**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 (20 Aug)**

**I am the True Vine**

**Big Idea – Jesus is the only source of happiness and fruitfulness**

Key Verse: *“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”* John 15:5

***A. Introductory Question***

1. What gives you the greatest happiness for your life?

***B. Discussion Questions***

**[Read John 15:1-8]**

Jesus begins with the declaration: “I am the true vine.” (15:1) In doing so, he is employing an agricultural context that is familiar to his hearers. The vine supports and provides nutrients to the branches. The branches when nourished in this way bears fruit for the vine (and the gardener). There is a close relationship between the vine and the branches.

Yet our Lord begins by turning our attention and focus to work of the gardener who is the Father. The gardener raises the branches that do not bear fruit and prunes the ones that do. His purpose is to enable every branch to bear fruit.

1. What does the bible mean by fruit? (See Romans 1:13 and Galatians 5:22-23)
2. What are the two ways the Father helps the branches bear fruit and what do they mean for us?

Yet there is a responsibility that every branch must fulfil in order to bear fruit. Jesus repeats this responsibility three times in this short passage. (verses 4, 5 and 7)

1. What is this duty that all branches must fulfil?

***C. Application***

“According to my judgement the most important point to be attended to is this: above all things see to it that your souls are **happy in the Lord**. Other things may press upon you, the Lord's work may even have urgent claims upon your attention, but I deliberately repeat, it is of supreme and paramount importance that you should seek above all things to have your souls truly happy in God Himself.” George Muller, pastor (1805-1898)

1. Jesus says, “I am the true vine.” What can be some *false vines* or *false sources of happiness* in our lives today? How can you turn away practically from these sources for happiness?

Ultimately, the will of the Father is for us as Christ’s disciples is to be ever-fruitful Christians (v8).

1. How can we practically remain in Christ in our lives in order to become fruitful?
2. What is something that God is calling you to do (individually or as a cell group) so that you can be even more fruitful – 30-fold, 60-fold or 100-fold? Pray that God’s strength to persevere in it.