3 – All things made through Jesus.)

2. What did Jesus do in John 20:22?

3. What did He say as he did it?

4. What does this tell you about the life He is now offering?



ACTIVATION: Prayer Walk – Breathing in New Life

Read **Genesis 2:7** and **John 20:22 again** —Jesus breathed life into humanity and later breathed the Holy Spirit into His disciples.

- Go outside and take a walk - during the walk take deep, intentional breaths, asking the Holy Spirit to fill you anew.
- Speak life over yourself and others, saying:
"Jesus, breathe fresh life into my calling, my heart, my thoughts, my body, my spirit!"
- **Don't stop the walk till you know Jesus has breathed something new into you.**



JOURNAL: “Living a Spirit-Filled Life” Reflect on **John 10:10** and **Romans 8:11**— Jesus came to bring **fullness of life**.

- What does it mean to **live fully alive in Christ**?
- Where have I settled for **less than the full life** He promised?
- How can I invite the Holy Spirit to **resurrect dreams, passions, and faith**?



CHAPTER 7

SIX: “I am the _____, the _____, and the _____.” (John 14:6)

Context: In John 14:1-14, Jesus preps His disciples for His departure. He reassures them of His return and their place in the Father's house. Yet, Thomas expresses doubt: "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" (v. 5).

Jesus replies, “**I AM the Way.**”



Ask the Holy Spirit for extra insight on “Jesus is THE WAY.”

Philip then asks to see the Father, and Jesus essentially answers, “If you’ve seen Me, you’ve seen the Father” (v. 9). He establishes His unity with the Father and calls His followers to faith—faith in His words, His works, and His oneness with God.

Jesus is The Way



1. The Only Path to _____: **Acts 4:12** – "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."
2. There is only one bridge between _____ and _____ **1 Timothy 2:5**

Consider these two verses:

3. **Isaiah 35:8** – “And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it.”
4. **Matthew 7:13-14** – "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."

What insight about THE WAY do they provide?

5. **It is also interesting to note that the early church called themselves** (Acts 9:2, Acts 19:9, Acts 24:14) **followers of** _____ .

Why do you think they called themselves this?



Jesus is not just a guide—He is the Way itself. To walk in "the Way" is to follow Him in faith, obedience, and surrender.

Jesus is The Truth

1. **John 17:17** – “Sanctify them by the truth; your _____ is truth.”
2. **The _____ (or the Truth) became Flesh:** John 1:14 – "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."



Truth is not just an abstract concept—it is a person. Jesus is truth, and when we live by Him through the revelation of Him in His Word, we walk in freedom, discernment, and spiritual clarity.

3. **Truth Sets Us _____ :** John 8:32 – "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

4. **The Spirit of Truth** _____ **Us:** John 16:13 – "But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth."

John 16: 12 - 13 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come."

- Who Brings us Truth?

- What does He Guide us into?

- Where does He get what He brings?

- What does He tell us?

- Jesus said, "**I have much more to say to you**" what do you think this means for us today?

Belt of Truth (Ephesians 6)

Ephesians 6:13-14 – "Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the **belt of truth** buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place."

- In **Roman armor**, the belt (cingulum or balteus) secured all the other pieces. It kept the warrior's tunic in place and held the sword. Without it, a soldier would be vulnerable and unprepared. It was critical and center to his armor.

- Jesus is the truth. What is the implication for your life considering Ephesians 6:

JOURNAL



3 John 1:4 – “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.” Write down what the Holy Spirit brings to mind from this verse:

Jesus is The Life

1. **Eternal _____ is in Him:** John 11:25 – “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.’”
2. **Abundant _____ in Christ:** John 10:10 – “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”
3. _____ **Comes Through the Spirit:** Romans 8:11 – “And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.”
4. **Dead in Sin, _____ in Christ:** Ephesians 2:4-5 – “But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.”



True life is found in Jesus—He is the source of both eternal life and the abundant life we are called to live in Him.



JOURNAL Choose at least 2

1. How has Jesus revealed the Father to you personally?

2. Where in your life do you feel lost or uncertain about the way forward? How does Jesus being "the Way" bring clarity?
3. What are some competing "truths" that challenge your belief in Jesus as the ultimate Truth? How can you root yourself more in Him?
4. Are there areas where you are seeking life apart from Jesus? How can you fully embrace Him as your Life?
5. How does Jesus' unity with the Father impact your trust in Him?
6. Jesus promises that believers will do even greater works than He did (John 14:12). What does that mean for your life and calling?



TRUTH Activation - I have much more to say to you . . . more than they could bare at the time.

