**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 (13 Aug)**

**I am the Way, Truth and Life**

**Big Idea – Jesus is the only way to be reconciled with the Father**

Key Verse: *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”* John 14:6

***A. Introductory Question***

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

***B. Discussion Questions***

**[Read John 14:1-14]**

1. What is the ultimate aim of Jesus in relation to us his disciples? What effect should that have on us? (Refer to verses 1-3)
2. How do you think Jesus’ answer in 14:6 answers Thomas’ question: Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way? (14:5)
3. What are the greater works that the one who believes in Jesus can do? How does Jesus going to the Father enable his disciples to do the “*greater works than these*”? (14:12)

***C. Application***

We come to one of the most astounding statements of Christ. Here he emphatically states that he alone is the exclusive Way to the Father. As if to prevent any misunderstanding of his words, he continues with the second part of his statement, “no one comes to the Father except through me.”

1. How does Jesus’ statement help us make sense of the salvation claims of other religions? How does this impact our view of the importance of evangelism to our non-believing friends?

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.” (14:12)

1. Do you believe that the Holy Spirit can do the greater works through you? Pray for each other for faith to believe and trust in God’s grace!

**Further Notes for Leaders (and interested members!)**

We can offer a summary of the threefold “I am” statement (v6) in this way: as “the way” Jesus is the *mode*; as “the truth” Jesus is the reality; as “the life” Jesus is the *source*.

Jesus is “the way” in that he is the only *mode* by which Christian existence and participation in God are made possible and accessible. This way is less a road or a path but a more a way of life: of joining in the death, resurrection and ascension of Christ.

Jesus is “the truth” in that he is the *reality* through which Christian existence and participation in God are confirmed and find their meaning. Jesus is the standard for what is real in this world and true about God; for he is the only one who reveals God (1:14). He is the lens through which the world must be interpreted and by which it must be judged.

Jesus is “the life” in that he is the *source* through which Christian existence and participation in God are founded and given their origin. Jesus in not only the Creator of all things (1:3), but also the one who has life in himself (5:26), the one who defines life over death: I am the resurrection and the life (11:25) and the one who is life itself (1:4).

Jesus therefore destroys the wall that divides humanity from God (*the way*), denies the falsehood that distorts humanity in relation to God (*the truth*), and defeats the last and greatest enemy of humanity, death (*the life*). He is the totality of what God has done, is doing and will do.