

Introduction to the Gospel of John

1. It is the book of God's love.

* "Love" is used 57 times. That is almost 3 times per chapter.

* John noted as Apostle of Love - John Mac./Twelve Ordinary Men/didn't start that way!

Luke 9:53-54 - But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. **54** And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?"

Mark 3:17 - James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James, to whom He gave the name Boanerges, that is, "Sons of Thunder";

John 13:34-35 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as **I have loved you**, that you also love one another. **35** By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Respond – Jesus comes into/lives we able to love like Him! Fruit/Spirit/Love (Gal 5:22)

2. It is the book of the Seven "I Am's." Jesus said...

John 6:35	I am the Bread of Life
John 8:12	I am the Light of the World
John 10:7, 9	I am the Door (Gate)
John 10:11	I am the Good Shepherd
John 11:25	I am the Resurrection and the Life
John 14:6	I am the Way, the Truth and the Life
John 15:5	I am the Vine.
John 8:58	Before Abraham was I AM

* I wrote a Bible Study on these. If interested, go to our website and download the lessons!

Respond – Who is Jesus to you? Which description to you find most powerful?

3. It contains the most famous verse in the whole Bible! ("Gospel in a verse!")

John 3:16 - For God so **loved** the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

* Other evangelistic verses...

John 3:36 - He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

John 5:24 - "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. **26** And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Respond – Have you believed/Jesus? Have you shared/gospel in a verse with anyone lately?

4. John's Gospel follows the storyline of the hour for which Jesus came.

- "Hour" - used 100 times in the Bible, 22 times in John (22% of the whole Bible)

John 2:4 - Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come."

John 4:21 - Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.

John 4:23 - But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

John 5:25 - Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.

John 5:28 - Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice

John 7:30 - Therefore they sought to take Him; but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come.

John 8:20 - These words Jesus spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one laid hands on Him, for His hour had not yet come.

John 12:23 - But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.

John 12:27 - "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour?' But for this purpose I came to this hour.

John 13:1 - Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

John 16:32 - Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.

John 17:1 - Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,

John 19:27 - Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

Respond - How important was that hour to Jesus? How important is that hour for us?

5. Contains the longest description of the Last Supper (Jn 13-17); Includes...

* The longest teaching of the Holy Spirit/Gospels

* **John 14:16-17, John 14:26, John 15:26, 16:13**

* Longest recorded prayer/Jesus (Jn 17). Prayed 1) His life/glorify God, 2) Disciples, 3) Us

- Makes it truly the Lord's Prayer

- John Knox calls John 17 "The Holy of Holies in the temple of the Bible."

Respond – Has the Holy Spirit come in you? We can be led, taught, empowered by Him!

6. John Chooses seven signs to lead us to the conclusion and purpose of the Gospel

1. Changing water into wine at the wedding at Cana (Jn 2:1-11);

2. Healing the nobleman's son (Jn 4:46-54);

3. Healing the paralyzed man at the pool of Bethesda (Jn 5:1-15);

4. Feeding the 5,000 (Jn 6:5-14);

5. Walking on water (Jn 6:16-21);

6. Healing the man born blind (Jn 9:1-7);

7. Raising Lazarus from the dead (Jn 11:1-45).

(8) His own Resurrection (Jn 19-20) – Jon Courson

Respond – How many (more) signs does Jesus need to do for us to believe in Him? None!

7. The Apostle John tells us why he wrote the book. (Not synoptic)

John 20:30-31 - And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; **31** but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Respond – Jesus is the Christ, Son/God, believing we may have life in his name!

– And we should go and tell someone about him!

The Seven I AM's of Jesus
Lesson One
I AM the Bread of Life
John 6:22-51

DAY ONE

Introduction to “The Seven I AM”s of Jesus” Bible Study

We often say that the Gospel of John is not a “synoptic” gospel like the other three (Matthew, Mark and Luke.). What is meant by that is that it is not “in sync” with the others gospels as far as providing an overview of the life of Jesus Christ. It was written for a very specific purpose:

*And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. **John 20:30–31***

From these verses, write down the three reasons the Gospel of John was written:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

So, there are many unique things about the Gospel of John. John chooses “signs” to provide the knowledge, understanding and proof to support the purpose (John 20:30-31) of the gospel.

What are the signs in the following scriptures?

John 2:1-11

John 4:46-54

John 6:1-14

Then there is the focus on “the hour” that is also unique in the Gospel of John. Write down some of the scriptures that chronicle the “hour for which I have come.”

John 2:1-4

John 7:30

John 12:23-27

And finally, at least for our purposes in this study, John’s singular recording of the “The Seven I AM Statements” of Jesus Christ. Please record them below:

1. John 6:35 I am the _____

2. John 8:12 I am the _____

3. John 10:7, 9 I am the _____

4. John 10:11 I am the _____

5. John 11:25 I am the _____

6. John 14:6 I am the _____

7. John 15:5 I am the _____

Bonus

John 8:58 Before Abraham was _____

Old Testament Connection: According to Exodus 3:14, who was the first One to use the title ‘I AM’?

Thought Question: When Jesus uses the term “I AM” who is He saying He is?

Please write down at least one thing that you learned or God spoke to you from this introduction:

DAY TWO

Introduction to “I am the Bread of Life”

Please read John 6:22-51 for an overview of the first “I AM” statement of Jesus.

What miracle occurred just prior to our reading in this study? (Read John 6:1-14)

Write out the miracle in your own words.

What part did Jesus play?

What part did the Disciples play?

How many baskets of leftovers were there? (V13)

How many disciples were there? (John 6:67-71)

Thought Question: What do you think was the purpose of the twelve baskets of leftovers?

What was the result of this miracle? (V14)

Application Question: Do you think Jesus wants to include you in His miraculous works, and if so, how?

Old Testament Connection: Who was “the Prophet? (Deuteronomy 18:15)

DAY THREE

When does this take place? (V22)

Look at a Bible Map and find these places:

- Capernaum
- Bethsaida
- Tiberias
- Mt. of the Beatitudes
- Tabgha

Calvary Buck Challenge Question: Why do some people think the 'Feeding of the Five Thousand' miracle happened in the area of Tabgha, while others think it occurred in the area of Bethsaida?

What does it say the people were seeking? (V24)

What did the people ask, and what was Jesus' response? (V25-26)

Thought Questions:

- Did Jesus answer their question?
- Do you think we deserve an answer to all our questions?

Why does Jesus say they sought Him? (V26)

Application Question: What do you think the application might be for our lives?

What does Jesus tell them to do and not do? (V27)

Thought Question: What do you think he means between food that perishes and food that endures to everlasting life?

Application Question: Which do you find yourself working for?

Where does He say we will get that food? (V27)

What is the work that we must do that we may work the works of God? (V28-29)

Old Testament Connection: Read V30-32. Then read Exodus 16:1-15.

Based on Jesus' response, who do you think they were giving credit for providing the bread?
Who actually provided the bread?

Application Question: Who really provides our daily bread?

Who does Jesus say is the Bread of Life? V33-35

Calvary Buck Challenge Question: What does the name Bethlehem mean and what does that have to do with Jesus being the "Bread of Life"?

DAY FOUR

What is the first thing that Jesus says we must do to receive this Bread of Life? (V35)

How often did the Israelites need to collect their Bread?

Application Question: How often do you think He wants us to come to Him and what happens if we don't?

What is the second thing we must do to receive this Bread of Life?

Application Question: What does "believe" mean and how do we live that out in our lives?

Thought Question: Is it possible to "see" Jesus and not "believe" in Him? (V36)

Calvary Buck Challenge Question: Based on John 3:36, is there a difference in "believing in Him" and "believing Him, and if so, what is it in your own words?

What is the will of God in V39?