1. **Find a quiet place and close your eyes.** Take deep breaths, inviting the Holy Spirit to lead you.
2. **Ask Jesus to reveal some of the "more He had to say".** Picture yourself in a beautiful natural setting see Jesus standing before you, extending His hands. What does He say to you?

Ask Jesus if you can share it in your group chat.

Prayer:

"Jesus, You are my Way, my Truth, and my Life. Lead me, ground me in Your truth, and fill me with Your life. Help me trust You fully and walk in the power of Your name. Amen."



CHAPTER 8

Seven: “I am the _____.” (John 15:1)



Jesus' statement in **John 15:1**, “*I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener,*” is an invitation into deep connection, pruning, and fruitfulness. This passage reveals a life of abiding in Christ, where we experience His sustaining presence, the Father’s careful pruning, and the fruitfulness of a life lived in Him.



1. Jesus as the _____ Vine (John 15:1)

- In the Old Testament, Israel was often called God's vine (**Psalm 80:8-9, Isaiah 5:1-7**), but they failed to produce lasting fruit.
- Jesus declares Himself as the **true vine**, fulfilling what Israel could not.
- The **Father as the gardener** carefully tends to the branches—cutting away what is unfruitful and pruning what is fruitful for greater growth.

2. What can we do apart from Jesus? _____ (John 15:4-5)

- Do we do “things” apart from Jesus? What does this mean?

- To do anything good we must what?

- What does it mean to abide (or remain) in Jesus?

Psalm 1:2-3 – The righteous are like a tree planted by water, bearing fruit in season.

Jeremiah 17:7-8 – Those who trust in the Lord are like trees with roots deep in water, never failing to bear fruit.

- How do these verses add to your view of abiding?

3. The Process of Pruning (John 15:2)

1. God **removes** what does not bear fruit.
2. He **prunes** what is already fruitful to produce **more** fruit.
3. Though pruning may feel painful, it is for **greater transformation and effectiveness.**

What do these verses tell us about the pruning process:

- **Hebrews 12:10-11:**

- **James 1:2-4:**

4.The Fruit of Remaining in Jesus

- **John 15:7-8, 16** – How do we show ourselves to be His Disciples?

- This fruit includes **character transformation (Galatians 5:22-23)** list them:

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

- And it includes impactful discipleship (Matthew 28:19-20).
 - Bearing fruit includes making disciples (John 15:16—*"I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last."*).
 - True discipleship flows from abiding in Christ, as we can do nothing apart from Him (John 15:5).
 - Sharing the gospel and discipling others is evidence of spiritual fruitfulness.

5. Remaining in Him and in His Love Requires _____
(John 15:9-10)

6. He has shared this with us so our _____ may be complete. (John 15:11)

7. John 15:15 What does Jesus now call us? _____

What does that mean?

8. The Greatest Commandment (John 15:12) is _____

- True love is **self-sacrificial**, modeled by Jesus laying down His life for us (v.13).
- How are you demonstrating this kind of love to others?



JOURNAL Choose at least 2

1. What areas of your life feel disconnected from Jesus, the True Vine? How can you reattach them to Him?
2. How have you experienced spiritual pruning in your life? How did it lead to greater fruitfulness?
3. What does “apart from me, you can do nothing” (v.5) mean for your daily dependence on Jesus?
4. Jesus calls us **friends**—what does this reveal about His love for you?
5. How can you actively obey Jesus' command to love others as He has loved you?



Activation - Jesus as the True Vine:

1. Pruning - Ask Jesus: “What areas of my life need deeper connection with You?”

- **Listen for His response.** Is there an area where He wants you to remain (abide) in Him more deeply?
- **Surrender any distractions or sins.** Ask Him to prune what is unnecessary and to fill you with His life-giving presence.
- **What did He reveal to you?**

2. Bearing Fruit: Find a quiet space and invite the Holy Spirit to speak. Ask Him to have Jesus live and love through you today (within the next 24 hours).

Ask Him to show you a specific person and a specific way to show His love to them today:

- **Who did He Reveal?**

- What did He ask you to do?

- What did you do?

3. Friend: Hang out with Jesus today. Ask or tell him things like you would if your best friend was sitting, walking, or riding beside you. Share thoughts and observations through the day. Every hour, pause and ask: "Jesus, what are You doing in this moment?" Invite Him into everything—conversations, work, meals, thoughts. **Here's the catch, do it out loud.**

- Keep a notepad or phone memo to record small ways you sensed His presence.
- After a day of this share in your group chat how did it change your day?
- What was the most awkward thing that happened as you did this and how did you handle it.



