**Introduction to**

**The Seven “I AM” statements of Jesus in John**

Jesus was and is the most radical person who ever lived! The Gospel of John records seven radical statements that Jesus made about Himself, to help His listeners understand who He is and understand His mission.

In Exodus 3:14, God had revealed Himself to Moses, in the burning bush, as “I AM”. Hundreds of years later, the same words came from the lips of Jesus. The same God who spoke to Moses was speaking again, through the flesh and blood person of Jesus, who was claiming to be no one less than God Himself.

Some loved Him for who He was and what He said about Himself, but others wanted Him put to death, because He challenged their authority and power. In fact, these seven radical statements of Jesus led to His crucifixion, but His resurrection proved that all He'd said about Himself was true.

As we study each of these seven radical claims of Jesus, we’ll discover that His words can still transform our lives today. I pray that this Bible study will help you understand Jesus better, trust Him more, and become more like Jesus.

With Aloha,

Susie Lam

**I AM**

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**GUIDELINES FOR SHARING IN SMALL GROUPS**

Sharing with others and praying together can be an enriching experience as long as each member of the group feels safe and is respected and valued by the others. Here are some guidelines to help make your small group sharing time effective and uplifting to all.

***Prioritize:*** Prioritize your small group meetings and fellowship times. Let your shepherd know in advance if you must miss a meeting or will be late. Come prepared with your homework done. Attend small group fellowship meetings to strengthen the bonds of friendship and love within your group.

***Participate:*** Everyone should contribute to the group discussion but no one should dominate. If you have “the gift of gab”, monitor yourself to make sure you are not talking too much. If you are shy or unsure of your answers, share anyway. The vitality of the group depends upon each member participating, and learning from each other.

 ***Respect:*** Respect those from other backgrounds who think differently than you do. Refrain from arguing theology, correcting others, or giving unsolicited advice. All questions are encouraged and respected.

***Keep Confidences:*** Anything of a sensitive or personal nature that is shared in your group should not be repeated outside of the group. No gossip please!

***Support:*** Avoid “cliquishness”. Be welcoming to new people who join your group. Pray for each other throughout the week and give permission to call upon each other in time of need. Be affectionate and encouraging.

***Share:*** Share your gifts with others by serving. Volunteer to help in your area of interest or giftedness. Spread the word about Women in the Word and invite your friends to join us on Tuesday nights.

***Enjoy!*** This Bible study is designed to build you up, enrich your life, and help you grow in your relationship with God.

**Bible Study & Journaling Instructions**

This Bible study is suitable for those who have never studied the Bible before as well as those who have been studying God’s Word for years. The method of study is simple:

Begin by praying that God will speak to your heart as you get into His Word, and read the passage. Be open to encouragement, direction or correction from the Lord as you read. Underline key phrases or make notations in the margins of your Bible or notebook, as the Lord brings to mind people or situations you should pray for, promises to stand upon, or lessons you need to apply to your life.

After reading the passage, answer the questions.

Then select a verse or paragraph that particularly spoke to you and caught your attention. If nothing “jumps off the page”, select a sentence or two that you think might have some spiritual significance to your life.

Copy that verse or passage word for word. Writing out the verse or verses will help you remember what God is saying to you.

Then, in your own words, write what you observed in that verse or paragraph. (Consider: What is the context? What or who is it about? How would I have felt or reacted had I been there? What is really being said? What does it mean? Why is it important?)

Next, and most importantly, write out how this passage applies to your life. Is there something you need to change? A promise to stand on? An order to follow? Write out how you will be different because of what you have just read.

Finally, write a brief prayer to God, based on this passage. Thank Him for speaking to you. Tell Him what’s on your heart. Ask Him to help you change based on what you have just read.

A simple acrostic to help you remember these steps is **“SOAP”**

**S = Scripture**

**O = Observation**

**A = Application**

**P = Prayer**

Example:

**S**: John 11:33 "When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled."

**O**: Jesus empathizes with those who are suffering!  He was deeply moved by the sorrow of Mary and Martha and the others at Lazarus’ tomb.  It touched his heart.  It also says he was troubled.  Death would never have existed had sin not entered the world, so Jesus hated death, and was troubled that it had snuffed out his dear friend’s life and caused so much sorrow for his sisters and friends.  Verse 35 says “Jesus wept.” He wept with them and for them.

**A**: Jesus understands my sorrows and my grief and is moved by my emotional and physical pain.  I will not hesitate to bring my needs and problems to Him because He cares deeply for me!

**P**: Thank you, dear Lord Jesus, that you are touched by the things that touch us, and you hurt when we hurt.  Thank you that when I bring my needs and my pain to you, you truly understand and care!  I’m so grateful that you hear me when I call, and empathize with me, and that you are my ever-present help in times of need.  I love you and praise you forever!

