

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as we gather today, we reflect upon your Son. He is one with you and the Holy Spirit. He calls us into one body with all who call upon your name. We are called to one table where Christ is our host. In that oneness of spirit, we confess our sins and seek to be at peace with other. Guide us in our study today that as we explore who you are through your Son. Bring us to greater faith and service in your Kingdom on earth and heaven. All this we lift up in the boundless name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Exodus 3:13-14 (NIV)

¹³ Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I am who I am."^a This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.'"

Matthew 16:13-16 (NIV)

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

¹⁴ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

¹⁵ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

John 1:9-12 (NIV)

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 4 April 6, 2025
“The ‘I Am’ Sayings of Jesus”

INTRODUCTION

The “I am” statements of Jesus invite us to understand the nature of Jesus and his oneness with God. From God’s conversation with Moses about his name to Jesus comforting his disciples before his arrest, we find words of comfort and challenging revelations. It can almost be too much for us to comprehend, yet our joy is to explore, in faith, the greatness of our God. You are invited to study and meditate upon these passages and others that come to your mind as you consider the following:

QUESTIONS

1. What was the first description of God that you remember in your life? How does that initial description fit within your understanding of the Lord now?
2. Amid their conversation in Exodus 3, Moses asked God for his name. What do you make of God’s answer: “I AM that I AM”? How do you understand this as a name? How do you understand this as it relates to God’s character and being?
3. The Gospel of John often speaks about Jesus and light. How has Jesus brought light into your and/or your family’s life? How do you understand Jesus as “the light of the world?” (John 8:12, 9:5)
4. What are some tangible and tactile ways you can bring the light of Christ to others? Will you commit to acting on one of those this week?
5. In our passage from the Gospel of Matthew (on page 1), Jesus asks the disciples “who people say I am” before asking them who they (the disciples) say he is. This question is ours to answer as Christ’s disciples today. Who do we say Jesus is? How do we live out this answer by our faith and actions?

FINAL APPLICATION

A note from Pastor Rick

The teachings of Jesus are ours to continually come back to over and over to inform our actions as his disciples; however, understanding and believing in the nature of Christ is just as crucial. May our reflection upon Jesus’ “I Am” statements and their implications on how we serve in his name continue to guide us. As we draw nearer to the celebration of Palm Sunday and the events of Holy Week, may the Son of God and Son of Man show us the fullest extent of God’s love and willingness to forgive us of our sins. I pray that the final weeks of our Lenten journey be blessed ones. In light of all this, how will you prepare yourself for a fuller experience of Jesus’ life and ministry this Lent?