

What Jesus Says about Himself

COURSE OUTLINE

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What Jesus Says about Himself

Lesson 1 – “I AM the Bread of Life.”

Opening Questions

1. How would you introduce yourself to a person whom you meet for the first time?
2. Does your name have a meaning? If yes, what is it?

Introduction

It is interesting to know how we get our names from our parents, and why they chose to give us those names. Our names are our identity. By our names, people call us and recognize who we are. There are many names that have good meanings. In the Bible, Jesus means “Yahweh saves” or “Yahweh is salvation.” Yahweh is the Hebrew name of God. Jesus is the English translation of the Hebrew name “Yeshua,” which is a combination of *Ya*, an abbreviation of Yahweh, and *yasha*, which means “save,” “rescue,” or “deliver.” The original Hebrew language had only consonants and no vowels. Thus, the Jewish people wrote Yahweh: YHWH, which means “I AM.” Since the name of God is too holy for the Jews, they were afraid to mistakenly use it. They called God “LORD” (all capitals). Lord means master, and LORD refers to God, the Master and Creator of the universe.



To think about:

- If there is a God, who has created the universe and us, then he must have a purpose for creating the universe and us.
- What if God is the only true source of life and happiness?

From the Bible



Exodus 3:2-5, 13-15

² And the angel of the Lord appeared to him [Moses] in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. ³ And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.” ⁴ When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” ⁵ Then he said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶ And he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

[God appeared to Moses and wanted him to go and free the people of Israel from slavery and to lead them out of Egypt.] ¹³ Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” ¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

Discussion Questions

1. In what supernatural sight did God appear to Moses (v.2-4)?
2. Why should Moses take his sandals off (v.5)?
3. How did God introduce himself to Moses in a personal way (v.6)?
4. What should Moses say to the people of Israel about God’s name (v.13-14)?



Notes

The angel of the Lord: this is not a regular angel, but one who speaks like God himself. He is the Son of God, who often appears to human beings. Later, he would come to this world, be born as a man, and be given the name Jesus.

Bush: a low plant with many branches; a shrub.

Consumed: to be destroyed.

Sight: a thing that one sees.

Abraham: the first Jew and the father of Jewish people. Abraham’s son was **Isaac**, and Isaac’s son was **Jacob**. Jacob had twelve sons who became the tribes of Israel.

I AM: God has no past or future, just an eternal present. He has no beginning and end. He is unchangeable and self-existent. He is self-sufficient. God exists outside of time and space. When he created the universe and this world including us, he created time and space for our existence.

John 6:28-40

²⁸ Then they [the crowd] said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?”

²⁹ Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” ³⁰ So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform?” ³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” ³² Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴ They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

³⁵ Jesus said to them, “**I am the bread of life**; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. ³⁶ But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. ³⁷ All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”



Discussion Questions

1. What question did the people ask Jesus and what was his answer (v.28-29)?
Most people think that we need to work hard to get to heaven. In other words, we need to earn heaven by our hard work. Jesus simply says that the only work we need to do is to *believe in him* (who he is and his saving work for us). What do you think about this?
2. What did the people ask Jesus in order to prove that he is the Savior from God (v.30-31)?
3. What was his reply to them (v.32)? What (who) is “the bread of God” and what is the significance of it (v.33)? How did Jesus compare physical bread and *spiritual bread*?
4. What did Jesus say about himself and what will happen to those who come to and believe in him (v.35)? What do you think it means?
5. What will happen to those who have a personal relationship with Jesus (v.37, 39, 40)?

Lesson Summary

1. The God of the Bible has no past or future, just an eternal present. He has no beginning and end. He is unchangeable, self-existent, and self-sufficient. He is the Creator of the universe, this world, and us. He has a purpose for creating us. He wants us to experience his love and goodness for us—the beauty of this world, etc.
2. Jesus says that he is the bread of life, and those who come to and believe in him will never experience spiritual hunger and thirst again, because his covenant love for us and his forever presence with us will satisfy our needs.
3. The first time Jesus came to this world, he came with a mission to sacrifice himself and die on the cross for the punishment of all our sins against God as our substitute. He wants us to believe in his saving work for us. The second time Jesus comes, he will raise us up from the grave and will give a new heavenly body for our souls. He will bring us to heaven to live with him eternally.

