

# **DRAWING NEAR TO JESUS**

**A SEVEN WEEK DEVOTIONAL  
Utilizing Jesus' "I AM" statements  
in the Gospel of John.**

**Extra Study (In Back Of Guide)**

**John 1:1-5**

**John's Inspired Introduction  
to Jesus**

**THE “I AM” STATEMENTS OF JESUS**  
**A 7-Week Devotional Journey Using the Gospel of John**

**WEEK 1: I Am the Bread of Life (John 6:35)**

**Opening Prayer**

Jesus, You see my hunger—both what I admit and what I hide. Teach me to come to You as my true source of life.

**Day 1 – Hungry for More**

**Scripture:** John 6:25–35

**Devotional:**

The crowd follows Jesus because He fed them. They want more—but only of what fills their stomachs. Jesus redirects them to something deeper: Himself. We often do the same, chasing what feels urgent while ignoring what is eternal.

**Reflect:** What am I chasing that doesn't truly satisfy? Spend a little time in thought reflecting on all those things that cannot satisfy your deepest longing to be near Jesus.

**Prayer:** Lord, redirect my hunger toward You. Write out a short prayer to God about how deeply you hunger for his righteousness and mercy.

**End of Day Journal:** (Use this space at the end of the day to reflect on how the truths in this study affected your choices, thoughts, actions, etc. Not legalism, but relationship is what I am seeking with Jesus. Jesus today you were helped fill my deepest hungering for you \_\_\_\_\_)

**I Am the Bread of Life (John 6:35)**

**Week 1 Day 2 – Never Cast Out**

**Scripture:** John 6:36–40

**Devotional:**

Jesus makes a bold promise—He will never reject those who come to Him. This is not based on performance, but on His faithfulness.

**Reflect:** Do I live like I am secure in God?

**Prayer:** Help me rest in Your acceptance.

**Journal at End of the Day:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I Am the Bread of Life (John 6:35)**

**Week 1 Day 3 – When Truth Is Hard**

**Scripture:** John 6:41–51

**Devotional:**

The people struggle to accept Jesus because He doesn't fit their expectations. Truth often challenges comfort.

**Reflect:** Where do I resist God because it's uncomfortable?

**Prayer:** Give me a heart that receives truth.

**Journal at end of the day:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I Am the Bread of Life (John 6:35)**

**Week 1 Day 4 – Abiding in Him**

**Scripture:** John 6:52–59

**Devotional:**

Jesus speaks of deep dependence—life found in Him alone. This is not casual belief, but daily reliance.

**Reflect:** What does dependence on Jesus look like today?

**Prayer:** Teach me to rely on You moment by moment.

**Journal:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I Am the Bread of Life (John 6:35)**

**Week 1 Day 5 – Will You Stay?**

**Scripture:** John 6:60–69

**Devotional:**

Many walk away when Jesus’ words become difficult. But Peter stays: “Where else would we go?”

**Reflect:** What keeps me anchored to Jesus?

**Prayer:** Strengthen my commitment to follow You.

**Journal:** \_\_\_\_\_

**JESUS "I AM" STATEMENTS STUDY**

**WEEK 2 Lesson 1: I Am the Light of the World (John 8:12)**

**Opening Prayer**

Jesus, shine Your light into my life. Reveal truth and lead me out of darkness.

**Day 1 – Light Meets Shame**

**Scripture:** John 8:1–12

**Devotional:**

Jesus meets a woman in her darkest moment—not with condemnation, but with truth and mercy.

**Reflect:** Where do I need both truth and grace?

**Prayer:** Shine Your light on me with mercy.

**Journal:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I Am the Light of the World (John 8:12)**

**Week 2 Day 2 – True Testimony**

**Scripture:** John 8:13–20

**Devotional:**

Truth is not determined by opinion but by God's authority. Jesus stands firm in who He is.