- That – of all that He has given Him, He should lose nothing, and raise it up

Please write down the following verses:

John 10:28-29

John 17:12

John 18:9

Thought Question: What reassurance does that give to those who have come to Him and believed in Him?

What is the will of God in V40?

What does God want for everyone who "sees" the Son?

Application Question: Have you "come to Him" and "believed in Him," and if so, when and how did that take place?

DAY FIVE

What did the Jews do when they heard Him say, "I am the bread which came down from heaven."? (V41)

What was their reason they complained about Him? (V42)

Thought Question: Did they really know what they said they knew? (Who was really Jesus' father?)

Read John 7:25-27.

What was under question about Jesus in these verses?

Calvary Buck Challenge Question: Is it true that "when the Christ comes, no one will know where He is from"? Give scriptures to support your answer.

Read John 7:40-44.

What was under question about Jesus in these verses?

Calvary Buck Challenge Question: Where was Jesus truly from? Support your answer with scripture.

Write down what Jesus said in the following verses:

Matthew 12:3 & 5

Matthew 19:4

Matthew 22:29 & 31

Thought Question: How important is it that we know the scriptures to support what we think we know?

Thought Question: Is there anything that you thought you knew about Jesus or the Bible that when you read, studied or were taught what the Bible said, you realized you were misinformed? (Nice way to say wrong!)

What was Jesus' reply? (V43-45)

1. V43 -
2. V44 -
3. V45 -
4. V46 -

Calvary Buck Challenge Questions:

Who did they say they say they "knew" in V42?

Where did Jesus say He had come from in V41-42?

In your own words, what is Jesus saying in V43-46?

Thought Question: How can V43 keep us from V45?

DAY SIX

Jesus is going to bring this dialog with the Jews to a crescendo, let's enjoy this last day and His awesome conclusion.

What does Jesus reassure us we have if we believe in Him? (V47)

Thought Question: Have you ever met someone who does not know if they are really saved? Or someone who is questioning if they are saved? Sometimes this is due to not having a specific date/time that they responded to the gospel, such as at a Crusade, or an invitation at a church service. Sometimes another reason is their actions. They have doubts that they are saved because they still sin and fall short of the glory of God. While we never want to comfort someone into hell by indiscriminately telling them "you're fine," or "of course you're saved."

May we suggest looking these scriptures up and sharing the truths with them, and let them be reassured, or maybe for the first time truly believe: (It is not important that we know when we believed, just that we do!)

John 3:16

John 3:18

John 3:36

Jesus call Himself the Bread of what for the second time? (V48) (1st time was V35)

Old Testament Connection Questions:

According to Exodus 16:4-5, 22-26, how often did God provide the manna?
How much were they to collect on the sixth day, and why?

When Jesus taught the disciples to pray in Matthew 6:9-13, what did He tell them to pray for in V11?

Thought Question: If Jesus is the Bread of Life, and He taught us to pray and ask him for our daily bread, what do you think He meant?

What happened to the people who ate the manna from Moses in the desert? (V49)

What does Jesus say about His bread? (V50)

Old Testament Connection Questions:

According to Deuteronomy 8:3, what was the purpose of God feeding the Israelites with manna every day for forty years?

According to Exodus 16:3, what were the Israelites tempted by to return to Egypt? Meat & _____

After Jesus fasted in the desert for 40 days and 40 nights, what was the first temptation that Satan tempted Him with?

What did Jesus respond with?

Thought Questions:

Are you ever tempted by “bread alone” that the world has to offer?

When are you tempted by the bread that the world has to offer?

What happens to us if we try to live by physical bread alone that the world has to offer?

What happens to us if we live by physical bread, and by the bread of life that Jesus has to offer?

Application Question: How do you personally not live “by bread alone,” but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God?

Extra Credit

What does Jesus say the Bread that He shall give is? (V51)

What was the Jews response? (V52)

What is Jesus’ response? (V53-59)

Now would be a good time to stop and have a discussion regarding the terms “literal” and “figurative!” We believe that just as with normal conversations, the Bible should always be taken literally, unless it is obviously meant to be taken figuratively. We may say after a serious car accident, “I thought I was going to die!” We mean that literally. On the other hand we may say, “That pie is to die for!” Do we literally mean that we would be willing to give our lives for a pie? Obviously not! So too, in the Bible. People often make the book of Jonah an allegory (fictional). But Jesus speaks of it as literal in Matthew 12:39-41. Here in John 6:53-58, many people take this eating His flesh and drinking His blood as literal. It is a Catholic doctrine called “Transubstantiation” meaning the bread and wine eaten and drank during communion literally becomes the flesh and blood of Christ as one consumes it. This is not supported by the Bible as we see as our account continues...

What was the disciple’s response? (V60)

What did Jesus ask them? (V61)

In what manner did Jesus say we should take his words, in the natural or in the Spirit? (V62-63)

Thought Question: So what do you think Jesus meant when He said what He said to His disciples in Matthew 26:26-28?

Application Question: How can this effect you when you take communion in the future?

The Seven I AM's of Jesus
Lesson Two
I AM the Light of the World
John 8:1-12

DAY ONE

Review

The "The Seven I AM Statements" of Jesus Christ are:

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| 1. John 6:35 | I am the _____ |
| 2. John 8:12 | I am the _____ |
| 3. John 10:9 | I am the _____ (Gate) |
| 4. John 10:11 | I am the _____ |
| 5. John 11:25 | I am the _____ |
| 6. John 14:6 | I am the _____ |
| 7. John 15:5 | I am the _____ |
| Bonus | |
| John 8:58 | Before Abraham was _____ |

Please read John 8:1-12. What is this story routinely called?

Thought Question: Have you ever thought of why Jesus said "I am the light of the world, right then and there? Without any study, what is your hypothesis (educated guess) about why Jesus uses the phrase, "I am the light of the world" here?

Now let's do a little study for some background before we come to a solid conclusion to this question. Let's begin in the Old Testament.

Genesis 1:1-5

What is the first thing recorded in the Bible that God spoke? (1:3)

Prior to that what was on the face of the deep? (1:2)

When God saw the light, what does the Bible say that it was?

When light came into the world, it displaced what?

Thought Questions:

What is the absence of light?

Can life be sustained with the absence of light?

So, what is needed for life?

Application Question: What does 2 Corinthians 4:6 say about God and this light He created?

DAY TWO

Today, let's continue our study in the Old Testament

Psalms – Please fill in these verses:

Psalm 118:27 God is the LORD, And He has given us _____...

Psalm 36:9 For with You is the fountain of _____; In Your _____ we see light.

Psalm 112:4 Unto the upright there arises _____ in the _____ ...

Psalm 139:11 If I say, "Surely the _____ shall fall on me," Even the night shall be _____ about me;

Psalm 56:13 For You have delivered my soul from _____. Have You not kept my feet from falling, That I may walk before God In the _____ of the _____?

Thought Questions:

So, according to these verses:

What did God give us?

Light seems to conquer what?

There seems to be a correlation between Light and _____, Darkness and _____

Let's go to the book of Isaiah

Please fill in the blanks:

Isaiah 60:1–3 Arise, shine; For your _____ has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. 2 For behold, the _____ shall cover the earth, And deep _____ the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. 3 The Gentiles shall come to your _____, And kings to the brightness of your rising.

Application Question: What does that mean to you?

Isaiah 49:6

According to Isaiah 49:6 not only was He going to send "the Servant" (Jesus) to Israel, but also as what to the Gentiles?

And for what purpose? That _____.

Calvary Buck Questions:

So, based on Gen 1:1-5, the Psalms above, Isaiah 60:1-3 and Isaiah 49:6:

Before God sent the Servant to the Gentiles, they were without what?

That means that they were in what?

So, the Light was given to the Gentiles that they may be saved from _____ (death)
And given _____ (Life)

And who was that Light?

DAY THREE

Today, let's continue our study by returning to the New Testament

Please read John 1:1-9.