Notes

Manna: food miraculously supplied by God to the Israelites in the **wilderness** (desert) after Moses led them out of Egypt.

I am (AM) the bread of life: Jesus used the same expression “I AM” as he (the Son of God) did when speaking to Moses about 1,400 years before he came and was born as a man in this world.

The last day: the day Jesus returns to this world; the end of the world.

Covenant: a binding promise.

Believing in Jesus and trusting our lives to him will result in a personal and loving covenant relationship with him. In a covenant relationship (like marriage), we promise to be loyal and faithful to each other. If we have a covenant relationship with Jesus, he will always be with us and will never leave us. Our personal and loving relationship with him will never end. It is an **eternal life** with him.

What Jesus Says about Himself

Lesson 2 – “I AM the Light of the World.”

Opening Questions

1. What do you do when your house suddenly loses electrical power?
2. Have you ever walked in the dark? How did you feel?

Introduction

Light is essential to our lives. We cannot live without light. Even the plants and animals need the light of the sun to live. Without sufficient light, we cannot see well. We can stumble when walking in the dark. Imagine that we do not have electrical power for a week. Life can be very frustrating, because we cannot do what we want to do—we cannot work, study, or even make our food. No one wants to live in the darkness. Darkness is not a good word in our minds. It often brings negative ideas, especially when it relates to the power of evil. In contrast to darkness, light brings positive meanings in our minds. Light enables us to see and live. Light brings good feelings, such as happiness, hope, and safety.



To think about:

- One of God’s goodness is giving us the sun for daylight. What if there is no sun? What will life look like? What if the sun points to God, who is much more significant for our lives?
- If God is the source and sustainer of our lives, what will being completely separated from God do to us?

From the Bible



John 7:37-38, 40-48

³⁷ On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”

⁴⁰ When they heard these words, some of the people said, “This really is the Prophet.”

⁴¹ Others said, “This is the Christ.” But some said, “Is the Christ to come from Galilee? ⁴² Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?” ⁴³ So there was a division among the people over him. ⁴⁴ Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him. ⁴⁵ The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, “Why did you not bring him?” ⁴⁶ The officers answered, “No one ever spoke like this man!” ⁴⁷ The Pharisees answered them, “Have you also been deceived? ⁴⁸ Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in him?”



Discussion Questions

1. What did Jesus say to the people at the feast (v.37-38)? What do you think it means?
2. What did the people think about Jesus’ identity and how were they divided (v.40-43)?
3. What did some of them want to do to Jesus (v.44)?
4. What did the officers say to the religious leaders (chief priests and Pharisees) for not arresting Jesus (v.45-46)? How did the Pharisees respond to them (v.47-48)?

Notes

Feast: a celebration with a lot of food.

Scripture: the sacred writings of the Bible.

Rivers of living water: describes the abundant spiritual blessings that God will provide to true followers of Jesus, and how they will become blessings for others too.

Prophet: a messenger of God. Here refers to a special one.

Christ: a title of Jesus. It means the promised Savior.

Galilee: northern part of Israel.

David: a famous king of Israel.

Bethlehem: the town where Jesus was born. Because he grew up in the town of Nazareth of Galilee, people knew him as being from Nazareth.

Chief priests: the head or leader of people whose office is to perform religious rites.

Pharisees: members of a religious group that emphasize external religious acts rather than internal motives of the heart.

John 8:12-24

¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “**I am the light of the world.** Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” ¹³ So the Pharisees said to him, “You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true.” ¹⁴ Jesus answered, “Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. ¹⁵ You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. ¹⁶ Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. ¹⁷ In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. ¹⁸ I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.” ¹⁹ They said to him therefore, “Where is your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.” ²⁰ These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come. ²¹ So he said to them again, “I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come.” ²² So the Jews said, “Will he kill himself, since he says, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come?’” ²³ He said to them, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. ²⁴ I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.”



Discussion Questions

1. What did Jesus say about himself? What will happen to those who become his followers (v.12)? What do you think it means?
2. What did the Pharisees say to Jesus, and how did he respond to them (v.13-14)?
3. How was the Pharisees’ judgment on people different than Jesus’ judgment (v.15-16)?
4. How did Jesus argue with the Pharisees that his witness about himself was even right according to their religious law (v.17-18)?
5. What did they ask Jesus, and what was Jesus’ answer (v.19)?
6. What did Jesus say to the Jews (v.21)? How did they get confused (v.22)?
7. What else did Jesus say to them (v.23-24)? What do you think it means?

