


≡ THAT YOU MAY ≡  
**BELIEVE**



Fall 2022 Community Bible Study Guide



## ***A note from Pastor Jeff:***

*It's easy for Christians to fall into a rut: Church is a thing you do, prayer is a box to check, and faith seems far from "the real world." This fall we let Jesus himself confront our ruts. "Do you believe this?" he asks (Jn. 11:26). To believe in Jesus is to experience him. It's more than logic, argument, and doctrine. It is intimate knowledge of God himself. This fall, let Jesus himself speak to you in his seven "I AM" statements in the gospel of John. How is he changing you? What response is he inspiring in you? To believe in him changes everything.*

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### **Desired Outcomes**

- Memorize the seven statements.
- That the people of God are not lukewarm.
- That the people of God follow the Shepherd.
- That the people would discern the voice of the Good Shepherd from other voices. Know his voice to ring true.
- That the people would trust Jesus more, know him more personally and intimately.
- That the people of God are so gospeled that they are naturally agents of the gospel to others.

## Topical Schedule

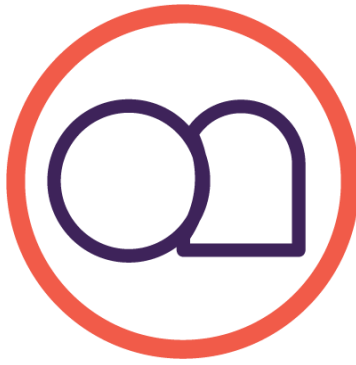
John 11:17-27	RESURRECTION
John 8:12-20	LIGHT
John 6:25-51	BREAD
John 10:1-9	DOOR
John 10:7, 10-18	SHEPHERD
John 14:1-14	WAY
John 15:1-17	VINE

Please note that Christ Memorial and Reliant schedule of the themes may not align for every week.

Each lesson in the study has several sections, questions, and ways to interact with the theme. Feel free to use the ones that work best for you, your group, or your family.

### Video Resources on the Gospel of John/I Am Statements

- <https://bibleproject.com/bible-studies/reflections/jesus-the-i-am/>
- <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/messiah/>
- <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/1-3-john/>
- <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/john-1-12/>



# RESURRECTION

## Overview

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26).

What need in us does Jesus fulfill? **Life.**

- Examine our culture's relationship with death.
- Be honest about your own mortality.
- Reflect on change as a type of death.

How does Jesus address our need? **Resurrection**

- Examine the biblical definition of resurrection; bodily life after a period of bodily death.
- See in Jesus the pattern of resurrection for the Christian.

How do we respond faithfully? **Believe**

- Reflect on the nature of belief as neither emotionalism nor intellectualism. Try to define belief.
- Examine the ways we can act upon our belief.
- Consider how your life would change if you truly believed it would last forever.

## Open

Share: What do you or family do to celebrate Easter? What do you do? Who do you gather with? What do you look forward to?

If you're in a group, make sure you know everyone. Share one high and one low from the past week.

Have one person open your time with a prayer.

## Read

Read John 11:17-27.

## React

What stands the most to you in the scripture?

How does God want you to respond to what you read?

## Scripture

How long had Lazarus been dead by the time Jesus arrived?

Why did Jesus not come right away? How did Mary and Martha feel about this?

If Martha believed in Jesus, why was she skeptical when Jesus asked them to remove the stone?

Why did Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead?

## Heart and Life

When was the last time you attended a funeral? What was it like? What was the tone of the room?

Is it easy or hard for you to believe that Jesus is the resurrection and life in those moments?

# Dive Deeper

Read 1 Corinthians 15. What is the resurrection Paul is talking about? Why is resurrection so vital to the Christian faith?

Read Isaiah 25:6-9 and rejoice in the salvation of the Lord! He will destroy death, the enemy of all people, forever!

## Activity

1. Make Resurrection Rolls

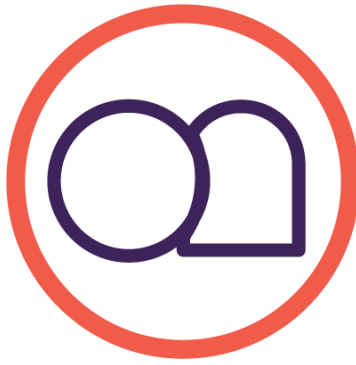
[https://www.celebratingholidays.com/?page\\_id=3282](https://www.celebratingholidays.com/?page_id=3282)

How do the rolls remind us of the resurrection?

2. Play your favorite Easter hymn or song. Here is the link to Christ Memorials Easter service 2022.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9dEYVm0zAw&t=1055s>.

Why is that Easter hymn or song your favorite?



# RESURRECTION

## **Memorize**

John 11:25

*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.*

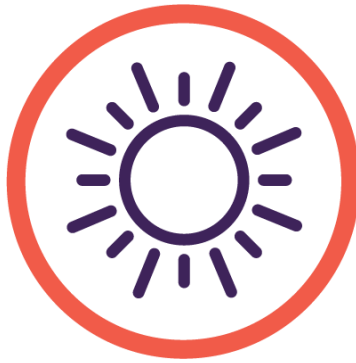
## **Pray**

Thank Jesus for entering into death and rising on the third day.