**Reflect:** What voices shape my beliefs?

**Prayer:** Help me trust Your truth above all.

**Journal:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I Am the Light of the World (John 8:12)**

**Week 2 Day 3 – Rejecting the Light**

**Scripture:** John 8:21–30

**Devotional:**

Rejecting light leads to deeper darkness. Jesus calls people to believe before it's too late.

**Reflect:** Am I ignoring something God is showing me?

**Prayer:** Give me courage to respond to truth.

**Journal:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I Am the Light of the World (John 8:12)**

**Week 2 Day 4 – Freedom in Truth**

**Scripture:** John 8:31–36

**Devotional:**

True freedom isn't doing whatever we want—it's being released from sin's control.

**Reflect:** What holds me captive?

**Prayer:** Set me free through Your truth.

**Journal:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I Am the Light of the World (John 8:12)**

**Week 2 Day 5 – Living in the Light**

**Scripture:** John 8:37–47

**Devotional:**

Our lives reflect what we truly follow. Light changes how we live.

**Reflect:** Does my life reflect God’s truth?

**Prayer:** Help me walk in Your light daily.

**Journal:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **JESUS "I AM" STATEMENTS STUDY**

### **WEEK 3 DAY 1: I Am the Door (John 10:7-9)**

#### **Opening Prayer**

Jesus, You are my place of safety. Help me trust You as my entrance into life.

#### **Day 1 – The True Entrance**

**Scripture:** John 10:1-10

#### **Devotional:**

Not every voice leads to life. Jesus is the only true door to security and salvation.

**Reflect:** What “doors” am I tempted to trust?

**Prayer:** Lead me through Your way alone.

**Journal:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I Am the Door (John 10:7-9)**

**WEEK 3 Day 2 – Safe in His Care**

**Scripture:** Psalm 23

**Devotional:**

God's care is personal and constant. He leads with intention.

**Reflect:** Do I trust God's guidance?

**Prayer:** Shepherd me today.

**Journal:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I Am the Door (John 10:7-9)**

**WEEK 3 Day 3 – Sought by God**

**Scripture:** Ezekiel 34:11-16

**Devotional:**

God actively seeks His people. You are not forgotten.

**Reflect:** Where have I felt lost?

**Prayer:** Thank You for pursuing me.

**Journal:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I Am the Door (John 10:7-9)**

**WEEK 3 Day 4 – Abundant Life**

**Scripture:** John 10:7-10

**Devotional:**

Jesus offers life—not just existence, but fullness rooted in Him.

**Reflect:** How do I define “abundant life”?

**Prayer:** Align my desires with Yours.

**Journal:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I Am the Door (John 10:7-9)**

**WEEK 3 Day 5 – Access to God**

**Scripture:** Hebrews 10:19-23

**Devotional:**

Through Jesus, we have direct access to God.

**Reflect:** Do I approach God with confidence?

**Prayer:** Draw me near to You.

**Journal:** \_\_\_\_\_

**JESUS "I AM" STATEMENTS STUDY**

**WEEK 4 Day 1: I Am the Good Shepherd (John 10:11)**

**Opening Prayer**

Jesus, You know me fully and lead me faithfully. Help me trust Your voice.

**Day 1 – A Shepherd Who Sacrifices**

**Scripture:** John 10:11–18

**Devotional:**

Jesus lays down His life for His sheep. His love is active and costly.

**Reflect:** Do I trust His love?

**Prayer:** Help me receive Your care.

**Journal:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **I Am the Good Shepherd (John 10:11)**

### **WEEK 4 Day 2 – Gentle Care**

**Scripture:** Several of our studies this week step out of John as we Explore the concept of the Good Shepherd this week.

Today: Isaiah 40:11

**Devotional:**

God gathers and carries the weak.

**Reflect:** Where do I need gentleness?

**Prayer:** Carry me where I'm weak.

**Journal:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I Am the Good Shepherd (John 10:11)**

**Week 4 Day 3 – Belonging to Him**

**Scripture:** Psalm 100

**Devotional:**

We are His—created and cared for by Him.

