

There is much to learn about who Jesus is. A greater knowledge of Him can be formed after contemplating each metaphor given in the Gospel of John. RWT has provided the following 10-part study which could be used as a personal or family devotional, or the foundation for a 10-week Bible Study. The topics of the study are as follows:

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| 1. Introduction Who is Jesus in your Words? | 6. Jn 10:11-21 The Good Shepherd |
| 2. Jn 6:35-59 The Bread of life | 7. Jn 11:17-27 The Resurrection and the Life |
| 3. Jn 8:12-20 The Light of the world | 8. Jn 14:1-11 The Way, the Truth and the Life |
| 4. Jn 8:48-59 The I AM | 9. Jn 15:1-8 The Vine |
| 5. Jn 10:1-10 The Door | 10. Conclusion Who is Jesus in His Words? |

Any study through God's Word should begin with praying for the Holy Spirit to lead your study time. It is the Word of God you are reading, so invite God to reveal His meaning as you study. Next you should read each passage in its context a few times, possibly in a few translations. Understanding the context sometimes requires reading the entire chapter or possibly previous or continuing chapters, not just the suggested verses. Once you are familiar with the passage, you can begin to ask questions of the text in order to get a better understanding.

For this particular study, the following questions help uncover what Jesus is saying about Himself with His I AM statements. This is by no means an exhaustive set of questions but is a good base as you get more comfortable asking questions of the text. Feel free to add or subtract questions to your study, for your audience.

BASIC INFORMATION

1. What is the metaphor Jesus is using?
2. What is the significance of the metaphor in its **NATURAL** sense, not spiritual? (Fight the urge to "spiritualize" the text).
 - a. If an object, what is the importance/purpose of that object in everyday life?
 - b. If an action, what is the benefit of the action for the recipient?
3. Who is the audience Jesus is addressing?
4. What is the context surrounding the I AM statement (time, place, situation, etc.)?
5. What is the response of Jesus' audience? Do they receive or reject His teaching?

PUT IT ALL TOGETHER

6. Based on the previous answers, what is Jesus revealing about Himself by using this metaphor?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

7. How does Jesus' portrayal of Himself affect your view of Jesus?
8. How would you describe Jesus to another person, by using this metaphor?

Introduction | Who is Jesus, in your words?

Prior to engaging in this study, it is important to recognize *your* view of who Jesus is. By answering a few of the provided questions, you will be able to identify your current view of who Jesus is, and where those ideas came from. You may discover your picture of Jesus is based on what others have told you, what you came up with yourself, or from God's Word. Whatever the source of your beliefs may be, by the end of the study you will be able to compare those with what the Jesus says about Himself in the Bible. Whether you are a newer believer, mature believer, or still not sure of your beliefs, it will be exciting to see how your view of Jesus has changed at the conclusion to the study.

Questions to answer:

1. Who is your closest friend or relative?
2. How would you describe this person to someone who never met them?
 - a. Not physical appearance but characteristics, personality, what makes them unique to you?
3. Why is it you are able to answer these questions?
 - a. Is it from personal experience?
 - b. Is it from what others have told you?
4. What about this person causes your relationship to be so close?
5. If you could use one story to describe your friend/relative to another, what would it be?
 - a. What happens?
 - b. Why is it your favorite story?
 - c. What aspect of your friend/relative stands out the most in this story?
6. How would your life be different, if you did not have this relationship?
7. If you met someone who had never heard of Jesus, how would you describe Him?
 - a. Characteristics, personality, actions, etc.
8. Where did you get this picture of Jesus?
 - a. If from personal experience, please describe.
 - b. If from other sources, what are they?
 - i. Sermon, books, tv, movies, other media?
 - c. If from the Bible, please explain where.
 - i. What stories? Where are they in the Bible?
9. If you could use one story to portray Jesus to another person, what would it be?
 - a. What happens?
 - b. Why is it your favorite?
 - c. What aspect of Jesus stands out the most in this story?
 - d. Where is it in the Bible?
10. How would your life be different, if you did not have a relationship with Jesus?
 - a. If you do not have a relationship with Him, how do you think your life would be different if you did?

Jn 6:35-59 | The Bread of life

BASIC INFORMATION

1. What is the metaphor Jesus is using?
2. What is the significance of **BREAD** in its **NATURAL** sense, not spiritual? (Fight the urge to “spiritualize” the text).
 - a. What was the importance/purpose of **bread** in everyday life in Jesus’ time?
 - b. How was life affected if there was no bread?
3. Who is the **audience** Jesus is addressing?
4. What is the **context** surrounding the I AM statement (time, place, situation, etc.)?
 - a. What happened **prior** to Jesus saying He is the Bread of Life?
 - b. Why did He say this, at this **particular time**?
5. What is the **response** of Jesus’ audience? Do they **receive** or **reject** His teaching?
 - a. Why did they reject or accept it?

