**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 (6 Aug)**

**I am the Resurrection and the Life**

**Big Idea – Jesus our Resurrection and Life delivers us from the fear of death**

Key Verse: *“**I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.”* John 11:25-26

***A. Introductory Question***

1. What is one greatest fear that you or someone you know have about death?

***B. Discussion Questions***

**[Read John 11:1-26]**

This passage is a favourite of mine to preach from at wake and funeral services. This is because not only does this passage convey hope to the family and loved ones of the deceased of his or her future bodily resurrection, it is also a powerful gospel message to those who have yet to believe in Christ.

It seems that Jesus had the same intention when performing his miracle of Lazarus raising Lazarus from the dead. This was not just a private sign to answer Mary and Martha’s request, but also a public one to show to all the Jews in that town that he is God who resurrects and gives eternal life.

1. When Jesus refers to Lazarus’ death as a sleep (v11), what does he mean? In other words, what are the similarities between death and sleep?
2. In examining John 11:25-26, what does Jesus mean when he says:
	1. The one who believes in him will live even though he dies
	2. The one who lives and believes in him will never die
3. What is the significance of Jesus’ question “Do you believe this” to Martha? Is this a rhetorical question since Martha had already earlier confessed her belief that God will do whatever Jesus asks (v22)?

***C. Application***

As we look at Jesus’ final question to Martha, “Do you believe this?”, we are also challenged if we do believe that same truth with all of our heart as well.

1. How does your belief in Jesus’ declaration “I am the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25) dispel your greatest fear of death?

Jesus also says, “*Your brother will rise again,”* (John 11:23) referring to the hope of our own resurrected life in Christ’s coming kingdom.

1. How does the greater life that you can look forward to inspire you to live your life right now?