**Reflect:** What does belonging to God mean to me?

**Prayer:** Thank You that I am Yours.

**Journal:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I Am the Good Shepherd (John 10:11)**

**Week 4 Day 4 – Faithful Leadership**

**Scripture:** 1 Peter 5:2–4

**Devotional:**

Godly leadership reflects the Shepherd's heart.

**Reflect:** Where am I called to lead or serve?

**Prayer:** Shape my heart like Yours.

**Journal:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I Am the Good Shepherd (John 10:11)**

**WEEK 4 Day 5 – Known by Name**

**Scripture:** John 10:14–15

**Devotional:**

Jesus knows you personally—not distantly.

**Reflect:** Do I believe God truly knows me?

**Prayer:** Help me rest in being known.

**Journal:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **JESUS "I AM" STATEMENTS STUDY**

### **WEEK 5 Day 1: I Am the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)**

#### **Opening Prayer**

Jesus, bring life where I feel hopeless. Help me trust Your power over death.

#### **Day 1 – Trusting God’s Timing**

**Scripture:** John 11:1–16

#### **Devotional:**

God’s timing often feels delayed—but it is never wrong.

**Reflect:** Where am I waiting on God?

**Prayer:** Strengthen my trust in Your timing.

**Journaling for Today** \_\_\_\_\_

**I Am the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)**

**Week 5 Day 2 – Faith in the Waiting**

**Scripture:** John 11:17–27

**Devotional:**

Martha believes—but still struggles. Faith and questions can coexist.

**Reflect:** What do I believe about Jesus right now?

**Prayer:** Deepen my faith.

**Journaling today**\_\_\_\_\_

**I Am the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)**

**Week 5 Day 3 – Jesus Wept**

**Scripture:** John 11:28–37

**Devotional:**

Jesus enters our grief. He doesn't stay distant from pain.

**Reflect:** Have I invited God into my sorrow?

**Prayer:** Meet me in my grief.

Journaling for today:

**I Am the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)**

**Week 5 Day 4 – Called to Life**

**Scripture:** John 11:38–44

**Devotional:**

Jesus calls Lazarus out of the grave—what seems final is not final.

**Reflect:** Where do I need new life?

**Prayer:** Speak life into my situation.

Journaling for today:

**I Am the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)**

**Week 5 Day 5 – Living with Hope**

**Scripture:** Romans 8:10–11

**Devotional:**

Resurrection power is at work even now.

**Reflect:** How does hope change my perspective?

**Prayer:** Help me live in hope today.

**Journaling for today:**

**7 WEEK STUDY USING JESUS' "I AM" STATEMENTS IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

**WEEK 6 Day 1: I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6)**

**Opening Prayer**

Jesus, lead me in Your way, ground me in Your truth, and fill me with Your life.

**Week 6 Day 1 – Troubled Hearts**

**Scripture:** John 14:1–6

**Devotional:**

Jesus speaks peace into fear.

**Reflect:** What troubles my heart?

**Prayer:** Give me peace.

Journaling for today:

**I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6)**

**Week 6 Day 2 – Knowing the Father**

**Scripture:** John 14:7–14

**Devotional:**

To know Jesus is to know God.

**Reflect:** How do I pursue knowing God?

**Prayer:** Draw me deeper.

Journaling for today:

**I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6)**

**Week 6 Day 3 – Walking in Truth**

**Scripture:** Psalm 86:11

**Devotional:**

Truth shapes how we live.

**Reflect:** Where do I need alignment?

**Prayer:** Unite my heart in truth.

**Journaling for today:**

**I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6)**

**Week 6 Day 4 – The Supremacy of Christ**

**Scripture:** Colossians 1:15–20

**Devotional:**

Jesus is over all things.

