

OVERVIEW OF JESUS' "I AM" STATEMENTS

Jesus' "I am" statements in John's Gospel are intentional echoes of God's self-revelation as "I AM" in Exodus 3:14. This reinforces the central theme of John's Gospel—established in John 1:1–2—that Jesus is God.

In total, Jesus makes seven "I am" statements:

- "I am the bread of life" (6:35)
- "I am the light of the world" (8:12)
- "I am the gate" (10:9)
- "I am the good shepherd" (10:11)
- "I am the resurrection and the life" (11:25)
- "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (14:6)
- "I am the true vine" (15:1)

The first five of these statements he makes in the presence of the public; the last two, he gives only to his disciples. Together, as a diverse congregation, we find that Jesus first addresses our universal human condition: our shared spiritual hunger, the darkness we face, our common need for safety, and our mortality in this modern life. He then shifts to how we, as his followers, need to relate to him, emphasizing that our growth is a communal act of abiding. As we abide in the True Vine together, our different backgrounds and life stages are not barriers but distinct branches of the same vine, drawing life from the same source. We need all seven statements to truly know Jesus in the fullness of His revelation—both as our Savior who meets our fundamental human needs and as our constant companion in a life of shared abiding and fruitfulness.

Ultimately, these seven "I am" statements provide a transformative foundation for both our personal spiritual growth and our effective collective witness. This six-lesson study series offers us a shared opportunity to deepen our faith together. Gaining confidence in these essential truths will, in turn, empower us to share his light, life, and truth with others.