John 1:4 says, "In Him was _____, and the life was the _____ of men."

Therefore, Light = _____.

John 1:5 says, "And the _____ shines in the darkness and the darkness did not comprehend (overcome) it."

Thought Question: So God established a "spiritual rule" and a "physical rule" that states:

Light always overcomes darkness.

John 1:9 says, "That was the true _____ which gives _____ to every man coming into the world."

Thought Question: Reading John 1:1-14, who is the Light of the World?

Calvary Buck Question: If He is the Light of the World, and Light equals Life, and God gives Light to every man coming into the world, what does God want to give every man?

Application Question: What does that mean to you?

Please read Matthew 4:12-16

Matthew equates Jesus leaving Nazareth and coming to live in Capernaum as fulfillment of what scriptures?

Extra Credit: Nazareth is the area of which Tribe? _____
Capernaum is in the area of which Tribe? _____

In those scriptures, the people who sat in _____ have seen a great _____. (V16)

Then that means Jesus is the _____.

The darkness is equated with the shadow of _____ (V16)

And what has come upon those who sat in this shadow of death?

If darkness equates to death, then Light must equate with what?

Thought Question:

Did the darkness defeat and extinguish the light, or did the light drive away and defeat the darkness?

Light and _____ came into the region and defeated darkness and _____.

Application Question: In what way has Light/Life come into your life and defeated darkness and death?

DAY FOUR

Today, let's return to our original scriptures.

Please reread John 8:1-12

Who brought the woman to Jesus? (V3)

What did Jesus call the scribes and Pharisees? (V10)

According to Revelation 12:10, what is a name given to the devil?

What had she been caught in the act of doing? (V3)

Was the woman guilty of the sin of adultery? (V4)

What did the law of Moses command them to do to her? (V5)

Old Testament Connection: According to Leviticus 20:10, what was the penalty of being found guilty of adultery?

What did Jesus imply that they wanted to do to her? (V10)

But what did Jesus say to her regarding being condemned? (V11)

What did Jesus say in (V12)? I am the _____ of the World

Thought Questions:

Based on the answers above from (V10), fill in the blanks in this sentence:

Her _____ wanted to _____ her, and put her to _____.

In contrast, fill in the blanks based on what Jesus says in (V11 & V12):

I do not _____ you, I am the _____ of the world.

Lastly, look at John 3:17-18.

Did God send Jesus into the world to condemn the world? (V17)

Then why did God send Jesus into the world? (V17)

How is one condemned? (V18)

What must we do that we are not condemned? (V18)

Have you believed in Jesus? If so, are you condemned?

Conclusion: So, why did Jesus say "I am the light of the world" right then and there?

Jesus, as the _____ and _____ of the world did not come into the world to _____ the world, but the world through Him might be saved from Death/ _____ to Light/ _____ .

Application Questions:

What do you think that meant to the woman, who was guilty?

And what does that mean you?

DAY FIVE

But that's not the whole Bible study or story. Let's look at some lessons learned.

What were the scribes and Pharisees trying to use the law to do to this woman? (V10-11)

What does 1 Timothy 1:8 say about the law?

What does Galatians 3:24 say about the law?

Calvary Buck Question: What does justified mean?

Do you think they were using the law for the intended purpose by bringing her to Christ? Why or why not?

Imagine if you were that woman – guilty and rightly convicted of her sin by the law and her accusers, to then be forgiven of the guilt and consequences of the death that sin would cause...how would you feel?

What does Romans 3:23 say - for _____ have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
But, what does Romans 3:24 say - being _____ by His _____ through
the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

What does Romans 6:23a say - For the wages of sin is _____...

But what does Romans 6:23b say – but the _____ of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

How do these truths mean to you, knowing that we are “that woman,” and we too have been justified freely?

What did Jesus say after, “Neither do I condemn you:”? (V11)

Is that possible? Go and sin no more? _____ Would Jesus ask us to do something impossible? _____

Please read John 5:1-14. What did Jesus tell the man by the pool of Bethesda? (John 5:14)

What did John write in 1 John 2:1a?

1 John 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not _____...

What almost happened to the woman in John 8:1-12 because of her sin?

What warning did Jesus give the man at the pool of Bethesda after saying, “Sin no more...”? (V14)

Thought Question: Why do you think Jesus tells them and you and me to not sin?

Application Question: According to 1 John 1:9, what shall we do if we do sin?

DAY SIX

Let's spend this last day applying our study to our own lives to walk in the light.

What did Jesus say to the woman after "I am the light of the world"? (John 8:12)

According to John 3:20 – Who is the one who walks in darkness?

According to John 3:21 – Who is the one who walks in the light?

Which are you?

Which do you want to be?

Let's take a quick look at 1 John 1:5-7

According to 1 John 1:5 – God is _____ and in Him there is no _____ at all.

1 John 1:6 says, "If we "say" we have fellowship with Him and walk in _____ we _____ and do not _____ the _____.

So, what are we doing if we "say" we have fellowship with him, but walk in darkness? _____ To who?

Application Question: Think of your walk this week. Are there any ways you walked in darkness, let darkness in, approved, or enjoyed darkness in what you did, what you said, what you saw or watched?

1 John 1:7 says, "But if we walk in the _____ as He is in the _____, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Application Question: Think of your walk this week. Are there ways you chose to walk in the light, to let light in, approved of light, chose to enjoy light in what you did, what you said, what you saw or watched?

Application Question: What is the blessing of truly walking in the Light?

Please read Matthew 5:14-16

In Matthew 5:14, Jesus says, "_____ are the light of the world."

Who was He talking to when He said that? (Matthew 5:1-2)

If we are His disciples, (disciplined followers of Jesus), we are the _____ of the world.

According to John 8:12 & Revelation 21:22-23, who is the Light of the World & Heaven?

So how do we become the light of the world? Have the Light of the World and heaven come into us!

Summarize in your own words what Jesus says next (V14-15):

What does Jesus say we should do with this light? (V16)

Summary Statement

Truly _____ is the Light and Life of the World – Truly, with Jesus in us, _____ are the light of this world!

The Seven I AM's of Jesus
Lesson Three
I AM the Door & I AM the Good Shepherd
John 10:1-18

DAY ONE

Review

The "The Seven I AM Statements" of Jesus Christ are:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. John 6:35 | I am the _____ |
| 2. John 8:12 | I am the _____ |
| 3. John 10:7, 9 | I am the _____ |
| 4. John 10:11 | I am the _____ |
| 5. John 11:25 | I am the _____ |
| 6. John 14:6 | I am the _____ |
| 7. John 15:5 | I am the _____ |

Bonus

John 8:58 Before Abraham was _____

Please read John 10:1-18.

Old Testament Connection: It is very important that we understand what Jesus is saying, and if we miss the connection with the Old Testament, we will miss a lot of what He said, and what they heard.

Please read Ezekiel Chapter 34

Who is God telling Ezekiel to prophecy against? (V2)

Write down the things that the shepherds were/were not doing. (V2-4)

How did this effect the sheep? (V5-6)

Extra Credit: Where and when did Ezekiel prophecy and what does that have to do with (V5-6)?

What were the consequences for the shepherds? (V7-10)

What were the promises God gave in (V11-22)?

What was the promise of God gave in (V23-24)?

What were the promises of God in (V25-29)?

Thought Question: Ezekiel prophesied over 370 years after David was alive, so he couldn't have literally meant David. So who do you think this is referring to?

Application Question: How has this "Good Shepherd" sought you out and blessed you in ways described in these verses?

DAY TWO

Let's connect our study of Ezekiel 34 with our text. **Please reread John 10:1-18.**

Thought Questions:

Who do you think the "Shepherds of Israel" from Ezekiel 34 are in our text? (Hint is found in Chapter 9)

Who do you think is the "One Shepherd" and "My Servant David" is in our text?