**I AM**

**Lesson 1 The Bread of Life**

**John 6:35**

*“Then Jesus declared, ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.’”*

**John 6:25-51**:

**25**When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”

**26**Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. **27**Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

**28**Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”

**29**Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

**30**So they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? **31**Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

**32**Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. **33**For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

**34**“Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”

**35**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. **36**But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. **37**All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. **38**For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. **39**And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. **40**For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

**41**At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” **42**They said, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I came down from heaven’?”

**43**“Stop grumbling among yourselves,” Jesus answered. **44**“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. **45**It is written in the Prophets: ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me. **46**No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. **47**Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. **48**I am the bread of life. **49**Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. **50**But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. **51**I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

1. Jesus had just performed a huge miracle, multiplying five small loaves and two fish to feed over 5,000 people. Now hundreds of people were following Him, and He knew what was in their hearts. Why did He say they were looking for Him, and what did He tell them?

2. What did Jesus tell them about that, and what did He mean?

3. Do you know anyone who thinks they’ll get into heaven by being a good person or doing good works? Have you ever thought like that? Explain.

4. Read verses 28-29. What did the people ask Jesus, and what did they mean? What was Jesus answer, and what did He mean?

5. Jesus had just done a huge miracle, feeding the 5,000, and the word about him had quickly spread, but now the people asked for another “sign”. They said Moses had given their ancestors manna every day. What were they implying by mentioning the manna, and how did Jesus answer them in verses 32-33?

6. Four times in this passage, Jesus refers to Himself as bread. Jot down the 4 bread phrases He used concerning Himself.

7. Read verses 34-41, and put yourself in the sandals of a bystander in the crowd that day. What do you think you would have thought about Jesus bold claim? Write, in the first person, as if you were that bystander writing a letter to her sister in another town, explaining what you thought and how you felt about Jesus, after hearing him in person that day.

8. Read verses 41-51. Why wasn’t Jesus surprised or upset when people were grumbling about Him? What did He know that they didn’t know?

9. Summarize in two or three sentences, what Jesus was saying about Himself in this passage.

10. Journal this passage SOAP style.

**I AM**

**Lesson 2 The Light of the World**

**John 8:12**

*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 8:12-30** **12**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.”

**13**The Pharisees challenged him, “Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid.”

**14**Jesus answered, “Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going. **15**You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one. **16**But if I do judge, my decisions are true, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father who sent me. **17**In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true. **18**I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father who sent me.”

**19**Then they asked him, “Where is your father?”

“You do not know me or my Father,” Jesus replied. “If you knew me, you would know my Father also.” **20**He spoke these words while teaching in the temple courts near the place where the offerings were put. Yet no one seized him, because his hour had not yet come.

**21**Once more Jesus said to them, “I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come.”

**22**This made the Jews ask, “Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, ‘Where I go, you cannot come’?”

**23**But he continued, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. **24**I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins.”

**25**“Who are you?” they asked.

“Just what I have been telling you from the beginning,” Jesus replied. **26**“I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is trustworthy, and what I have heard from him I tell the world.”

**27**They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. **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. **29**The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.” **30**Even as he spoke, many believed in him.

The Feast of Tabernacles had just concluded, and Jesus was teaching in the Temple courts. Light was an important symbol of the Feast of Tabernacles. During the feast, many ceremonies referred to the pillar of fire that gave light to the Israelites during their exodus from Egypt. Jesus took this important symbol and applied it to Himself.

1. Describe what it feels like to walk in darkness.

2. Read Jesus statement in verse 12. What did He promise? What do you think He meant?

3. Have you experienced following Jesus being like following a light through a dark place? If so, give an example.

4. Biblical law required that a person’s testimony be verified by two or three witnesses. For example, Deuteronomy 19:15 says: “One witness is not enough to convict anyone accused of any crime or offense they may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.” The religious leaders of Jesus day tried to use this law to challenge Jesus claim to be “the light of the world”. How did Jesus answer their challenge?

5. Do you believe Jesus’ testimony, that He came from the Father? If so, why?

6. Read Jesus statement in verses 21. Where was he going? Why did he say his accusers couldn’t follow him?

7. Read Jesus very blunt statement to the Pharisees in verses 23-24. Had you been on the outskirts of the crowd, and overheard Jesus saying this to your religious leaders, what would you have thought, and how would you have felt? Write in the first person, as if writing in your diary, how you felt after hearing these words of Jesus.