Lesson Summary

1. Jesus says that he is *the Light* of the world.” It means that he is *the Light* of the entire world, and not just the Light of a particular nation. Either he was lying or telling the truth. If he was telling the truth, then he is *the Creator* of the world.
2. Jesus says “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” He tells us the reality that each of us walks in spiritual darkness. We live in spiritual darkness separated from God because of our sins. We cannot see the light of God. Jesus came to this world to save us from our sins and spiritual darkness. He came to bring us his light, so that by believing in and following him, our sins can be forgiven, and we can have him (the Light of God) in our lives.
3. Being a follower of Jesus Christ means being taken out of spiritual darkness and having a new life in his light. It means having a personal and loving relationship with him, where he guides our lives with his light and makes us “rivers of living water” for other people around us. They too can know Jesus through us.

Notes

I am (AM) the light of the world: Jesus used the same special expression “I AM” again, as he (the Son of God) did when speaking to Moses about 1,400 years before he came and was born as a man in this world.

In the Greek Bible—the original language of the New Testament—the words “**ego eimi**” means “I am” or “I exist,” indicating an eternal present (no past and no future).

Testimony: evidence in support of a fact or statement; proof.

Flesh: (1) physical body; (2) our sinful and corrupted body.

Treasury: a place where treasure is stored.

Hour: time. It refers to Jesus’ death on the cross.

Sin: thought, word, or act that is dishonoring or disobedient to God.

What Jesus Says about Himself

Lesson 3 – “I AM the Door of the Sheep. I AM the Good Shepherd.”

Opening Questions

1. Have you ever seen sheep? Have you ever seen shepherds taking care of their sheep?
2. Have you ever felt unsafe? When and how?

Introduction

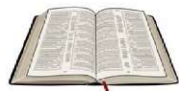
Everyone wants to feel safe. Feeling secure is one of the greatest necessities for every person. Since we were born, we want to feel safe. Not feeling safe is emotionally unhealthy for us. It makes us anxious, afraid, and even cry. This world is a broken world and is full of bad people who can harm others. We feel safer when we are at home than outside. Even when we are at home, we still lock our doors. We depend on police officers or the government to give us a sense of security, but there are still many crimes and many places where we do not feel safe to go to, especially alone.



To think about:

- In this broken world, where there are many crimes, struggles, and uncertainties, what if there is someone who can give us a perfect peace?
- What if Jesus can be our protector, who will always be with us and will never leave us alone, but we need to believe in and trust our lives to him?

From the Bible



John 10:1-10

¹“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ²But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **I am the door** of the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹**I am the door**. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between one who climbs into the sheepfold and one who enters by the door of the sheepfold in their identities and purposes (v.1-2)?
2. Why will the sheep follow the shepherd and not strangers (v.3-5)?
How do you think the sheep can recognize the voice of the shepherd?
3. What does Jesus say about himself (v.7-9)? What will happen to the sheep who enter by him (v.9)? What will happen to the sheep who follow Jesus (v.10)?
4. What do you think that Jesus is trying to teach here? Jesus says, “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” What do you think it means?



Notes

Sheepfold: a shelter for sheep.

I am (AM) the door: Jesus used the same special expression “I AM” again. In the Greek Bible, the phrase “**ego eimi**” means “I am” or “I exist,” indicating an eternal present (no past and no future).

Jesus describes himself as the door for the sheep (us) to enter the fold (God’s kingdom). Those who are in God’s kingdom **know the voice** of their shepherd (Jesus). They follow him and have trusted their lives to him. They have a personal and close relationship with him.

Flee: to run away.

Pasture: grassland.

I came that they may have life and have it abundantly:

Jesus says that all people are spiritually dead being separated from God. He came to give us a new life, living joyfully and peacefully with God; a personal and loving relationship with him. He is the door of this new life.