Fill in the blanks of our key scriptures:

John 10:7 Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the _____ of the sheep.

John 10:9 I am the _____. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

John 10:11 "I am the _____. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

Who is he who does not enter into the sheepfold by the door? (V1)

Calvary Buck Question: What is a sheepfold?

Thought Question: If the sheep are behind the door, and Jesus is the Door, and the thief/robber get into the sheepfold some other way – who did they go around to get to them?

Application Question: If the sheepfold is the place where the sheep are safe, where/what can that be for us?

Who enters by the door? (V2)

What does the shepherd do in (V3)?

What do the sheep do? Why? (V3-4)

Will the sheep follow a stranger?

What will they do?

Thought Question: How do you think the sheep knew His voice?

Application Question: How can we learn to know the Good Shepherd's voice?

Application Question: Is there a person's voice, or "sound" in your life that you can pick out anywhere?!

What does Jesus warn about in Matthew 24:24?

What does He say in Matthew 24:25?

What does He say in Matthew 24:26?

Thought Question: Who are these from our text?

Application Question: Where are these thieves/robbers usually found, or do they want to be seen as?

Application Question: How can we ensure we will not be deceived by these false christs and false teachers?

DAY THREE

We continue with the thought that Jesus is the Door.

Please read John 10:1-18

Did the people understand Jesus' illustration? (V6)

Does Jesus give up on them and say, "Oh well, you had your chance, to bad"?

Application Question: What's something you've struggled understanding and he didn't give up on you?"

They did not understand His illustration in (V1-5), so now He makes direct application.

Jesus emphatically states, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the _____ of the sheep." (V7)

Next He says, "All who ever came before _____, are thieves and robbers..." (V8)

What does Jesus say the scribes and Pharisees are doing in Matthew 23:14a?

What does that make them? (V8)

But even worse, what does Jesus say they are robbing the people of in Matthew 23:13?

Jesus continues His practical application to the illustration: Fill in John 10:9

John 10:9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be _____, and will go in and out and find pasture.

What did Jesus chasten the scribes and Pharisees about in Matthew 23:15?

(Explanation: See, they knew they were hypocrites, (portraying something on the outside, while hiding the truth on the inside). They knew they were not Godly, going to heaven...but they fooled everyone else on the outside. But they couldn't fool Jesus who knows our hearts.)

Calvary Buck Question: Is it possible to be very religious, and be fooled by a thief/robbers (false christs/prophets), who are inside the sheepfold (the church or seen as the church), and robbing us of not only material things, but going to heaven? How? (2 Tim 4:3-4)

Practical Application: How do you know you have passed through the door (Jesus) and hear the voice of the shepherd (Jesus)?

What does Jesus say the thief comes to do? (V10a)

What does Jesus say to the Pharisees in John 8:44? (See John 8:13 to confirm Jesus is talking to Pharisees)

What does Jesus say He has come to do? (V10b)

(The Greek word there is "zoe" which is a full/eternal life in Christ, versus "biosis" = physical life.)

Practical Application: Describe this "zoe" life God has given you through Christ, use scriptures if you want.

Extra Credit: Look up verses that have "zoe" translated to "life". You can use Strong's Concordance or a Bible program. Ask someone for help if you don't know how to do this! Be prepared to share one or two!

DAY FOUR

Today we will see why Jesus uses these two metaphors (door and shepherd) together.

Please read John 10:7-18

Fill in John 10:11 "I am the _____ shepherd. The _____ shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

What word does Jesus add to the "shepherd" of the illustration of V1-5?

(Teaching moment: We have a tendency to have a worldly definition of "good." We say things based on this definition. Like: "We are good people." "They have a good heart." "How are you? Good." But, let's see the Biblical definition.)

What does a "certain ruler" call Jesus in Luke 18:18?

What is Jesus's response? (Luke 18:19) "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, _____.

Thought Question: What was Jesus saying when He said, I am the Good Shepherd? (Don't forget Ezekiel 34)

What did Jesus say He would do for His sheep?

This is in contrast with whom in V12-13? (Definition? _____)

Write down the description of the hireling from V13-14.

According to 1 Peter 5:7, does Jesus care about His sheep?
If so, what does that mean to us?

According to V3 in Jesus' illustration, whose sheep was the shepherd calling?

According to Paul's words of exhortation to the Ephesian elders in Acts 20:28, how did they become His?

What does Jesus say He will do for His sheep? (V15)

Old Testament Connection:

Please read Isaiah 53:5-13. Then fill in this matrix for V6 & 7 having to do with sheep/shepherd:

V6	<u>Our Actions</u>	<u>His Consequence</u>
	All we like _____ have gone astray;	
	We have turned, _____ to his own way;	the LORD has laid on Him the _____ of us all.
V7	<u>His Consequence</u>	<u>His Actions</u>
		He was _____
		He was _____,
	Yet He _____ His mouth;	He was led as a _____ to the slaughter,
		And as a _____ before its shearers is silent,
	So He _____ His mouth.	

Application Question: According to Isaiah 53:11-12, in your own words, what was the purpose for all this?

DAY FIVE

In John 10:14, Jesus says, “I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am _____ by My own.

Please review days 1-4 and write down as many things that you can that you “know” about Jesus!

Please read John 10:11-18

In John 10:16, Jesus says, “And _____ sheep I have which are not of this _____; them _____ I must bring, and they will hear My _____; and there will be _____ flock and _____ shepherd.

Thought Questions:

Who do you think “His sheep” are?

Who do you think the “other sheep which are not of this fold” are?

Fill in these verses that confirm your answer:

Ephesians 2:14–16 For He Himself is our peace, who has made _____ one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation... so as to create in Himself one new man from the _____, thus making peace, **16** and that He might reconcile them _____ to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether _____ or _____, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

What does Jesus say He will do in (V17a)?

What is the purpose of Him laying down His life? (V17b)

Was Jesus’ life taken from Him? (V18a)

According to V18b, who had the power to lay His life down and to take it up again?

According to John 2:22:

Did Jesus raise up from the dead?

What was the result within the disciples when they understood this?

What promise did Jesus give in John 6:40?

Calvary Buck AND Old Testament Connection Question: **Please read Psalm 23** (The Lord is My Shepherd Psalm) and in your own words, what connection do you find in the promises of John 10:17-18 and John 6:40 and in David’s Psalm?

DAY SIX

Let's finish our study looking at the remaining scriptures from this section.

Please read John 10:22-30

What did the Jews ask Jesus to confirm or deny? (V24)

Old Testament Connection: Fill in this "equation"

The Christ of the New Testament = the _____ of the Old Testament. (John 4:25-26)

Why did Jesus say they would not believe Him? (V26)

Then in John 10:27, He says, "My sheep hear My _____, and I know them, and they _____ Me.

Calvary Buck Question: In V26, Jesus told them they were not of his sheep...as I said to you.

Based on John 5:37-39, what has Jesus been telling them the scriptures (Old Testament) say?

In context of this chapter about the "Good Shepherd," in John 10:27, who is Jesus speaking as?

And as the Good Shepherd what promises does He give His sheep? (V28)

1. Eternal _____
2. They shall never _____
3. Neither shall anyone _____ them out of My hand

Of these three promises, which one is repeated in V29-30?

Application Questions:

Could a person be a "good" shepherd, and out of a herd of let's say 100, lose 1 or 2 or 3 sheep and still be considered a "good" shepherd? Yes

If you were the 1st, or 2nd or 3rd sheep he lost, would you still consider him a "good" shepherd?

What kind of Shepherd does V27-30 make Jesus?

What assurance does that give to you?