8. Read what Jesus said about himself in verse 29. Could you say this about yourself? Is this a goal of yours? Explain.

9. Journal this passage SOAP style.

**I AM**

**Lesson 3 The Door**

**John 10:9**

*“I am the door; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.”*

**John 10:1-10**: “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. **2**But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. **3**To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **4**And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. **5**Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” **6**Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them.

**7**Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. **8**All who *ever* came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. **9**I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. **10**The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

1. Have you or someone you know had your house broken into? How did you/they feel?

2. Jesus starts this passage with the words “Most assuredly”. Why do you think he said that?

3. Jesus used the imagery of a sheepfold in this passage – a safe place where sheep were kept overnight. What do you think the sheepfold stands for? What do the shepherd and the stranger represent?

4. What does Jesus say about himself, regarding the sheepfold? What did he say about those who climb up or try to enter the sheepfold some other way? What did He mean?

5. Jesus had just miraculously healed a man who’d been blind from birth, as described in John 9. (Read John 9 if you are not familiar with the story.) How does that story provide one example of what this parable is about?

6. How do sheep respond to the shepherd?

7. How did the Pharisees respond to Jesus? Why did they have difficulty understanding Him? What does this say about them?

8. Give some examples of “thieves or robbers.”

9. Why do the thieves come? Why did Jesus come?

10. Journal this passage SOAP style.

**I AM**

**Lesson 4 The Good Shepherd**

**John 10:11**

*“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”*

**John 10:3-6, 11-21** **3**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. **4**When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. **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.” **6**Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. **12**The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. **13**The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

**14**“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— **15**just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. **16**I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. **17**The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. **18**No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

**19**The Jews who heard these words were again divided.**20**Many of them said, “He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?”

**21**But others said, “These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

**Matthew 7:15-16a** “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them.”

**Psalm 23**:

**1**The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
**2**    He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
**3**    he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths
    for his name’s sake.
**4**Even though I walk
    through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil,
    for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
    they comfort me.

**5**You prepare a table before me
    in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
    my cup overflows.
**6**Surely your goodness and love will follow me
    all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
    forever.

1. After reading the John 10 verses above, list 3-4 things the shepherd does for his sheep. Then read Psalm 23 above, and list 3 or 4 more things the shepherd does for his sheep.

2. What is the difference between a good shepherd and a hireling?

3. How many times in this passage does Jesus talk about the good shepherd laying down his life for the sheep? What is significant about this?

4. How does Jesus’ sacrifice of Himself make you feel about yourself, and about Him?

5. What responsibility do the sheep have in this passage? What do they do? Do you do this?

6. How specifically do you listen to your shepherd? In what ways do you hear his voice?

7. What do you think Jesus was referring to in verse 16 when He said: “I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd”?

8. Who does the wolf represent? Compare the goals of the wolf with the goals of the shepherd.

9. Even under the shepherd’s watchful eye, the sheep can wander off. Have you ever wandered off, or been tempted to? What is Jesus, the Good Shepherd’s response to us when we wander off?

10. Meditate on Psalm 23, one of the most well-known passages of scripture about the Good Shepherd’s care for his sheep. What specifically stands out to you today that you will remember the next time you are worried, confused or afraid?

11. Journal one of these passages SOAP style.

**I AM**

**Lesson 5 The Resurrection and the Life**

**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;****26****and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.*

**John 11:1-53** Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. **2**(This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) **3**So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you love is sick.”

**4**When he heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.” **5**Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. **6**So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, **7**and then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”

**8**“But Rabbi,” they said, “a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?”

**9**Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world’s light. **10**It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.”

**11**After he had said this, he went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.”

**12**His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.”**13**Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

**14**So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, **15**and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

**16**Then Thomas (also known as Didymus[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2011%3A1-45&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26540a)]) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

**Jesus Comforts the Sisters of Lazarus**

**17**On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. **18**Now Bethany was less than two miles[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2011%3A1-45&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26542b)] from Jerusalem, **19**and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. **20**When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

**21**“Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. **22**But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

**23**Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

**24**Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

**25**Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; **26**and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

**27**“Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

**28**After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.” **29**When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. **30**Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. **31**When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

**32**When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

**33**When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. **34**“Where have you laid him?” he asked.

“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

**35**Jesus wept.

**36**Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

**37**But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

**Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead**

**38**Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. **39**“Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

**40**Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

**41**So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. **42**I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

**43**When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” **44**The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

**The Plot to Kill Jesus**

**45**Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. **46**But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.**47**Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin.

“What are we accomplishing?” they asked. “Here is this man performing many signs. **48**If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation.”

**49**Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, “You know nothing at all! **50**You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish.”

**51**He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, **52**and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one. **53**So from that day on they plotted to take his life.

1. When Jesus received the message that his friend, Lazarus, was dead, why do you think he didn’t go immediately to heal him?