John 10:11-21

¹¹ **I am the good shepherd.** The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ **I am the good shepherd.** I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father." ¹⁹ There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. ²⁰ Many of them said, "He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?" ²¹ Others said, "These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

Discussion Questions

1. What does Jesus say about himself and how would he prove it (v.11)?
2. What will a hired hand do when a wolf comes to attack the sheep (v.12)? Why (v.13)? Imagine that you were one of the sheep. Do you want to be in the care of your shepherd or a hired hand? Why?
3. How does Jesus describe the close relationship he has with his sheep (v.14)? How does he further explain that his relationship with his sheep is very close and personal (v.15)?
4. Will Jesus' other sheep, who are not Jewish people, listen to his voice (v.16)? How?
5. Several times Jesus speaks about laying down or sacrificing his life (v.11, 15, 17, 18). What maybe a significance of it? What authority does he have for his own life (v.18)?
6. How did the Jews think about Jesus' words and his identity (v.19-21)?

Lesson Summary

1. Jesus came to this world with a mission to give us a new life in him, living joyfully and peacefully with God. He is the door to this new, abundant, and eternal life. This new life is a personal and loving relationship with him for eternity. Unlike other religious teachers, Jesus is God and can speak to us in our hearts. If we hear his voice calling us to come to him, and we give our lives to him, it will be the most joyful day in our lives.
2. To accomplish his mission to bring a new life to us, Jesus needed to sacrifice himself to die bearing the punishment of all our sins against God as our substitute, so that by believing in him and trusting our lives to him, we can receive God's forgiveness for all our sins and a new life with Jesus. Jesus is our good, beautiful, and perfect Shepherd.
3. The wolves point to evil power or our enemies in this sinful world, including evil spirits, who try to attack and scatter us. Their purpose is to prevent people from coming and believing in Jesus who is the door or the way to God's kingdom. They use many ways to deceive, manipulate, and attack people. However, we do not need to be afraid of them. If we have a personal and loving relationship with Jesus, he is always with us. He has sacrificed himself for us and has brought us to his fold (God's kingdom). He himself is the door of this fold. He protects and watches over his sheep (people).



Notes

I am (AM) the good shepherd: Jesus used the same special expression "I AM" again. "Agathos" and "kalos" are two Greek words that mean "good." Jesus used "kalos" that means good, beautiful, and perfect – "I AM the kalos shepherd."

Lay down: sacrifice.

Hired hand: a paid worker.

Flee: to run away.

Snatch: to take suddenly.

Scatter: to disperse

Know: in the Bible, knowing someone means having a personal and close relationship with the person; not just knowing *about* the person.

Other sheep: followers of Jesus from other nations (non-Jewish people). Jesus explains that His sheep are people from all nations.

Flock: a large group

Demon: evil spirit; a rebellious angel.

Sin: thought, word, or action that is dishonoring or disobedient to God.

What Jesus Says about Himself

Lesson 4 – “I AM the Resurrection and the Life.”

Opening Questions

1. What was the worst sickness that you have ever experienced?
2. Has anyone in your immediate family passed away?

Introduction

Nobody likes to get sick, but we all get sick. Our bodies slowly deteriorate as we get older and older. Being sick can be a major suffering in our lives, and it usually causes our family members to suffer as well, as they need to take care of us. If you have been involved in a funeral of an immediate family member, you know that it is hard emotionally, mentally, and physically. Hospitals and graveyards are two places in this world that are never empty. God does not like us to experience suffering and death. God has created us with the purpose to have a loving relationship with him for eternity. Our sins and rebelliousness against God have brought pain, suffering, and death to ourselves. However, God still loves us. Jesus came from heaven as a Savior to save us. He came with the willingness to sacrifice himself for us, bearing the punishment of our sins as our substitute, so that we can experience a new life with him by trusting our lives to him.



To think about:

- What will the world look like if there is no sin and self-centeredness, and no one gets sick or dies?
- What if God will renew this world for us to be a perfect world without sin, suffering, and death, but he needs to clean us first from the corruption of our own sins, self-centeredness, and rebelliousness against him?

From the Bible



John 11:17-27

¹⁷ Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.

¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰ So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house.