Conclusion

Let's conclude this study by writing a prayer. First, look back and refresh your mind and heart with all that we have looked at in this "I am the Door" and "I am the Good Shepherd" Bible study. Maybe use what you wrote in Day 5 about all the things that you "know" about Jesus as the Door and Good Shepherd. Then review the last two days and reflect on what else the Lord added to your knowledge and understanding of Himself as the Good Shepherd. Then use the back of this page to write a prayer that includes those things. Maybe there will be some confession from the Isaiah 53 section. Certainly there will be some thanksgiving for what He has shown you of Himself as the Door and the Good Shepherd. And most likely there will be ample amount of praise for all the promises Jesus gives us as the Door and the Good Shepherd.

(You may be given an opportunity to share this prayer with the group, but no one will be expected to.)

Lesson Four
I AM the Resurrection and the Life
John 11:1-44

DAY ONE

Review

The “The Seven I AM Statements” of Jesus Christ are:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 1. John 6:35 | I am the _____ |
| 2. John 8:12 | I am the _____ |
| 3. John 10:7, 9 | I am the _____ |
| 4. John 10:11 | I am the _____ |
| 5. John 11:25 | I am the _____ |
| 6. John 14:6 | I am the _____ |
| 7. John 15:5 | I am the _____ |
| Bonus | |
| John 8:58 | Before Abraham was _____ |

I was recently on a flight to Israel. During the flight there was an announcement something like this, “We want to make you a special offer, if you fill out an application and are approved for our airline’s credit card, for a low annual fee of \$89, we will give you 50,000 sky miles, which will be sufficient miles for two round trip tickets anywhere in the continental United States. Plus, we will in addition, give you two vouchers to purchase tickets for \$89 for round trip tickets for anywhere in the U.S.. Plus, we will give you double points for all airline purchases, plus priority boarding in Zone 2 for all flights, plus a free checked luggage for you and up to four people traveling with you.” Now, that sounds great, especially in today’s high priced airline tickets and exorbitant checked luggage prices! But what if they never followed through with any of their promises! It doesn’t matter what they SAID, it’s what they were able to provide that counts. The same is true regarding Jesus. In our study we will spend a great amount of time going through what led up to, and the incredible promises found in the heart of our text, ‘I am the resurrection and life.’ But what is really important is, was Jesus able to provide what He promised? Let’s study together and find out!

Please read John 11:1-44

On a separate sheet of paper, take some time to create a “Chronology of Events” from the narrative of V1-44. (This will help in visualizing the events in relation to one another. Recommend that you add notes and commentary to it as we go through the study, eventually ending up being able to “see it all” as a whole on one sheet of paper.)

Where is Bethany in relation to Jerusalem? (V1).

The information in V2 is an “editorial comment” the Apostle John adds here. It does not take actually take place in time until John 12:1-8. Read that portion of scripture. Why do you think it is inserted here?

What motivation does Mary and Martha use to “help” Jesus make the decision to come? (V3)

What does V5 confirm regarding the relationship between Mary/Martha/Lazarus and Jesus?

Personal Application Question: Do you know that Jesus loves you? Please support your answer with scripture.

DAY TWO

We begin today where we left off yesterday. **Please re-read John 11:1-5.**

Thought Question: Why do you think it is so important for John to establish this story on the basis that Jesus loved Mary/Martha & Lazarus?

What does Jesus say is the purpose of Lazarus' sickness? (V4) (It is a two part answer)

* 1)

2)

Personal Application: Have you ever considered hardships in your life as a potential opportunity for God and Jesus to be glorified in your life? If so, or if not, please give a real life example.

Read John 11:6-14.

So when Jesus heard that Lazarus was sick, what did He do? (V6)

Compare that with what our first response thinks he should have done, especially in view of V3 & 5:

Thought Question: Based on Jesus's response. Do you think it is always best for God to do what we ask, when we ask? Why or why not?

What did Jesus say next? (V7)

Calvary Buck Question: If He was not in Judea, where was He in location and distance to Bethany and Judea? (Read John 10:40-42 and look at a map to help answer this question.)

How real was the threat to Jesus' physical life? (Read V8, then read John 8:59 and 10:39)

Thought Question: What do you think Jesus was saying in V9-10? (Read John 8:12, 9:4-5, 12:35-36)

What was the first word Jesus used to describe Lazarus' state? (V11)

Now what word does Jesus use to describe "plainly" or in other words, "bluntly" Lazarus' state? (V14)

Calvary Buck Question: Compare V14 & V4. What is the apparent contradiction? How do you explain it?

Extra Credit: Read John 3:16. With the same thought process, we just went through, explain how there could be an apparent contradiction in John 3:16, but easily explained from an eternal perspective. * John 3:16 says that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. The apparent contradiction from a purely physical perspective - there have been many people who have believed in Jesus and died physically. But the answer comes from the eternal perspective. As explained in our study in John 11:25-26.

DAY THREE

To go along with the confusion of the disciples between Lazarus is sleeping...no he is dead...even after Jesus had first told them that this sickness would not lead unto death, we run right into V15 today!

Please re-read John 11:1-16.

Now what “incredulous” words does Jesus say about the death of their “friend” Lazarus? (V15a)

WHY did Jesus say that? (V15b)

Thought Question: That they may believe what?

(Try and stay within the text we have read so far (V1-16) to answer this question.)

At first Thomas’ response in V16 might seem almost comical, but how does it contradict what Jesus said in V9-10?

Personal Application Question: Even though you know and believe God, and His word, and know He loves you. Do you ever find yourself in Thomas’ position, being tempted to be Eeyore from Winnie the Pooh? Or worse, being tempted to let your feelings lead you to contradict what you know to be true of God? If so, maybe give an example.

Read John 11:17-27

How long did it take Jesus to make the one day’s hard journey from where he was to Bethany? (V17-18)

What does Martha say next? (V21-22)

Personal Application: Have you ever wondered why “God didn’t show up” when you thought He should have? Please share. (By the way, I think the answer for all of us is YES!)

What did Mary say she “knew”? (V23-24)

Where do you think she learned that? (Read John 5:28-29)

Old Testament Connection: What is the promise found in Daniel 12:1-2?

Personal Application: If you were to die today, do you believe you will be resurrected to eternal life or eternal condemnation? Please share from scripture why you believe this.

Finally, the day we have been waiting for, we finally get to the “main text” of our study!

Please read John 11:17-27

What are the two huge and separate promises Jesus makes in V25a?

1. I am the _____ (I have the power to resurrect the dead from the grave.)
2. And the _____ (I also have the power to give eternal and everlasting life.)

According to John 5:28-29 and Revelation 20:11-15, is being resurrected the same as receiving eternal life? Please explain.

Jesus then makes two statements that support these two promises. (V25-26)

What is the statement that supports, ‘I am the Resurrection’? (V25b)

What is the statement that supports, ‘and the Life’? (V26a)

Write out these “I am the Resurrection” verses:

John 6:40

John 6:44

John 6:54

Write out these “And the Life” verses:

John 4:14

John 5:24

John 6:47

Personal Application: Then Jesus asked the most important question of anyone’s life, what was it? (V26b)

What is YOUR answer? (Give scriptures to support your answer?)

Teaching Moment

It is critical we understand Jesus is **BOTH**. He is the Resurrection **and** He is the Life. Why is this important?

- 1) We have seen that not all resurrected are resurrected to life, some are resurrected to eternal condemnation.
- 2) Some believe that Jesus has resurrection power, but does not give eternal life! They believe that when Jesus “became our Savior, he did his part to help us return to our heavenly home. It is now up to each one of us to do our part and become worthy of exaltation.” (Coming into the presence of where Jesus and God the Father live in heaven.)

DAY FIVE

I truly hope that through our study of the “Resurrection” and “Life” verses yesterday that you, 1) Saw the difference between the two, 2) Saw the importance of being able to describe what each means, 3) You were equipped to Biblically show that Jesus is the source and has the power necessary for us to receive both! Now let’s continue our study. **Please read John 11:28-37.**

What does Mary say to Jesus? (V32)

How does that compare with what Martha said? (V21)

Thought Questions:

If two people say the exact same words, not just the same “thing,” but the exact same words, what is the probability that there was pre-planning involved?

