

# When Jesus Said, "I AM"

## LESSON 2

We're going to pause for just a moment in our study of *The Gospel of John* and pick back up with the second half of **John 1** in our next lesson. One of the best ways to view "the big picture" of what John has documented for us is to notice an extremely important pattern. Throughout John's Gospel, we hear Jesus saying over and over again, "I am." Remember John's stated goal for what he has written:

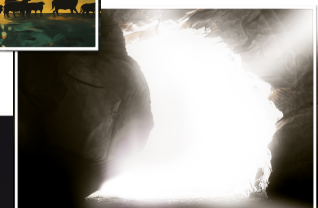
Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (20:30-31)

So what does Jesus want us to believe? Seven different times he said, "I am..."

- ☀ "I am the \_\_\_\_\_ of life." (6:35, 48, 51)
- ☀ "I am the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world." (8:12)
- ☀ "I am the \_\_\_\_\_ of the sheep." (10:7-9)
- ☀ "I am the good \_\_\_\_\_." (10:11, 14)
- ☀ "I am the \_\_\_\_\_ and the life." (11:25-26)
- ☀ "I am the \_\_\_\_\_, and the truth, and the life." (14:6)
- ☀ "I am the true \_\_\_\_\_." (15:1)

Each one of these "I am" statements has a context that we'll explore as our study unfolds, but clearly, there are very important things Jesus wants us to believe about his identity and the difference he can make in our lives. In fact, in **John 8:58**, he boldly declared, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before \_\_\_\_\_ was, \_\_\_\_\_."

John has written his Gospel so that we may believe. Jesus has used a variety of "I am" descriptions so that we may believe (13:19). The stakes are high. "Unless you believe that I am he you will \_\_\_\_\_ in your sins" (8:24). So let's talk about it...



## For Class & Family Discussion:

- What did Jesus mean when he described himself as “the bread of life” (6:35, 48, 51)? What does he want us to believe about his identity and the difference he can make in our lives? How does believing in him as “the bread of life” help to save us from our sins?



- What did Jesus mean when he described himself as “the light of the world” (8:12)? What does he want us to believe about his identity and the difference he can make in our lives? How does believing in him as “the light of the world” help to save us from our sins?



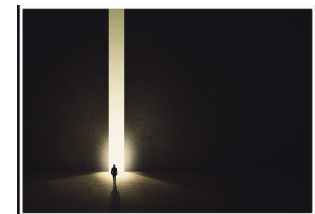
- What did Jesus mean when he described himself as “the door of the sheep” (10:7-9) and “the good shepherd” (10:11, 14)? What does he want us to believe about his identity and the difference he can make in our lives? How does believing in him as “the door” and “the good shepherd” help to save us from our sins?



- What did Jesus mean when he described himself as “the resurrection and the life” (11:25-26)? What does he want us to believe about his identity and the difference he can make in our lives? How does believing in him as “the resurrection and the life” help to save us from our sins?



- What did Jesus mean when he described himself as “the way, the truth, and the life” (14:6)? What does he want us to believe about his identity and the difference he can make in our lives? How does believing in him as “the way, the truth, and the life” help to save us from our sins?



- What did Jesus mean when he described himself as “the true vine” (15:1)? What does he want us to believe about his identity and the difference he can make in our lives? How does believing in him as “the true vine” help to save us from our sins?



- Finally, what should we make of Jesus’ incredible claim in John 8:58, “Before Abraham was, I am”? What difference does that claim make in the way we approach all of John’s Gospel and everything we’ll see and hear from Jesus? If Jesus is “I AM”...