2. From what you have read or heard, how would you describe Jesus’ relationship with Lazarus and his sisters Mary and Martha?

3. Mary and Martha were obviously disappointed that Jesus didn’t arrive before their brother died. Are there any situations that have caused you to be disappointed with God? Have those situations been resolved? Would you like prayer about this? (Please remember than anything of a personal nature that is shared in your small group is not to be shared outside the group without specific permission. No gossip please!)

4. Put yourself in Mary’s sandals, and write in the first person, as if writing in a diary, how you felt and what you were thinking when Jesus didn’t come right away when he heard Lazarus was sick, and then how you felt and what you thought when He raised Lazarus from death back to life.

5. Why do you think Jesus cried at Lazarus tomb, knowing that He was going to raise him from the death back to life?

6. What do you think Jesus meant when He said that the person who believes in Him will live, even though he dies?

7. Does this passage give you hope and faith regarding any “death-like” situations in your life? Explain. Would you like prayer about this?

8. Read verses 8, 16 and 46-53, and describe the risk that Jesus took by returning to Judea to raise Lazarus from the dead.

9. How do you explain the reaction of the Jewish spiritual leaders in verses 47-53? What was behind their plotting?

10. Journal one of these passages SOAP style.

**I AM**

**Lesson 6 The Way, the Truth & The Life**

**John 14:6**

*Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

**John 14:1-14** “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. **2**My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? **3**And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. **4**You know the way to the place where I am going.”

**Jesus the Way to the Father**

**5**Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

**6**Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **7**If you really know me, you will knowmy Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

**8**Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

**9**Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? **10**Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. **11**Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. **12**Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. **13**And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14**You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

Jesus followers were greatly troubled because He had told them that He was leaving and they couldn’t go with Him. Now, during their last supper together, the Passover meal, just hours before His arrest and crucifixion, Jesus speaks words of comfort and peace to His disciples and makes this great claim.

1. Read verses 1-4. What comfort does Jesus offer His disciples? Be specific. What did Jesus say He’d be doing when He left them.

2. Does anything Jesus said to his disciples that night, comfort you? Explain.

3. What do you think Jesus meant when He said, “I am the way, the truth and the life”?

4. How does Jesus’ claim to be “the way, the truth and the life” challenge what many people in our society today believe?

5. How would you answer a person who thinks it is narrow and intolerant to believe that Jesus is the only way to God?

6. What key truth was Jesus stressing in answer to Philip’s question in verse 8? How might this help comfort the disciples and give them peace?

7. Read verse 12. What do you think this means? In what ways did the disciples, or Christians today, do “greater things” than Jesus did?

8. What do you think Jesus meant in verses 13-14? Did he mean that if we ask for a Porsche or a mansion, in Jesus’ name, we’ll get it? Explain.

9. Journal this passage SOAP style.

**I AM**

**Lesson 7 The Vine**

**John 15:5**

*“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 15:1-8, 16-17*** *“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.****2****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.****3****You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.****4****Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.*

***5****“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.****6****If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.****7****If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.****8****This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*

*.****16****You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.****17****This is my command: Love each other.*

***Galatians 5:22-23*** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,****23****gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

 Jesus spoke the words recorded in John 15 to his disciples as they were leaving their last supper together and walking to the Mount of Olives, where Jesus would be arrested. As you read and think about these verses, remember how important they are, as some of Jesus last words to those He was trusting to carry on His work and take the Gospel to the whole world.

1. Jesus uses a grapevine and its branches as an allegory of the relationship He has with His followers. What do verses 1-2 tell us about this relationship?

2. Have you experienced being pruned? Explain what the Lord pruned away and how. (Please remember that anything of a personal nature that is shared in your small group must not be discussed outside of your group without specific permission. No gossip please!)

3. Jesus told His disciples in verse 3 that they were already clean. How did he say he had cleaned them? What does this mean to you, in your life?

4. Read and meditate on verse 4. In the natural world, what does the vine do for the branches? What do the branches provide to the vine?

5. Jesus proclaims that He is the vine in verse 5, and explains his allegory of the vine and branches in verses 5-6. Write what these verses are saying to you personally, as a branch?

6. Read Galatians 5:22-23 which explains the kind of fruit the Holy Spirit produces in a believer’s life. What is the fruit that the Divine Gardener is looking for in His people?

7. Read verses 7-8. Does verse 7 mean that you can make selfish requests for riches, fame, etc. and they will be granted? What does the promise of verse 7 mean in the context of this passage?

8. According to verse 9, who gets the glory when a vine is fruitful - the Gardener or the branch? How do we glorify the Father?

9. Based on this passage, how would you explain to a friend what your purpose in life is?

10. Journal one of these passages SOAP style.