Do you think that Martha and Mary were edifying one another waiting for Jesus to arrive, or do you think based on the circumstantial evidence, they had helped one another come to a conclusion that they were not too happy with Jesus’ untimeliness, and when He did get there, they were going to grill Him?

Exhortation Moment: We need to be very cautious about feeding one another’s feelings and emotions and nurturing one another to draw unbiblical conclusions and creating lines of thinking that move us away from the truths that we know – God loves us, He is only good, He is never late, nothing is impossible with Him...

What emotions do we see in Jesus in the next several verses? (V33, 35, 38)

What did Jesus’ emotions confirm to the Jews who saw it? (V36)

What is the basic cause of God and Jesus’ heart to be grieved in the following scriptures:
Genesis 6:5-6

Mark 3:1-5

Luke 19:41-44

Thought Questions:

What emotional effect does the sin of our friends, families and loved ones have on us?

What emotional effect does our sin cause the Lord?

What question do “some of them” ask about Jesus? (V37)

Personal Applications: Have you ever asked yourself the same type of question? “God, You created the heavens and the earth, you can stop the sun, you are omnipotent and omniscient, could You not have stopped _____ from happening? Maybe be ready to share one of those events from your life.

What are some of the things you know of God that help us trust Him in these times?

DAY SIX

Our last day and last portion of our scripture.

Read John 11:38-44

What did Martha say to Jesus? (V39)

Thought Question: What do you think Martha's was trying to say in V39?

How did Jesus answer? (V40) Did I not tell you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?

In Matthew 13:58, what kept Jesus from doing many mighty works in His home town of Nazareth?

Personal Application: What is necessary from us to enable us to see Jesus do many mighty works?

Why did Jesus say what He said out loud for everyone to hear? (V41-42)

What happened when Jesus spoke to a man who had died, four days ago? (V43-44)

Did Jesus need to call upon any other name, or anyone else's power to resurrect Lazarus from the grave?

Was Jesus able to keep His word that he said to His disciples in John 11:4?

Was Jesus able to accomplish what He promised in John 11:25-26?

Was Jesus' promise in John 11:25-26 to Mary, Martha & Lazarus alone?

If not, then who do those verses say the promise pertains to?

(The word "believes" there in the Greek means: to think to be true, to be persuaded of, to credit, place confidence in - absolute, complete and total confidence.)

Personal Applications:

Now, the question Jesus asked Martha, we will ask of ourselves. Do you believe this?

What do you **have** in your belief in Jesus? (V25-26)

Jesus wouldn't be much of a Savior if He could only resurrect others. What part does the Resurrection of Jesus Christ play in the Gospel? Read these verses and write down what they have to say.

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

1 Corinthians 15:17-20

1 Peter 1:3

Extra Credit: Go through the Book of Acts and use the reverse side of this sheet to record every time the resurrection is shared as a central part of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Here are a few to get you started: Acts 2:22-24, 30-32; 3:14-15

The Seven I AM's of Jesus

Lesson Five
I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life
John 14:1-6

DAY ONE

Review

The “The Seven I AM Statements” of Jesus Christ are:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 1. John 6:35 | I am the _____ |
| 2. John 8:12 | I am the _____ |
| 3. John 10:7, 9 | I am the _____ |
| 4. John 10:11 | I am the _____ |
| 5. John 11:25 | I am the _____ |
| 6. John 14:6 | I am the _____ |
| 7. John 15:5 | I am the _____ |
| Bonus | |
| John 8:58 | Before Abraham was _____ |

In this study we will look at one of the more well known “I am’s” of Jesus, and sometimes the most controversial with the world as they sometimes see it as a narrow minded judgmental statement. My prayer is that this study confirms that Jesus is your Way, your Truth, and your life and you will be equipped to lovingly share this truth with others.

Please read John 13 for the “context” of the “content” of our text. (Chapters 13-17 for the full picture.)
What “Night” do these chapters take place in the life of Jesus?

Please read our text, John 14:1-6

In the context of the chapters you just read, who is Jesus speaking to? (V1)

Application Question: Based on the wording in V1, besides His immediate disciples, who can we apply this teaching to?

What is the first thing Jesus says to them? (V1)

(The word troubled in the Greek means: to agitate by movements of its parts to and fro; to cause one inward commotion, to take away his calmness of mind.)

Thought Question: What could possibly be causing their heart to be “troubled”? (V33 & 36)

Practical Application: Are there things that have happened or maybe are happening that have caused your heart to be “troubled”? (Maybe be prepared to share a little.)

What is Jesus’ words of encouragement to battle this troubling of their heart? (V1)

Thought Question: What does it mean to you to REALLY believe in God and Jesus?

DAY TWO

A quick note on Jesus' first statement we went over yesterday in verse one, "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me." The "mood" of the verb "believe" in the Greek is in the "imperative," meaning it's a command. Jesus is commanding, if we believe in God, we must believe in Him.

Write out 1 John 2:23:

According to 1 John 5:10-11, if we do not believe in Jesus, who do we make a liar?

According to 1 John 5:12, "...he who has the Son has _____, he who does not have the Son of God does not have _____."

What is in His Father's house? (V2)

(The Greek word for mansions (*mone*) means - a staying, abiding, dwelling, abode.)

Write out the only other verse in the Bible that uses this Greek word, John 14:23:

Calvary Buck Question: Which two words are the English words for "mone" in this verse?

What did Jesus say next in (V2)?

Thought Question: Rephrase that in your own words:

What did He say next in V2?

Thought Question: What idea is implied then, if these mansions are in His Father's house, and Jesus is going to prepare a place?

What does He say He is going to do after He goes and prepares a place for us? (V3)

(The Greek word for "receive" means - to take to, to take with one's self, to join to one's self.)

Thought Questions:

How will we get "from here to there"?

Who will get us "from here to there" - Us, our church, Pope, Priest, Pastor, Prophet or Jesus?

(This leads to many more questions...How does He come to get us? When does He come to get us?)

Please read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Fill in the "order of the events." We will discuss them more tomorrow.

1. (V13) People fall _____ . (Die in Jesus)
2. (V14) God brings _____ Jesus those who have fallen asleep.
3. (V15) We who are alive & _____ until the coming/Lord will by no means precede those/are asleep.
4. (V16) The Lord will _____ from heaven with/shout, with/voice of an archangel, & trumpet of God
5. (V16) The _____ in Christ will rise first
6. (V17) Then we who/alive/remain, shall be _____ together w/them in/clouds/meet/Lord/air.
7. (V17) Thus we shall always be _____ the Lord.

DAY THREE

Let's begin by taking a closer look at Jesus' promise to "come again and receive you to Myself." Let's fill in around the order of events we created yesterday from **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**.

Events of Jesus Returning for Those Who Believe in Him (The Rapture)

Please fill in the events and answer the following questions:

1. (V13) People fall _____. (Die in Jesus)

In **Luke 8:49 & 52**, what does Jesus equate the little girl's death to?

In **John 11:11 7 14**, what does Jesus equate Lazarus' death to?

2. (V14) God brings _____ Jesus those who have fallen asleep

So, we who die in Jesus, are already there with Jesus in Spirit, and we come back with Him...how did we get there? By writing out these two verses you will know that when we who believe in Jesus die, are immediately with Him in Spirit.

Philippians 1:23 -

2 Corinthians 5:8 -

3. (V15) We who are alive & _____ until the coming/Lord will by no means precede those/are asleep.

4. (V16) The Lord will _____ from heaven with/shout, with/voice of an archangel, & trumpet of God
What does John hear in **Revelation 1:10**?

What does John hear in **Revelation 4:1**?