**Reflect:** Is He central in my life?

**Prayer:** Be first in everything.

**Journaling for today:**

**I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6)**

**Week 6 Day 5 – The Only Way**

**Scripture:** John 14:6

**Devotional:**

Jesus is not one path—He is the way.

**Reflect:** What competes with Him in my life?

**Prayer:** Help me follow You fully.

**Journaling for today:**

## **7 WEEK STUDY USING JESUS' "I AM" STATEMENTS**

### **WEEK 7 Day 1: I Am the True Vine (John 15:5)**

#### **Opening Prayer**

Jesus, keep me close to You. Let my life flow from abiding in You.

#### **Week 7 Day 1 – Abide in Me**

**Scripture:** John 15:1–5

#### **Devotional:**

Life flows from connection, not striving.

**Reflect:** Am I abiding or striving?

**Prayer:** Keep me connected.

Journaling for Today:

**I Am the True Vine (John 15:5)**

**Week 7 Day 2 – Bearing Fruit**

**Scripture:** John 15:6–8

**Devotional:**

Fruit is evidence of a life rooted in Christ.

**Reflect:** What fruit is growing in me?

**Prayer:** Produce fruit through me.

Journaling for Today:

**I Am the True Vine (John 15:5)**

**Week 7 Day 3 – Abiding in Love**

**Scripture:** John 15:9–11

**Devotional:**

Joy flows from remaining in His love.

**Reflect:** Do I live aware of His love?

**Prayer:** Help me remain in You.

Journaling for Today:

**I Am the True Vine (John 15:5)**

**Week 7 Day 4 – Love One Another**

**Scripture:** John 15:12–17

**Devotional:**

Love is the natural overflow of abiding.

**Reflect:** Who can I love intentionally today?

**Prayer:** Love others through me.

Journaling for Today:

**I Am the True Vine (John 15:5)**

**Week 7 Day 5 – The Fruit of the Spirit**

**Scripture:** Galatians 5:22–23

**Devotional:**

Transformation is the result of staying connected to Jesus.

**Reflect:** Which fruit needs growth?

**Prayer:** Grow Your character in me.

Journaling for Today:

**REFELCTION PAGE**

It has often been said that it takes 30 days to build a new habit or break an old habit. You are just one week away from having walked with the Lord in these "I AM" studies for 60 days. Hopefully, you have new spiritual habits, especially those kinds of choices that will bring you closer and closer to the Lord.

Find a new study, one of your own choosing and keep this habit going.

Keep growing your spiritual "study buddies" at work, play and family that you can help draw closer to the Lord and they will help keep you grounded in Christ.

Buy a tablet and keep journaling as you grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord.

Keep these journals from the past 7 weeks and look back occasionally to see how far the Lord has led you from today. Also, keep these journals as a reminder to not let yourself stray away from the Lord. "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you!" (James 4:8-10). He is indeed the Great I AM!

### **Closing Collection of Thoughts:**

#### **Looking back over the past 7 weeks:**

- What truths have impacted you the most about Jesus from this study?
- Which of the 7 "I AM" statements bring the greatest comfort to you?
- Which of the 7 "I AM" statements challenges you spiritually the most?
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- Which of the 7 "I AM" statements helped you see Jesus more clearly as God?
- Which of the 7 "I AM" statements helped you want Him more as Your Lord and Master?
- Where did you grow the most in these 7 weeks as you developed a habit of morning study, reflection through the day and then journaling at the end of the day?
- What is God inviting you into next?

### **Closing Prayer:**

Jesus, thank You for showing me who You are. Help me continue walking with You daily.

## John 1:1-5

### “IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD”

Text: Gospel of John 1:1–5 (NIV)

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#### INTRODUCTION — The Waterline

“Some parts of Scripture are like the shoreline—anyone can step in. Others are like the ocean—no one ever reaches the bottom.”

John starts at the deepest place imaginable—not Bethlehem... but **eternity**.