Jesus' invitation to abide in Him is the key to a fruitful and joy-filled life. He is the **True Vine**, and we are meant to remain in Him, trusting in the Gardener's careful pruning and bearing the fruit of His love. As we walk in obedience and intimacy with Him, our lives will overflow with eternal impact.



CHAPTER 9 Other “I AM” Statements

This activity will challenge you to reflect deeply. Remember, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16). With that in mind, take a moment to rank the significance of these 10 additional "I AM" statements from the Gospel of John in your life right now.

Here's how to approach it:

1 = Most significant (this statement deeply resonates with or challenges me at this moment).

10 = Least significant (still meaningful and important, but not as impactful for me right now).



Take your time to reflect and rank each statement based on how it speaks to your current season of life.

- ____ **John 4:25-26** – (To the Samaritan woman at the well) "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."
- ____ **John 6:41** – "I am the bread that came down from heaven."
- ____ **John 6:51** – "I am the living bread that came down from heaven."
- ____ **John 8:18** – "I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me."
- ____ **John 8:23-24** – "But he continued, 'You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.'"
- ____ **John 8:28** – "So Jesus said, 'When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.'"
- ____ **John 8:58** – "Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" (Direct reference to God's name in Exodus 3:14.)
- ____ **John 13:13** – "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am."
- ____ **John 13:19** – "I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am."
- ____ **John 18:5-6** – (At His arrest, when asked if He is Jesus of Nazareth) "I am he." When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.

Why did you choose the top 5:

#1

#2

#3

#4

#5



Activation – Share in your group chat your #1 and why.

"I AM" Statements in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke)



Though **Matthew, Mark, and Luke** do not contain as many "I AM" statements as John, there are still significant ones. Let's look at where Jesus specifically said, I AM, and where He was declaring His identity (though perhaps did not use "I AM".) Write down what Jesus was communicating about who He is:

In Matthew:

1. **Matthew 11:29** – "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for **I am** gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

2. **Matthew 14:27** – (Walking on water, reassuring the disciples) "Take courage! **It is I**. Don't be afraid." "**It is I**" (**Greek: Ego Eimi**) is the same phrase, I AM.

3. **Matthew 16:15-16** – (Peter confesses Jesus as the Messiah, and Jesus affirms it.)

4. **Matthew 18:20** – "For where two or three gather in my name, there **am I** with them."

5. **Matthew 23:10** – "Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one Instructor, the Messiah."

6. **Matthew 26:64** – (At His trial, when asked if He is the Messiah) "You have said so," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."
- At His trial, when asked if He is the Messiah, Jesus affirms it.
 - Here Jesus directly claims to be the Messiah and refers to Daniel 7:13, identifying Himself as the Son of Man who will return in glory.

In Mark:

7. **Mark 6:50** – (When walking on water, He reassures His disciples) (Matthew 14:27) "Take courage! **It is I**. Don't be afraid." (Greek: **Ego eimi**, meaning "I AM.")
8. **Mark 8:29** – (Affirms Peter's confession that He is the Messiah.)

9. **Mark 9:41** – "Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to **the Messiah** will certainly not lose their reward."

10. **Mark 14:62** – (At His trial, the high priest asks if He is the Messiah, to which Jesus boldly answers:) "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

In Luke:

11. **Luke 4:18-21** – (Reads from Isaiah and declares Himself as its fulfillment.) "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor... Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

12. **Luke 5:24** – "But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins."

13. **Luke 6:5** – "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

14. **Luke 10:22** – "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

15. **Luke 19:10** – "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

16. **Luke 21:8** – “Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and, ‘The time is near.’ Do not follow them.”

17. **Luke 22:27** – “For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But **I am** among you as one who serves.”

- Jesus rebukes the disciples for arguing about who is the greatest.
 - True leadership is **servanthood**.
 - This statement aligns with Philippians 2:6-8, where Jesus **humbled Himself to serve humanity**.
-
-

18. **Luke 22:70** – (At His trial) (Matthew 26:64) “You say that I am.”

Key Themes of Jesus’ “I AM” Statements:



1. **Jesus is Divine:**
 - His statement in John 8:58 is a direct claim to God’s eternal existence.
 - The Jewish leaders understood this and tried to kill Him for blasphemy.
 2. **Jesus is the Source of Life:**
 - He is the bread of life, the light of the world, the resurrection, and the true vine.
 - These metaphors emphasize that all spiritual life and nourishment come through Him.
 3. **Jesus is the Only Way to God:**
 - John 14:6 is one of the most exclusive statements in Scripture.
 - He is the way—not one of many ways.
 4. **Jesus is the Messiah and Savior:**
 - His statements at His trial confirm His messianic role.
 - The Jewish leaders understood this and condemned Him.
 5. **Jesus is Sovereign:**
 - Even when arrested (John 18:5-6), His enemies fell at His words.
 - His identity is powerful and unshakable.
-

Jesus’ “I AM” statements are **not just metaphors**—they reveal **His nature, authority, and mission**. He is **God in the flesh, the Savior, the only path to eternal life**.