PUT IT ALL TOGETHER

6. Based on the previous answers, what is Jesus **revealing about Himself**, the **Bread of Life**?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

7. How does Jesus’ portrayal of Himself affect **your view** of Jesus?
 - a. How are you feeding your spirit daily?
8. How would you describe Jesus to another person, **using the Bread of Life metaphor**?

Jn 8:12-20 | The Light of the World

BASIC INFORMATION

1. What is the metaphor Jesus is using?
2. What is the significance of **LIGHT** in its **NATURAL** sense, not spiritual? (Fight the urge to “spiritualize” the text).
 - a. What was the importance/purpose of **Light** in everyday life in Jesus’ time?
 - b. How was life affected if there was no light?
3. Who is the **audience** Jesus is addressing?
4. What is the **context** surrounding the I AM statement (time, place, situation, etc.)?
 - a. What happened **prior** to Jesus saying He is the Light of the World?
 - b. Why did He say this, at this **particular time**?
5. What is the **response** of Jesus’ audience? Do they **receive** or **reject** His teaching?
 - a. Why did they reject or accept it?

PUT IT ALL TOGETHER

6. Based on the previous answers, what is Jesus **revealing about Himself**, the **Light of the World**?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

7. How does Jesus’ portrayal of Himself affect **your view** of Jesus?
 - a. How has the Light of the world freed you from the grasp of darkness?
8. How would you describe Jesus to another person, **using the Light of the World metaphor**?

Jn 8:48-59 | The I AM

BASIC INFORMATION

1. What is the metaphor Jesus is using?
2. Read Exodus 3:1-14.
 - a. Why did God appear to Moses?
 - b. What task was given to Moses?
 - c. What question did Moses ask God in verse 13?
 - d. What is God's response in verse 14?
3. How does Exodus 3 connect with John 8?
4. Who is the **audience** Jesus is addressing?
5. What is the **context** surrounding the I AM statement (time, place, situation, etc.)?
 - a. What happened **prior** to Jesus saying He is the I AM?
 - b. Why did He say this, at this **particular time**?
6. What is the **response** of Jesus' audience? Do they **receive** or **reject** His teaching?
 - a. Why did they reject or accept it?

PUT IT ALL TOGETHER

7. Based on the previous answers, what is Jesus **revealing about Himself**, the I AM?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

8. How does Jesus' portrayal of Himself affect **your view** of Jesus?
 - a. Does your view of Jesus stop at great teacher, miracle worker, and suffering servant? Or do you recognize Jesus was more than just a man?
9. How would you describe Jesus to another person, **using the I AM metaphor**?

Jn 10:1-10 | The Door/Gate

BASIC INFORMATION

1. What is the metaphor Jesus is using?
2. What is the significance of a **sheepfold DOOR or GATE** in its **NATURAL** sense, not spiritual? (Fight the urge to “spiritualize” the text).
 - a. What was the importance/purpose of a **door/gate of a sheepfold** in in Jesus’ time?
 - b. How was the shepherd’s life affected if there was no door or gate?
 - c. How was the sheep’s life affected if there was no door or gate?
3. Who is the **audience** Jesus is addressing?
4. What is the **context** surrounding the I AM statement (time, place, situation, etc.)?
 - a. What happened **prior** to Jesus saying He is the Door/Gate?
 - b. Why did He say this, at this **particular time**?
5. What is the **response** of Jesus’ audience? Do they **receive** or **reject** His teaching?
 - a. Why did they reject or accept it?

PUT IT ALL TOGETHER

6. Based on the previous answers, what is Jesus **revealing about Himself**, the **Door/Gate**?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

7. How does Jesus’ portrayal of Himself affect **your view** of Jesus?
 - a. Is Jesus the access point directing you to an abundant life, or is He simply an inanimate object blocking your path from where you want to go?
8. How would you describe Jesus to another person, **using the Door/Gate metaphor**?

Jn 10:11-21 | The Good Shepherd

BASIC INFORMATION

1. What is the metaphor Jesus is using?
2. What is the significance of a **SHEPHERD** in its **NATURAL** sense, not spiritual? (Fight the urge to “spiritualize” the text).
 - a. From a sheep’s perspective, what was the importance/purpose of a **shepherd**?
 - b. How was the sheep’s life affected if the shepherd was not good, but simply a hired hand?
3. Who is the **audience** Jesus is addressing?
4. What is the **context** surrounding the I AM statement (time, place, situation, etc.)?
 - a. What happened **prior** to Jesus saying He is the Good Shepherd?
 - b. Why did He say this, at this **particular time**?
5. What is the **response** of Jesus’ audience? Do they **receive** or **reject** His teaching?
 - a. Why did they reject or accept it?

PUT IT ALL TOGETHER

6. Based on the previous answers, what is Jesus **revealing about Himself**, the **Good Shepherd**?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

7. How does Jesus’ portrayal of Himself affect **your view** of Jesus?
 - a. Have you heard His voice calling to you? Are you responding by running toward the voice, or away from it?
8. How would you describe Jesus to another person, **using the Good Shepherd metaphor**?