(Those of us, who are right ☺, believe this is the Pre-Tribulation "Rapture" of the church described below)

5. (V16) The _____ in Christ will rise first

According to **1 Corinthians 15:35-44**, what kind of body shall we receive?

6. (V17) Then we who/alive/remain, shall be _____ together w/them in/clouds/meet/Lord/air.

Teaching Moment: The word in the Greek for "caught up" is "harpazo" and it literally means caught up.

But where do we get the word "rapture" from? Through this translation process: The Bible written in Greek uses "harpazo" = Latin word used in the Vulgate translation in the 4th Century/Rapiemur = (Eng)/Rapture.

7. (V17) Thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Why did Jesus say he was going to come again and receive/take us to himself? (V3)

Write down verses that verify that Jesus is our Deliverer. (Not us, good works, religion or church.)

* Galatians 1:3-4

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DAY FOUR

Jesus has spent approximately three years with His disciples teaching them many things. But many of those things were hard for them to understand, and many of which they did not fully understand until after His resurrection. We come to one of those today as we continue our Bible study of **John 14:1-6**.

Read V4-5

What does Jesus say? (V4)

How does Thomas reply? (V5)

Thought Question: Ever think that if not for Thomas' honesty and question, we might never have heard the answer from Jesus?

According to **Luke 8:9**, how did the disciples figure out what the parable of the sower meant?

According to **Matthew 13:36**, how did they figure out the parable of the wheat and tares?

According to **Mark 9:32**, why did they not understand about his betrayal, death and resurrection?

Sometimes our "Bible Studies" are nothing more than us sitting around talking about what we already "know," afraid to ask lest someone actually realize we don't know something, or content in what we "already know" and we miss out on growing in depth, breadth and personal application of what we **don't** know!

Personal Application: Are you willing to ask questions to learn and grow in your understanding of Jesus?

What did the disciples remember in **John 2:17**?

What did they remember in **John 2:22** and what effect did it have on them?

What did they remember in **Luke 24:8**?

Personal Applications:

Are you wanting to sit around and talk about what you already know, or do you want to continue to read and do Bible Studies together so that you might grow in your understanding of Jesus?

What is at least one thing that you have learned so far in this study?

I think there is even more to learn from Thomas! **Please read John 20:24-29**.

What is the nickname that Thomas earned in this portion of scripture?

But, was Thomas with the disciples when they saw Jesus after His resurrection?

Is it unreasonable for him to question his friends who say they have seen someone resurrected from the dead?

What did Thomas say when he did see Jesus in His resurrected body?

What did Jesus say to Thomas in V29?

Personal Application: What is a positive attribute we can learn from Thomas?

DAY FIVE

OK, today is the day! We finally get to the key verse, John 14:6 – Jesus said to him, “**I am** the way, the truth and the life...”

Many people say all paths lead to heaven. Is that consistent with what Jesus said? Why or why not? (V6)

Thought Question: If this is the truth (which comes next in this verse) is this a “narrow minded” belief?

Personal Application: If you tell me you want to drive to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, and I tell you that there are many ways to get to Jacob’s Lake, but from there you must take highway 67 into the park as it is the only way. Am I a narrow minded, judgmental person, or is it simply the truth whether you like it or not?

What did Jesus say in **Matthew 7:13**?

What did He say in **Matthew 7:14**?

Thought Question: What (or who) do you think is the narrow gate that Jesus is talking about?

Where does the narrow way/gate lead?

Where do all the other ways lead?

If you and I think we are the first to be mocked or derided for believing Jesus is **The** Way, read Acts 24:14 in the King James Version. What do they call the teaching that Jesus is “**The** Way”?

What did Jesus say next in V6?

Did He say “a truth” or “the truth?”

Write out these verses that tell us who or what else is said to be the truth in the Bible:

John 15:26 –

John 17:17 -

John 16:13 –

Calvary Buck Question: How do these three verses say the same thing, and together, speak of the Trinity?

DAY SIX

We now come to the last of the threefold promise that Jesus made to His disciples, to all His disciples, which I pray includes you and me!

Read John 14:1-6

What is the third in the threefold promise of Jesus in John 14:6?

Please refer back to DAY FOUR in Bible Study #4, “I am the Resurrection and the Life.”
What were the three verses that confirmed Jesus was both The Resurrection “And The Life”?

Here are three other witnesses that reaffirm that Life is found in Jesus:

What does James, the ½ brother of Jesus, (same mother, different father), say his brother Jesus promised to all who love Him in **James 1:12**?

According to **Romans 6:23**, where did Paul say eternal life found?

Fill in this verse that the Apostle John wrote in **1 John 5:12** –

What will this Life be like as described in **Revelation 21:4**?

Sadly, according to the following verses who will not be able to experience this blessed eternal life?
1 Corinthians 6:9–10 –

Galatians 5:19–21 –

Revelation 21:8 –

But, who will be able to experience this blessed eternal life?
John 3:16 –

1 Corinthians 6:11 –

Revelation 21:24 -

Practical Application: Will you personally experience this blessed eternal life? Why or why not?
(Please use scripture to support your belief.)

Extra Credit: Write out your own “crib notes” (short set of notes) that you think would help you share the gospel of John 14:1-6 with one of your unsaved friends, family or neighbors.

The Seven I AM's of Jesus
Lesson Six
I AM THE VINE
John 15:1-8

DAY ONE

Review

The "The Seven I AM Statements" of Jesus Christ are:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. John 6:35 | I am the _____ |
| 2. John 8:12 | I am the _____ |
| 3. John 10:7, 9 | I am the _____ |
| 4. John 10:11 | I am the _____ |
| 5. John 11:25 | I am the _____ |
| 6. John 14:6 | I am the _____ |
| 7. John 15:5 | I am the _____ |

Bonus

John 8:58 Before Abraham was _____

Wow, here we are at our last study in this series! I hope and pray that you have not only grown in your knowledge about Jesus, but you have grown closer to Jesus, and have been able to personally experience him as all these "I AM's" in your life, as well as share Him with others. In this study we will look at why Jesus chose the metaphor of "The Vine," how He is the vine, and what that means for our lives. Lastly, we will look at the additional "I AM" of John 8:48-59. So let's get started.

Old Testament Connection: Why did Jesus choose the metaphor of the vine? Let's look at some Old Testament scriptures that will show us that He didn't just come up with it out of nowhere while He was walking down the road one day with His disciples, got stuck looking for a "perfect metaphor," and just happened to see a vineyard and the light bulb came on. It is absolutely crucial to better understand the New Testament, we must know the Old Testament.

Read John 15:1-8

Now Read Isaiah 5:1-7

Thought Question: According to Isaiah 5:3-6, who do you think is "My Well-Beloved"?

What did He plant in His garden? (V2)

Who is the "Vineyard"? (V7)

Who is His "pleasant plant"? (V7)

What did the Owner expect the vineyard/vines to produce? (V2)

What kind of grapes did the vine produce? (V2)

Thought Questions:

What do you think is meant by the rhetorical question in V4?

Practical Application: What do you think God wants your life to produce? What does that look like?

DAY TWO

Jesus often taught with parables, so that those who had ears to hear would hear and those who did not, would not (Matthew 13:10-17). Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines a parable as “a usually short fictitious story that illustrates a moral attitude or religious principle. Let’s look at a parable that will help us understand John 15:1-8.

Read Matthew 21:33-46

Thought Questions:

Where do you think Jesus got the idea of the parable of the Vineyard?

Who do you think the “landowner” represents in this parable?

Calvary Buck Question: What is a “vinedresser”? And their responsibility?

What did the landowner want to receive from the vinedressers? (V34)

What did the vinedressers do to the landowners servants? (V35-36)

Thought Questions:

Who do you think the landowner’s servants represent?

Who do you think the vinedressers represent?