Activation: Speaking "I AM" Over Others – A Blessing Activation

- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you an "I AM" word for someone in your life.
- Send a text message to three people, saying:
"I was praying for you, and I feel like Jesus wants you to know that He is [Bread of Life, Light of the World, etc.] in this season."
- Encourage them to reflect on what that means and respond back to you.

Note their responses. How does Jesus' identity minister to them?



A Table Set Before You – The Bread of Life Activation

Key Verse: John 6:51 – "I am the living bread that came down from heaven."

- Set an actual table with bread and a drink (or take communion).
- As you eat, reflect on how Jesus is your spiritual sustenance.
- Ask the Holy Spirit: "What daily 'spiritual bread' do I need from You today?"
- Write down **one word** that comes to mind, and pray into it.

Do this by yourself first then share this practice with a friend or family member and talk about how Jesus sustains you.

CHAPTER 10 Wrap up of Who He Says He Is



Memorize the 7 key "I AM" statements from John, each revealing Jesus:

1. "Then Jesus declared, **I am the bread of life.** Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." - John 6:35

2. "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

3. "Therefore Jesus said again, 'Very truly I tell you, **I am the gate for the sheep.**'" - John 10:7

4. **"I am the good shepherd.** The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." - John 10:7

5. "Jesus said to her, **I am the resurrection and the life.** The one who believes in me will live, even though they die." - John 11:25

6. "Jesus answered, **I am the way and the truth and the life.** No one comes to the Father except through me." - John 14:6

7. **"I am the true vine,** and my Father is the gardener." - John 15:1 (NIV)

Tips on Memorizing: Use Your Senses!

See it (Read & Write it - in your journal, on Flash card, sticky notes, etc. Picture each key word as a vivid image.)

Say it (Speak & Sing – Repetition helps and if you make it into a song even better. You can also use the first Letter Technique: Give your self the first letters only as prompts to help at first.)

Hear it (Listen & Record – Listen on Apps, like the Bible App or Dwell, or better yet make your own voice memos and relisten often.)

Touch it (Write & Carry)

The more senses you engage, the stronger your memory!



The last 10 Days have been focused on Who Jesus said He is in the four Gospels particularly with the I AM Statements. The hope is that you end the session with a deeper love, appreciation, and relationship with Jesus. Some key take aways are:

1. The most important Question: "Who Do You Say That I Am?"

Key Thought: Jesus' question to His disciples (Matthew 16:15) is the most important question every person must answer. It demands a personal response, not just intellectual knowledge.

Take Away: After having done this study, write out again Who Do you Say that Jesus is:

What Changed from when you answered this in Lesson 1 (If nothing, please start over with these 10 lessons).

2. The "I AM" Impacting who I am.

Key Thought: Jesus' "I AM" statements in John's Gospel reveal His divine identity and mission. These statements are deeply rooted in Old Testament imagery and affirm His unity with God the Father.

Takeaway: Each "I AM" statement offers a unique perspective on who Jesus is and what He offers to believers. Write a short summary of what each represents for you:

1. Bread of Life: _____

2. Light of the World: _____

3. The Gate: _____

4. Good Shepherd: _____

5. Resurrection and Life: _____

6. Way, Truth, and Life: _____

7. True Vine: _____

Stuck? DON'T READ TILL YOU AT LEAST TRY ABOVE: (Some hints - by no means exhaustive.)

1. Bread of Life: Jesus sustains us spiritually and eternally.
2. Light of the World: Jesus brings truth, guidance, and salvation. He illuminates truth, revealing the way to the Father. He dispels darkness, guiding those who follow Him.
3. The Gate: Jesus is the only way to salvation and security. No one enters God's kingdom except through Him.
4. Good Shepherd: Jesus protects, leads, and lays down His life for His sheep showing sacrificial love. He knows, leads, and still speaks with His followers personally.
5. Resurrection and Life: Jesus conquers and has power over death and offers eternal life. He is the source of both spiritual and physical resurrection.
6. Way, Truth, and Life: Jesus is the only path to God and the source of all truth and life. He is the center of a believers life. He guides our steps and is the Way in all we do.
7. True Vine: Jesus is the source of spiritual life and fruitfulness. Abiding in Him is necessary for growth and impact.