²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” ²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “**I am the resurrection and the life**. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

Discussion Questions

1. How many days had Lazarus died (v.17)? Who were the sisters of Lazarus (v.19)?
2. Did Martha wish the situation would have been different? What would that be (v.21)?
3. Do you think that Martha wanted Jesus to do something at that moment (v.22)?
4. What did Jesus say to her about Lazarus (v.23)? How did Martha respond to him (v.24)?
5. What did Jesus say about himself to her (v.25-26)? Did she believe that (v.27)?



Notes

Resurrection: coming back to life.

Sin: thought, word, or action that is dishonoring or disobedient to God.

Tomb: a burial place.

Bethany: a small town outside **Jerusalem** (the capital city of Israel).

Console: to comfort

Rise: to get up.

The last day: the last day of the world; the end of the world; the day God will judge every person according to their lives.

I am (AM) the resurrection and the life: Jesus used the same special expression “I AM” again. In the Greek Bible, the phrase “**ego eimi**” means “I am” or “I exist,” indicating an eternal present (no past and no future). Here, Jesus describes himself as *the Giver* of our lives. He can resurrect anyone who has died—restore or give a new physical body.

Christ: a title of Jesus. It means *the promised Savior*.

The Son of God: a title of Jesus emphasizing that he is God. He came down from heaven.

John 11:38-44

³⁸ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." ⁴⁴ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."



Discussion Questions

1. What did Jesus ask some people (could be his disciples or including them) to do and how did Martha respond to this (v.38-39)?
2. What did Jesus say to Martha to remind her about who he is and what he can do (v.40)?
3. What did Jesus do immediately after the stone was removed (v.41-42)?
4. What did he do next (v.43-44)?
5. What do you think the reaction of Martha, Jesus' disciples, and others who were watching Lazarus' resurrection might be?

Lesson Summary

1. We were born with sinful nature. Our sins and rebelliousness against God have brought pain, suffering, and death, as well as corruption to us. We have become very self-centered people. We are prideful and selfish. Rebelliousness against God or rejecting God is constantly demonstrated in our lives. We bring brokenness, pain, suffering, and death to ourselves.
2. Regardless of our rebelliousness against God, he still loves us. Jesus came from heaven to this world to sacrifice himself for the punishment of our sins as our substitute, so that we can receive forgiveness from God for all our sins (past, present, and future) and a new life with Jesus by believing in him and trusting our lives to him.
3. Jesus says, "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." Jesus says that everyone is dead spiritually speaking. We are separated from God because of our sins and rebelliousness against him. However, if we believe in Jesus and trust our lives to him, we will be given a new life with him that lasts forever—a loving relationship and an eternal life with him. We "shall never die" again. We shall never be separated from God again.
4. When we die, our souls will go to heaven to be with Jesus and be purified in holiness. When Jesus returns to this world, he will resurrect our bodies and give each of our souls a new heavenly body without sin and corruption—a body that is perfect and fit to live with him in heaven forever.

Notes

Odor: a bad smell.

Glory: power, great beauty, and magnificence.

Linen: cloth

Resurrection: coming back to life.

Resurrect: to restore or bring back to life.

Holiness: without sin and corruption; pure and perfect.

Sin: thought, word, or action that is dishonoring or disobedient to God.

What Jesus Says about Himself

Lesson 5 – “Before Abraham was, I AM. I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”

Opening Questions

1. Have you ever gotten lost and could not find the way to a certain place?
2. What are some of the things that you may be anxious about because you do not know the truth of those things?

Introduction

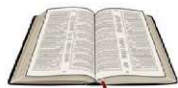
Perhaps, everyone in this world has experienced of getting lost, unable to find a certain place for at least a short period of time. Some of us have experienced a more frustrating time of getting lost. To have a guide, who can take us to our destination, is a good thing. Some of the big questions that people keep asking throughout the history are, “What will my future be like? Where am I going after this life? If there is life after I die, what will my life be? Will it be a good and happy life, or will it be a bad life?” Some people are anxious or uncertain and some are confident and have faith about their future lives.



To think about:

- If there is a God, who decides what kind of life we will have after we die and where we will be, is it not very serious for us to get to know him?
- If God has provided us only one way to get to his kingdom, is it not very important for us to search for it?

From the Bible



John 8:53-59

(Jesus was speaking with the Jews about his identity.) ⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?”

⁵⁴ Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’ ⁵⁵ But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.”

⁵⁷ So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?”

⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **before Abraham was, I am.**” ⁵⁹ So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

Discussion Questions

1. What questions did the Jews ask Jesus (v.53)?
2. What was Jesus’ answer to them (v.54)? What do you think Jesus was trying to explain?
3. The Jews thought that they knew God, but Jesus said that they “have not known him.” Knowing God and keeping or obeying his word cannot be separated (v.55). How was Jesus different than the Jews about this?
4. Jesus said that Abraham saw (by faith) that Jesus would come to this world. Jesus claimed that he knew Abraham (v.56). How did the Jews question Jesus’ claim (v.57)?
5. What did Jesus say to them (v.58)? What was their reaction (v.59)?



Notes

Abraham: the first Jew and the father of Jewish people.

Prophet: a messenger of God.

Glorify: to give **glory** (great beauty or magnificence) or honor with praise and worship.

Know: in the Bible, knowing someone means having a personal and close relationship with the person; not just knowing *about* the person.

My day: refers to the coming of the Son of God being born as a man to be the Savior of God’s people. Jesus is the human name given to him.

Before Abraham was, I am (AM): Jesus used the same special expression “I AM” again. In the Greek Bible, the phrase “**ego eimi**” means “I am” or “I exist,” indicating an eternal present (no past and no future). Here Jesus claimed to exist before Abraham, claiming to be God himself. The Jews tried to stone him, because they thought Jesus dishonored God.

John 14:1-14

(Jesus met with his disciples privately.) ¹ “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “**I am the way, and the truth, and the life.** No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. ¹² “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.

¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

¹⁴ If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.



Discussion Questions

1. What did Jesus say to comfort his disciples and to assure them that a personal, close, and loving relationship with him will never end (v.1-3)?
2. What did Jesus say to his disciples about himself and God the Father (v.6-7)? What are the implications that he is “(a) the way, (b) the truth, and (c) the life?”
3. How did Jesus explain that he and God the Father are in unity (v.8-11)?
4. How does Jesus prove his love for his people and his power as God (v.13-14)?

Lesson Summary

1. About 4,000 years ago, the Son of God appeared to Abraham and promised him that through one of his descendants, people from all nations would be blessed. About 2,000 years ago, the Son of God came to this world, was born as a man, and was given the name Jesus. He came with a mission to save many people from all nations from sin and darkness, as he had promised to Abraham.
2. Jesus says that he is *the way, the truth, and the life*. He is the way to enter God’s kingdom. Those who believe in and trust their lives to him will enter God’s kingdom. He is the truth—the reality of God himself. There is no falseness in him. He has come to us to show and teach us the truth about God, ourselves, and our world. He has come to offer us a new life with him, a loving relationship with him that will never end.
3. Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God. He reveals what God is like. He is in union with God the Father. This union ensures that whoever sees Jesus, sees the Father, whoever believes in Jesus, believes in the Father, and whoever knows and has a close relationship with Jesus, knows and has a close relationship with the Father. After Jesus explained this, his disciples had a better understanding of God from that point on.

Notes

The Trinity or the Triune God: One God in three persons (God **the Father**, God **the Son**, and God the Holy Spirit). They are equal but take different roles in the work of saving us from sin and evil.

Father’s house: God’s kingdom or heaven.

I will come again: The day of Jesus’ return is also described as the Judgment Day, when he will come to judge the world and punish all sins and evil.

I am (AM) the way, and the truth, and the life: Jesus used the same special expression “I AM” again. In the Greek Bible, the phrase “**ego eimi**” means “I am” or “I exist,” indicating an eternal present (no past and no future). Here, Jesus claims to be (1) the only way to God’s kingdom, (2) full of truth, and (3) the source of life.

Dwells in me: The Bible also teaches that God dwells (lives and works) in the lives of his people.

What Jesus Says about Himself

Lesson 6 – “I AM the True Vine.”

Opening Questions

1. How do you take care of a fruit tree or a flowering plant?
2. What is the purpose of charging our mobile phones daily?

Introduction

Our world has many cultures and religions. There have been many religious teachers in this world. However, only Jesus has claimed to be what no one has ever claimed before. He said, “Before Abraham was born, I AM;” “I AM the bread of life;” “I AM the light of the world;” “I AM the door of the sheep;” “I AM the good shepherd;” “I AM the resurrection and the life;” and “I AM the way, the truth, and the life.” He says that his sheep is people from all nations, and they will listen to his voice in their hearts and will come to him.