Who do you think the son of the landowner represents?

Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers? (V41a)

What will the “other vinedressers” render (give) to him in their seasons? (V41b)

Jesus went on to quote Ps 118:22-23, describing the actions of the first vinedressers as “The stone which the builders rejected, has become the chief cornerstone...”

Fill in what He said next: (V43) “Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the _____ of it...”

Let’s go back to **Matthew 13:18-23**, and take a peek at the parable that Jesus said we need to understand in order to understand all other parables, the “Parable of the Four Soils.” But for time sake, let’s just look at the explanation of it by Jesus. Fill in the “fruit” produced in each of the four soils:

	<u>Soil Type</u>	<u>Fruit</u>	<u>Explanation of Why</u>
V19	_____	_____	_____
V20-21	_____	_____	_____
V22	_____	_____	_____
V23	_____	_____	_____

Thought Question: What do you think the “Point of the Parable” is?

Practical Application: Which soil would you say applies to your life and why?

DAY THREE

Today we return to our original text that begins with the seventh “I AM” of Jesus in the Gospel of John. “I am the True Vine...” (John 15:1), and repeated again in John 15:5, “I am the Vine...”

Read John 15:1-8

First, let’s remind ourselves where we are. It is Thursday night of the last week of Jesus’ physical life on earth. In less than 24 hours He will be unjustly accused, abused, convicted, crucified, die and buried...for you and for me. Remember, no one will take His life, He will lay it down, that He might take it up again... for you and for me. He is spending the last night with His closest disciples, downloading into them such glorious truths that based on what the gospels say, they did not fully understand until after His resurrection! My prayer is that we would hear His words with the same intensity in which they were originally spoken! Look at the following matrix to help us see the intensity of this time and His words, on this last night as recorded in John, chapter 13-17:

<u>Chapter</u>	<u># of Words</u>	<u># Black</u> ⁽¹⁾	<u># Red</u> ⁽¹⁾	<u>% of Red</u>
13	909	485	424	47
14	766	70	696	91
15	624	0	624	100
16	837	95	742	88.6
17	657	12	645	98
Total	3,793	662	3,131	83

(1) A lot of Bibles have the words of Christ in Red Letters to help distinguish them.

Look at chapter 15, it is 100% Red! It is the only chapter in the entire Bible that is 100% the words of Jesus. The only other chapter that is close is chapter 17, Jesus’ prayer to the Father, and that is 98%. This is one of the most unique chapters in the entire Bible...so let’s get into it!

What does Jesus say that He is? (V1a)

Who does he say His Father is? (V1b)

Calvary Buck Question: Go back to Day Two and our study of Matthew 21:33-46.

How do the roles differ here?

Matthew 21	John 15
Vinedresser = _____	_____

Write the definition for vinedresser here: * The husbandmen, or caretaker of the vines, with the responsibility of ensuring a bountiful harvest of fruit from the vines.

Thought Questions:

So who is going to be responsible for ensuring a bountiful harvest of fruit from the vine?

Do you think that is good news or bad news & why?

What will He do with every branch that is in the vine that does not bear fruit? (V2)

What does He do with every branch that bears fruit? Why?

Practical Application: Which branch do you want to be? Think you are? Why? Anything to prune?

DAY FOUR

Let's continue our verse by verse inductive Bible study of this "fruitful" parable. Pun intended! 😊

Read John 15:1-8

What does Jesus say to them next? (V3)

Teaching Moment: The Greek word for clean here is *katharos* and means - clean, pure. in a similitude, like a vine cleansed by pruning and so fitted to bear fruit.

What cleansed the branch? (V3)

Fill in these supporting verses that show us the cleansing power of God's Word:

Psalm 119:9 - How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your _____.

John 17:17 - _____ them by Your _____. Your _____ is _____.

Ephesians 5:25-26 - Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, **26** that He might sanctify and _____ her with the _____ of water by the _____,

What does Jesus tell His disciples to do in V4? (It is repeated four times in V4-5)

What is the definition of abide?

If they would abide in Jesus, what does Jesus promise to do? (V4)

Who is the Vine? (V5)

Who are the branches? (V5)

Can the branch bear fruit by itself? (V4)

What does it have to do? (V4)

Can the disciples bear fruit by themselves? (4)

What must they do?

Thought Question: Seems like a lot of repeating doesn't it. Why do teachers usually repeat themselves?

Now Jesus gives the point of the parable, V5 in the positive, V6 in the negative.
He who abides in Jesus, and therefore Jesus in them, bears how much fruit? (V5)

What does Jesus say a person can do without Him?
(I like to say, "And boy can we do a lot of nothing!")

Practical Application Questions:

What are some of the fruitful things we can do in Him?

What are some of the "nothings" we can do without Him?

DAY FIVE

Yesterday we finished with the “point of the parable,” V5 being the positive perspective, and now let’s look at V6 as the negative perspective.

What happens to a person who does not abide in Jesus? (V6a)

What is the next thing that happens to this person? (V6b)

Read Matthew 3:11-12. (John the Baptist’s Statement)

What will Jesus do with the wheat?

What will he do with the chaff?

Read Matthew 13:24-30. (The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares)

What were they to do with the wheat and the tares until the harvest time? (V30a)

What were they to do with the wheat? (V30)

What were they to do with the tares? (V30)

Calvary Buck Question: So there is two perspectives regarding the necessity of abiding in Christ. One from a positive perspective, One from a negative perspective. Describe them in your own words:

Positive

Negative

If we abide in Christ, according to V7, what else will abide in us?

If His word abides in us, we will ask what we desire and what happens?

How is the Father glorified?

Why does Jesus say that He chose the disciples in V16?

What kind of fruit did He want them to produce? (V16)

Just like in V7, what did Jesus tell His disciples to do regarding the Father?

Thought Question: In context, what do you think Jesus wanted the disciples to be asking for? (Mercedes, better job, more money...)

DAY SIX

Lastly, let's spend some time really looking at this powerful "I AM" statement of Jesus.

Fill in the blanks:

John 15:5 - "I am the _____...

John 15:1 - "I am the _____ vine...

Who or what is THE Vine, the TRUE Vine?

What are some substitute vines?

Are these substitutes equal to Jesus?

From these verses, write down some of the ways we can abide in THE Vine, the TRUE Vine:

John 8:35 -

John 8:31 -

John 15:9 -

John 15:10 -

1 John 2:6 -

Acts 2:42 -

Application Questions:

What are some of the ways you personally abide in Christ?

What are some of the ways that you would like to abide in Christ?

The "point of the parable" is that by abiding in Christ, who is the **True Vine**, our lives will bear fruit. What is the fruit that your life is bearing? And is it lasting, eternal fruit?

Bonus
John 8:48-59
“Before Abraham was I Am”

Read John 8:48-59

Old Testament Connection: Read Exodus 3:14. Who was the first One to use the phrase “I AM”?

Thought Question: Based on John 8:59, why do you think they took up stones to throw at Him?

Fill in the following verses to support the Biblical Truth that Jesus was proclaiming, He was God!

Isaiah 9:6 - For unto us a Son is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And _____ name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty _____, Everlasting _____, Prince of Peace.

Micah 5:2 -“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From _____.” (Attributed to Christ in Matthew 2:5-6)

John 1:1 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was _____ God, and the Word _____ God.

and

John 1:14 - And the Word became _____ and _____ among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Matthew 1:23 (NKJV) — **23** “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name _____,” which is translated, “_____ with us.”

And so, in each of the seven I AM’s, Jesus was first claiming to be God, secondly claiming to be the truth that followed the “I AM.”

I hope and pray that this study has been a blessing to your life. That you have grown in the grace and understanding of Jesus Christ, and that your life and walk are closer to Jesus than when you began. And lastly that it would be said of you what was said of the disciples in Acts 4:13 - ...And they realized that they had been with Jesus.