3.The Transformational Power of Knowing Jesus

Key Thought: Knowing Jesus is not just about intellectual understanding but about a deep, personal relationship that transforms every aspect of life.

Takeaway: As believers abide in Christ (John 15:1-17), we experience spiritual growth, fruitfulness, and a deeper connection with God. We learn to bear much fruit, showing ourselves to be His disciples. This relationship requires surrender, obedience, and trust. We learn more and more to hear and obey His voice. The Key is abiding with Him. How are you currently abiding with Jesus:

4. The Call to Discipleship

Key Thought: Jesus calls His followers to more than just belief—He calls them to follow Him, obey His teachings, and participate in His mission.

Takeaway: Discipleship involves:

1. Abiding in Christ: Staying connected to Him as the source of life, love, guidance and fruit. (John 15:5).
2. Loving Others: Demonstrating self-sacrificial love, as Jesus did (John 15:12-13).
3. Making Disciples: Sharing the gospel and helping others grow in their faith (Matthew 28:19-20).

5. The Resurrection and Life

Key Thought: Jesus' declaration, "I am the Resurrection and the Life" (John 11:25), highlights His power over death and His power offered through the Holy Spirit for daily (and eternal) life in Him.

Takeaway: Believers are called to live in the reality of Jesus' resurrection power, allowing it to transform their lives and empower them to bring hope, life, and power to others.

6. The Importance of Truth

Key Thought: Jesus is the embodiment of truth (John 14:6), and His truth sets believers free from sin, deception, and fear (John 8:32).

Takeaway: Walking in truth requires grounding oneself in Scripture, listening to the Holy Spirit, and rejecting competing "truths" that contradict God's Word.

7. The Role of the Holy Spirit

Key Thought: The Holy Spirit guides believers into all truth (John 16:13) and empowers them to live out their faith.

Takeaway: As Believers, we must rely on the Holy Spirit to understand Scripture, hear God's voice, and live a life that reflects Jesus' character and mission.

8. What it means to Abide in Christ

Key Thought: Jesus' metaphor of the vine and branches (John 15:1-17) emphasizes the importance of remaining in Him for spiritual life and fruitfulness.

Takeaway: Abiding in Christ involves:

- Pruning: Allowing God to remove what hinders growth.
- Fruitfulness: Producing spiritual fruit (e.g., love, joy, peace) and making disciples.
- Obedience: Following Jesus' commands and living in His love.

9. The Exclusivity of Jesus

Key Thought: Jesus' claim to be "the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:6) - he is exclusive. He is the only Gate for the Sheep. He is the only path to God and eternal life.

Takeaway: This truth challenges believers to share the gospel boldly and live in a way that reflects Jesus' uniqueness. There are not many paths, we must be ready to call out false beliefs, but do so in His love.

We are called to:

- Share the gospel.
- Serve others selflessly.
- Demonstrate Jesus' love and power in how we live and respond to others.

10. Jesus' Identity

Key Thought: Jesus' "I AM" statements and actions reveal that **HE IS GOD** in the flesh, the Messiah, the Savior of the world, and the one who calls us friend - who is still speaking to us. Are you listening?

Takeaway: When we truly understand and embracing Jesus' true identity - who He is and what He offers – It can't help but transforms how we live, love, and share.



Activation - The "I AM" Experience (Embodied Prayer Activation)

Take each of the seven "I AM" statements and create a sensory prayer walk:

1. Bread of Life 🍞 – Eat a piece of bread, thanking Jesus for sustaining you.
2. Light of the World 💡 – Sit in a dark room and turn on a light, reflecting on how Jesus brings clarity.
3. Gate for the Sheep 🚪 – Walk through a door, meditating on Jesus as the way to salvation.
4. Good Shepherd 🐑 – Listen to peaceful worship music, reflecting on Jesus' care and guidance.
5. Resurrection and Life 🌱 – Stand outside in nature, thanking Jesus for new life.
6. Way, Truth, Life 🗺️ – Take a short walk, asking Jesus to lead where you go.
7. True Vine 🍷 – Hold a branch or vine, reflecting on how abiding in Jesus brings fruitfulness. Did you choose a dead branch or a living one. Why?

Share in your group something that you experienced in this journey.

Final Thought:

Consider the last 10 days (or however long it took you to do this) an invitation to know Jesus deeply, follow Him wholeheartedly, and share His love and truth with the world – to enter in a deeper relationship with Him through His Holy Spirit. Accept the challenge to move beyond surface-level faith and into a life of abiding in Christ, bearing fruit, and making disciples.

The "I AM" statements are not just theological concepts—they are invitations to experience the fullness of life in Jesus.