To think about:

- Is Jesus simply a good moral and religious teacher? C.S. Lewis, a Christian author, argued that Jesus is either a liar, a lunatic (mentally ill person), or Lord (Master of all people; God). Either Jesus is the Son of God as he has claimed to be or else a madman. If Jesus were not Lord, he would be a liar or a lunatic. But if he was not a liar or a lunatic, then he must be Lord. Present day people still question who Jesus truly is.

From the Bible



John 15:1-11

(Jesus says to his disciples) ¹ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ 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. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.



Discussion Questions

1. What did Jesus say to his disciples to describe himself and God the Father (v.1)?
2. What will the vinedresser do to the branches (v.2)?
3. Spiritually speaking, how can a branch bear much fruit in his/her life (v.4-8)?
4. How did Jesus encourage his disciples (v.9)?
5. How do followers of Jesus abide in his love (v.10)?
6. What is the result of abiding in Jesus' love (v.11)?

Notes

I am (AM) the true vine: Jesus used the same special expression “I AM” again. In the Greek Bible, the phrase “ego eimi” means “I am” or “I exist,” indicating an eternal present (no past and no future). Jesus describes himself as the true vine (the *only* vine) that we (the branches) should be connected to. He is *the true life-giving Source*.

Father: God the Father.

Vine: a grape plant.

Vinedresser: a person who nurtures vines.

Fruit: act of love that brings honor and glory to God.

Prune: to cut away, remove or trim.

You are clean: you are in a condition fit to bear fruit.

The word: the whole teaching of Jesus.

Abide: obey, act in accordance, remain, on-going.

Glorify: to give honor or praise.

Wither: to become dry and decay.

Commandment: instruction.

John 15:12-19, 26-27

¹² “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

¹⁸ “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

²⁶ “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.



Discussion Questions

1. What is Jesus’ commandment to his followers (v.12)?
2. What is the significance of Jesus being our friends? What has he done for us (v.13-17)?
3. Why does the world hate followers of Jesus (v.18-19)?
4. Who is the Helper (another friend) whom Jesus will give to his followers? What will he do (v.26)?
5. What do you think is the reason that Jesus asks his followers to bear witness about him to other people (v.27)?

Lesson Summary

1. Jesus claims to be *the true vine*—the only vine that is true—the only one that we (the branches) should be connected to. Jesus is *the only true life-giving source* and *the true foundation* for our lives. All other *vines* (sources or foundations) that we try to put our hope in or trust our lives in, such as money, wealth, ranks, positions, governments, religious teachers, anyone, or anything, will one day be collapsed or gone. They are not *the true vine* for us. Only Jesus, the Son of God, will remain *the true vine* for those who trust their lives in him.
2. Jesus came to this world to show us that not only he is *the true vine*, but also *the true friend* who was willing to sacrifice his life for us, even though we do not know him yet nor understand his sacrifice completely. He came to sacrifice and die, bearing the punishment of all our sins against God as our substitute. On the cross, he laid down his life for us and showed us that he is our *true friend*.
3. After Jesus died on the cross and was buried, he rose from the dead. After showing himself to his disciples, he went back to heaven. Throughout history, Jesus has proved what he has said about himself in the lives of his people, “I AM the bread of life. I AM the light of the world. I AM the door of the sheep. I AM the good shepherd. I AM the resurrection and the life. I AM the way, the truth, and the life. I AM the true vine.” For those who trust their lives in Jesus, he says, “Abide in my love ... These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”

Notes

Lay down: to sacrifice.

The world: refers to this sinful and corrupted world that rejects or opposes God (anti-God) generally speaking.

The Helper: the Holy Spirit of God; also described as **the Spirit of truth**.

The Trinity or the Triune God: One God in three persons (God **the Father**, God **the Son**, and God **the Holy Spirit**). They are equal but take different roles in the work of saving us from sin and evil.

Witness (verb): to give evidence or proof.

Witness (noun): a person who gives evidence or testimony.

Sin: thought, word, or action that is dishonoring or disobedient to God.