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#### POINT 1: JESUS IS ETERNAL (vv. 1–2)

“In the beginning was the Word...”

##### Shallow Truth:

Jesus didn’t begin in Bethlehem. He already *was*.

##### Deep Truth:

John deliberately echoes Book of Genesis 1:1.

But notice—Genesis says “In the beginning, God *created*...”

John says, “In the beginning, the Word *was*.”

- Not “became”
- Not “started”
- But **already existing**

##### Greek Insight:

“Was” (*ēn*) = continuous existence in the past.

**Take Away Point:** “Before there was time, there was Christ.”

If You Ask: “*What was before the beginning?*” Answer: Jesus.

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#### POINT 2: JESUS IS WITH GOD AND IS GOD (v. 1)

“...the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

##### Shallow Truth:

Jesus is not just *like* God—He *is* God.

##### Deep Truth:

Two realities held together:

1. **Distinct Person** – “with God” (*pros ton theon*)  
→ face-to-face relationship
2. **Same Essence** – “was God”  
→ not a lesser being, not created

##### Theological Depth:

This is the seed of what becomes the doctrine of the Trinity.

Not two gods. Not one person switching roles.

But **relationship within unity**.

“Jesus didn’t just come from God—He *is* God who came.”

### **POINT 3: JESUS IS THE CREATOR (v. 3)**

**“Through him all things were made...”**

#### **Shallow Truth:**

Everything you see—Jesus made it.

#### **Deep Truth:**

John removes all loopholes:

- “All things were made through Him”
- “Without Him nothing was made that has been made”

Jesus is not part of creation—He is the **agent of creation**.

#### **Cross Connection:**

- Book of Genesis — God speaks creation
- John — Jesus *is* that speaking

#### **Greek Insight:**

*Logos* = divine expression, reason, ordering principle

#### **Take Away Point:**

“When God spoke the universe into existence, the Word doing the speaking was Christ.”

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### **POINT 4: JESUS IS LIFE (v. 4)**

**“In him was life...”**

#### **Shallow Truth:**

Jesus gives life.

#### **Deep Truth:**

Life is not something Jesus *has*—it is what He *is*.

- Physical life
- Spiritual life
- Eternal life

**Greek Insight:** *zōē* = life in its fullest, God-given sense

**Illustration:** A lamp doesn’t create electricity—it carries it.

Jesus doesn’t carry life—He **is the source**.

#### **Take Away Point:**

“If you want life, you don’t need a system—you need a Savior.”

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### **POINT 5: JESUS IS LIGHT IN DARKNESS (v. 5)**

**“The light shines in the darkness...”**

**Shallow Truth:** Jesus overcomes darkness.

**Deep Truth:** “The darkness has not overcome it” can mean:

- did not understand it
- did not overpower it

Both are true.

**Theological Depth:**

This introduces the conflict of the whole Gospel:

- Light = truth, revelation, holiness
- Darkness = sin, blindness, rebellion

**Illustration:** Turn on a light in a dark room—darkness never wins.

**Take Away Point:**

“Darkness is not the opposite of light—it is the absence of it. And Jesus fills every absence.”

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“Jesus is the full expression of God’s mind—the Word through whom God speaks, reveals, and makes Himself known.”

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**CONCLUSION: THE BIG PICTURE**

John answers four massive questions:

- **Who is Jesus?** → God
- **Where did He come from?** → Eternity
- **What did He do?** → Created all things
- **Why does He matter?** → He is life and light

**Final Take Away Point:**

If Genesis shows us **creation beginning**,  
John shows us **the Creator entering His creation**.

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“You can stand at the edge of this passage and understand it...or you can dive into it and never reach the bottom. Either way—you meet Jesus.”

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**In your free time try to read through the Gospel of John once each of the 7 weeks. If that is not possible, read through the Gospel of John as least once in 7 weeks.**