

Wednesday Night “I Am” Study

Week 1 Recap | John 6

Jesus declared, “I am the Bread of Life.”

Takeaways:

1. Jesus is completely sufficient. This truth drives us to admit that we are insufficient. We can't, but Jesus can.
2. Jesus completely satisfies. Everyone and everything else will always leave us empty. Jesus is the bread that never spoils!
3. Jesus completely supplies. We don't work for the bread of life, we simply surrender and believe. Every world religion offers bread that you work for. Christianity alone offers bread on the basis of someone else's work.

Questions for Further Reflection:

1. Where in your life recently have you been forced to say, “I can't fix it; I don't have what it takes”? Why is this actually a good position to be in?
2. Do you feel like you are experiencing the fullness of life that Jesus offers right now? Where do you feel empty?
3. How does the truth learned in this passage motivate you to live differently? Who in your life needs to be reminded of the only place to find the Bread of Life?

Wednesday Night “I Am” Study

Week 2 Recap | John 8:12-20

Jesus declared, “I am the Light of the World.”

Context: Jesus is teaching in the Temple court on the final night of the Feast of Tabernacles. Feast was established to remember God’s provision in the wilderness.

Takeaways:

1. The Meaning of the Statement. Light is the source of life, truth, and joy. Jesus is the ultimate source of these things. He provides everything we need.
2. The Claim of the Statement. Jesus is the light the people of God had been longing for. He doesn’t point people to the light, He is the light Himself. The light of Jesus doesn’t just flood Jerusalem, but it floods the entire world.
3. The Result of the Statement. Jesus calls us to follow Him. When we encounter the true Light of The World it is a call to no longer hide, a call to live differently, and a call to live courageously. We are transformed to the light in the darkness.

Questions for Further Reflection:

1. Where in our lives are we settling for reflections of the light instead of embracing the true light of the world?
2. In what ways specifically can you be light in the midst of darkness right where God has placed you?
3. How did this study bring you hope and encouragement?

Wednesday Night “I Am” Study

Week 3 Recap | John 10:1-18

Jesus declared, “I am the Good Shepherd.”

Context: In John 9, the man born blind has been rejected and thrown out of the Temple by the shepherds of Israel (the Pharisees). In John 10, Jesus declares that He is the Good Shepherd that the people of God have been longing for.

Takeaways:

1. Jesus knows His sheep. Like sheep, He knows that we are helpless and utterly dependent. He alone knows us fully...the good and the bad.
2. Jesus lays down His life for His sheep. He knows us and still chooses to take our place. This is amazing love, and only can be found at the cross. To be fully known, and fully loved is what separates Christianity from all other worldviews.
3. Jesus calls His sheep by name. He alone gives us the status and security we long for. Through the calling of Jesus, God the Father now looks at us as His favored child.

Questions for Further Reflection:

1. If sheep are utterly dependent on their Shepherd, what areas of your life need to be fully surrendered to the Good Shepherd?
2. What needs to change in my daily rhythm in order to experience intimacy and fellowship with my Good Shepherd?
3. How does the truth of the Good Shepherd motivate us to be shepherds of the people in my life? Who in my life can I serve today?

Wednesday Night “I Am” Study

Week 4 Recap | John 11:17-44

“I am the Resurrection and the Life”

Context: The death of Lazarus in Bethany, friend of Jesus, brother of Mary and Martha.

Takeaways:

1. Jesus comforts with Truth. He provides objective hope, grounded in the Word. Resurrection can be experienced now.
2. Jesus comforts with Tears. He is not aloof to our pain. This is the picture of perfect love: truth and tears.
3. Jesus comforts with Anger. He is enraged by the reality of sin and death. This is an incredible example of righteous indignation. Death has finally met its match!
4. Jesus comforts with His own Funeral. He brings Lazarus back from the dead and it ultimately results in His own death. Picture of substitution: Jesus takes our place, we take His place. We live, He dies.

Questions for Further Reflection:

1. What happens in our lives when we forget God’s Truth?
2. Why is it abnormal not to cry when you or someone you know is experiencing suffering?
3. Where do you typically direct your anger in times of stress or when you are experiencing brokenness?
4. What are the practical implications of Jesus’ resurrection being our resurrection?

Wednesday Night “I Am” Study

Week 5 Recap | John 14:1-6

“I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

Context: Jesus just finished the last supper. On the night of his betrayal and arrest, Jesus offers objective hope to his disciples. It was the comfort they needed in the midst of fear and uncertainty.

Takeaways:

1. The Exclusive Claim: Jesus is the only way to God. He is the truth and the life. No hope, no future apart from Jesus. Radical exclusiveness is a cardinal tent of Christianity.
2. The Objection to the Claim: On the surface, Christianity appears arrogant and proud. However, all truth claims exclude, if not, nothing would be false. The real question is, which truth claim has the most merit?
3. The Uniqueness of the Claim: World Religions produce arrogance and pride. They have a set of truths that must be performed in order to achieve salvation. Christianity declares that the truth has come to set us free. Jesus offers salvation by grace alone. What is more arrogant? “Jesus is the only way to God” or “I can get to God by my own efforts”. I’ll take the exclusive message of Christianity any day.

Conclusion:

In our cultural moment you will hear people say, “We need to move away from the exclusivity of Christianity”. Unfortunately this offers the world no hope at all. We need the objective truth that will truly humble us, point us to our only hope of salvation, and set us free. This is our message of great comfort to the world living in fear.

Wednesday Night "I Am" Study

Week 6 Recap | John 15:1-17

"I am the Vine."

Big Idea: Lasting growth and transformation only comes through an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ.

Context: Jesus is continuing to impart truth to his disciples following the Last Supper.

Takeaways:

1. Growth is the Goal (verse 8 & 16). We were chosen for this ultimate purpose. To be conformed into the image and likeness of Jesus.
2. Growth happens Organically (verses 4-7). Real growth does not happen by external force or selfish ambition. Intimacy and dependence with God is the key. We are saved by grace alone, we grow by grace alone.
3. Growth requires Pruning (verse 1-2). Pattern of redemption. Must die in order to live. We should not fear that the Gardener will completely cut us off. Jesus experienced cosmic pruning (Isaiah 53:8) so that we would live forever.

Exercise: Take two index cards. On one **write "ABIDE"** - write 3 specific steps you can take to abide more with God. On the second **write "PRUNE"** - write 3 specific things that God needs to prune in your life.