**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 (30 Jul)**

**I am the Good Shepherd**

**Big Idea –The Good Shepherd cares for us and guides us**

Key Verse: *“**“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”* John 10:11

***A. Introductory Question***

1. What was a time in your life when you experienced the guidance of God?

***B. Discussion Questions***

**[Read John 10:11-18]**

The idea of God as our Shepherd was found as early as the Old Testament (OT) in the famous Psalm: “The Lord is my Shepherd.” (Psalm 23:1)

While God appoints leaders to shepherd his people in the OT, he promises to shepherd his people personally in future. In Ezekiel 34 he says, “I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God.” (Ezekiel 34:15)

Jesus, in declaring that he is the good Shepherd, fulfils the promise of God made in the OT.

1. With reference to Ezekiel 34:16, John 10:11 and 14, list the things that the good shepherd does. (There should be 7 things.) Which one(s) of these characteristics of God stand out to you?
2. The stark differences between the shepherd and the hired hand are highlighted in v11-13. What is the root of such differences?
3. What does the wolf (attacking and scattering the sheep) refer to in our modern-day context? What does this say about the importance of us as believers to follow the good Shepherd?

***C. Application***

Jesus compares his relationship with his sheep to the relationship he enjoys with his Father.

“*I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep*.” John 10:14-15

1. How is your relationship like with Jesus? Do you know him just like how Jesus knows the Father?

He also says, “*I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also*.” John 10:16

1. Who are the other sheep in your family or spheres of influence whom the Lord desires to bring into the sheep pen? How are you cooperating with the Holy Spirit in this endeavour?