Jn 11:17-27 | The Resurrection and the Life

BASIC INFORMATION

1. What is the metaphor Jesus is using?
2. What is the significance of **RESURRECTION** in its **NATURAL** sense, not spiritual? (Fight the urge to “spiritualize” the text).
 - a. What was the benefit of **resurrection** in Jesus’ time?
 - b. Did Martha or Mary believe Jesus could resurrect their brother?
 - a. Explain your answer with scripture.
 - c. Why did Martha tell Jesus NOT to open Lazarus’ tomb? (V39)
 - a. What does this say about her belief in Jesus’ ability to resurrect Lazarus?
3. Who is the **audience** Jesus is addressing?
4. What is the **context** surrounding the I AM statement (time, place, situation, etc.)?
 - a. What happened **prior** to Jesus saying He is the Resurrection and the Life?
 - b. Why did He say this, at this **particular time**?
5. What is the **response** of Jesus’ audience? Do they **receive** or **reject** His teaching?
 - a. Why did they reject or accept it?

PUT IT ALL TOGETHER

6. Based on the previous answers, what is Jesus **revealing about Himself**, the **Resurrection and the Life**?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

7. How does Jesus’ portrayal of Himself affect **your view** of Jesus?
 - a. Have you been like Martha, confessing the truths of scripture, without actually believing them? Do you recognize Jesus as only the source of resurrection, or as the source of everlasting life as well?
8. How would you describe Jesus to another person, **using the Resurrection and the Life metaphor**?

Jn 14:1-11 | The Way, the Truth and the Life

BASIC INFORMATION

1. What is the metaphor Jesus is using?
2. Jesus combines 3 separate thoughts in this metaphor.
 - a. How has Jesus shown He is the Way? (Hint: John 10)
 - i. Use Scripture to answer this.
 - b. How has Jesus shown He is the Truth? (Hint: John 8)
 - i. Use Scripture to answer this.
 - c. How has Jesus shown He is the Life? (Hint: John 11)
 - i. Use Scripture to answer this.
3. Who is the **audience** Jesus is addressing?
4. What is the **context** surrounding the I AM statement (time, place, situation, etc.)?
 - a. What happened **prior** to Jesus saying He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life?
 - b. Why did He say this, at this **particular time**?
5. What is the **response** of Jesus' audience? Do they **receive** or **reject** His teaching?
 - a. Why did they reject or accept it?

PUT IT ALL TOGETHER

6. Based on the previous answers, what is Jesus **revealing about Himself**, the **Way/Truth/Life**?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

7. How does Jesus' portrayal of Himself affect **your view** of Jesus?
 - a. Are the words and actions of Jesus more than just stories to you? How are you allowing Him to be the Truth, which leads you on the Way, to everlasting Life?
8. How would you describe Jesus to another person, **using the Way/Truth/Life metaphor**?

Jn 15:1-8 | The Vine

BASIC INFORMATION

1. What is the metaphor Jesus is using?
2. What is the significance of **VINE** in its **NATURAL** sense, not spiritual? (Fight the urge to “spiritualize” the text).
 - a. From the branch’s perspective, what was the importance/purpose of the **vine**?
 - b. How was branch affected if there was no vine?
3. Who is the **audience** Jesus is addressing?
4. What is the **context** surrounding the I AM statement (time, place, situation, etc.)?
 - a. What happened **prior** to Jesus saying He is the Vine?
 - b. Why did He say this, at this **particular time**?
5. What is the **response** of Jesus’ audience? Do they **receive** or **reject** His teaching?
 - a. Why did they reject or accept it?

PUT IT ALL TOGETHER

6. Based on the previous answers, what is Jesus **revealing about Himself**, the **Vine**?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

7. How does Jesus’ portrayal of Himself affect **your view** of Jesus?
 - a. Do you act as an autonomous branch, one completely dependent on the True Vine, or are you somewhere in the middle on this? Which areas of your life do you need to be abiding more fully in Jesus?
8. How would you describe Jesus to another person, **using the Vine metaphor**?

Conclusion | Who is Jesus, in His own words?

At the beginning of this study you answered a few questions and were able to identify your current view of who Jesus was, and where those ideas came from. You analyzed whether your picture of Jesus was based on what others have told you, what you came up with yourself, or from God's Word. Whatever the source of your beliefs was, you now are able to compare them with some of what Jesus said about Himself in the Bible. Answering the following questions will allow you to see how your view of Jesus has changed at the conclusion of this study.

Questions to answer:

1. After studying the eight I AM statements of Jesus, how do they all connect to describe Jesus?
2. If you could use three I AM statements to portray Jesus to another person, which would they be?
 - a. What happens in each story?
 - b. Why did you choose these stories?
 - c. What aspect of Jesus stands out the most in each story?
 - d. Where is it in the Bible?
3. If you met someone who had never heard of Jesus, how would you describe Him?
 - a. Characteristics, personality, actions, etc.
4. How has your view of Jesus changed after your studying?
5. Which of the I AM statements had the greatest impact in changing your view?
6. How are you going to allow Jesus' description of Himself to bring change in your life?
7. Who is the first person you will share this study with?