**Cell Group Bible Study**

**Jesus 7 “I am” Sayings**

**Introduction**

Welcome to the start of our church’s sermon series and cell group bible study on Jesus’ 7 “I am” Sayings in the Gospel of John! We will be embarking on this journey for next seven weeks from 9 July to 20 Aug.

*Why study Jesus’ 7 “I am” Sayings?*

1. Here we hear Jesus personally describing his nature, character and mission. These are not statements given by another person. Jesus’ descriptions of himself are both fully accurate and true. We can **learn most about Jesus** through them.
2. It helps us **find true life**. Jesus clearly states to all Scripture speaks about him and points to himself (John 6:63). And as he alone is the source of life, we find life when we come to him through understanding his words.

*What is a suggested cell group and bible study format?*

1. You can incorporate the elements of the **4 W’s** for your cell meeting: **Welcome** (personal thanksgiving), **Worship** (songs), **Word** (bible study) and **Works** (prayer for each other and planning and participating in upcoming events of the church).
2. Each of the bible study will consist of three elements:
	1. **Introductory question** for discussion (related to the focus of the bible study)
	2. **Discussion question(s)** based on the passage
	3. **Possible application(s)** in daily life
3. You may not need to include all of the elements in a single cell group session but do not neglect any of the **4 W’s** over the long term.

*What can be helpful for cell members to be more involved?*

1. Everyone should try to read the bible passage beforehand or during the meeting.
2. Cell members can be rostered to lead in the various elements within the cell meeting: welcome, worship, bible study or prayer. This will help involve more members for the cell.
3. In smaller groups, cell members can keep in touch with one another about how they have been applying the lessons learnt in the sermon/bible study throughout the week. You can also ask cell members to share and update about their previous week’s resolution that they have set for themselves.

*What is helpful for you as a cell leader to have a fruitful meeting?*

1. Start and end every meeting **on time**. This honours the commitment that all the cell members have made to attend cell on time.
2. Encourage everyone to share and thank them for sharing – there are no wrong answers (unless it contradicts what God says!) and each opinion should be valued.
3. Look to affirm what your members are sharing – especially about how God may be speaking or leading them in their lives.
4. Feel free to stop at any point to elaborate if the Spirit is leading you to – **you don’t have to complete all of the discussion questions.**
5. Keep your cell group meeting and your members in prayer throughout the week.

**Jesus 7 “I am” Sayings Bible Study (23 Jul)**

**I am the Door of the Sheep**

**Big Idea –There is only one true access to God**

Key Verse: *“**I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.”* John 10:9

***A. Introductory Question***

1. What was one adverse circumstance that you have encountered/experienced in your life that actually turned out for good?

***B. Discussion Questions***

**[Read John 10:1-10]**

Can you imagine a house without doors? How would you feel living in such a home? No matter how safe the neighbourhood may be, a house without a main door is a disaster waiting to happen. Thieves may enter at any moment and members of the house will hardly have a sense of security.

Doors therefore serve dual purposes. They prevent robbers from entering to steal while granting access to only the members of the house into a place where they can feel safe.

1. Why is it important to enter into God’s sheepfold and not remain outside? Are there any other legitimate ways to enter the sheepfold besides the gate? Give reasons for your answers.
2. There are many contrasts mentioned in this passage: thief/robber vs gatekeeper, stranger vs shepherd, outside vs inside the sheepfold and steal/kill/destroy vs giving life. What do you think is the purpose of John in highlighting so many contrasts?
3. Jesus declares, “*I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture*.” (John 10:9) How does one enter through Jesus?

***C. Application***

Jesus is the door for the sheep. This means that trusting and having faith in Jesus is the only way to enter into God’s kingdom.

The church’s message has always been about the centrality of Jesus Christ. Yet mentioning his name is strangely offensive to many. We can talk about belief in a generic God, or become more “spiritual” in our lives and there would be no dispute; but once we mention Jesus many turn off automatically.

1. Is it a good thing if people are offended by the gospel?
2. How can the message that Jesus is the door be made more palatable to others? What are some situations where we should avoid making it palatable to others?