For those who have experienced the pain of death.

For faith to believe in the resurrection that Jesus has promised us.

*(Sheet to print and put on your fridge or desk)*



# LIGHT

## Overview

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12).

What need in us does Jesus fulfill? **Clear Sight.**

- List some of the characteristics and uses of light; illuminates, exposes, guides, etc.
- Reflect on the relationship of physical sight and perception or understanding.
- Recognize where your sight isn't clear and you are in need of greater light.

How does Jesus address our need? **Light**

- See how the light of Jesus is connected to the life of Jesus.
- Examine the motif of light and darkness in the Gospel of John.
- Reflect on what the light of Jesus exposes in your life.

How do we respond faithfully? **Follow**

- Examine yourself honestly. Where are you walking in light? Where are you in darkness?
- Consider one thing you can do this week to follow Jesus more faithfully.
- Jesus calls us to be light - Matt 5:14 - "You are the light of the world"



## **Open**

What is the most vivid memory of being a dark place? What did you see? (tunnel, cave, power outage, etc)

If you're in a group, make sure you know everyone. Share one high and one low from the past week.

Have one person open your time with a prayer.

## **Read**

John 8:12-20

## **React**

What stands the most to you in the scripture?

How does God want you to respond to what you read?

## **Scripture**

What are some of the characteristics and uses of light?

Why can't the Pharisees believe Jesus' claim to be the light of the world?

If Jesus is claiming to be the light, what is he trying to show us?

Why can we believe Jesus' words?

## **Heart and Life**

Where is there darkness in your life? Is there moments when it feels too dark?

When confronted with darkness, why can we see things differently?

Where are you walking in the light?

Where or with whom can you be the light of Jesus?

## Dive deeper

Compare the first day of creation (Genesis 1:1-5) with the prologue to John's Gospel (John 1:1-18). What claims is John making about Jesus?

Read Revelation 21:1-7, 22-27 and notice the source of light in the new Jerusalem (v22-23). What are the hopes that these verses stir within you? The light has come. The light will come again!

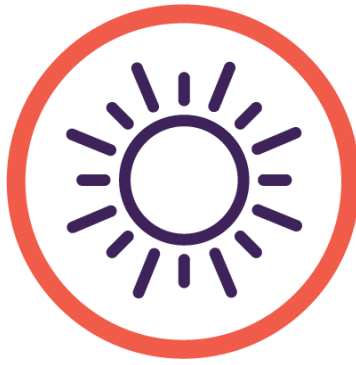
## Activity

1. Grab a candle or flashlight. Head to a dark room in the house. Maybe a closet or basement. Spend a few moments in the room with darkness. Then a few moments with the candle lit or flashlight on.

How did you feel in the complete darkness of the room?

How did you feel in the dark room with the candle lit or flashlight on?

2. Next time in worship, point out the places in the sanctuary where you see light.



# LIGHT

## **Memorize**

John 8:12

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

## **Pray**

For faith to speak, "Jesus you are light" when confronted by darkness.

For your church to reflect Jesus' light. Examples African Youth Ministry, Christ Memorial Productions, the Fitness Center, the Child Care Center, etc.

*(Sheet to print and put on your fridge or desk)*



# BREAD

## Overview

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. (John 8:12).

What need in us does Jesus fulfill? **Emptiness**

- Reflect on the experience of being hungry or thirsty. How does this transcend physical needs?
- Recall a time you worked hard to achieve a goal, but were left dissatisfied with the results.
- Be honest about the ways you try to fill yourself.

How does Jesus address our need? **Fills**

- Examine the link between John 6 and Exodus 16.
- See in Jesus the bread sent of heaven that sustains life.

How do we respond faithfully? **Feast**

- Discuss with others a time you felt satisfied by God.
- Celebrate the Lord's Supper next time it is offered.

## Open

When was the last time you were hangry (hungry and angry) Who were you with?  
What did you finally have to eat?

If you're in a group, make sure you know everyone. Share one high and one low from the past week.

Have one person open your time with a prayer.

## Read

John 6:25-51

## Reflect

What stands the most to you in the scripture?

How does God want you to respond to what you read?

## Scripture

Why are the crowds still searching for Jesus?

How does Jesus' response to their question show Jesus' desire for the people than the people's desire for themselves?

What did God provide in Exodus 16 and what is Jesus offering to the people?

Why does what Jesus offers fulfill a deeper need?

## Heart and Life

Why does what Jesus offer us seem inadequate in 2022? Is that a deficiency in what Jesus offers or a deeper deficiency in us?

What is Jesus offering that we need to be reminded of?

What do we believe about Holy Communion that satisfies our deepest needs?

## **Dive deeper**

In John 6, Jesus talks with the crowds about the manna in the wilderness. Read the account in Exodus 16. How does this help you understand John 6 in a new light?

Ponder the Lord's Prayer, especially "give us this day our daily bread." What links do you see between this petition and Jesus's promise to satisfy and fill?

## **Activity**

Make your favorite bread/dessert. Brownies, cake, cookies, etc. Eat some but then plan to give some to a friend, neighbor, family member, co-worker, etc.

Why is this bread/dessert your favorite?

What was it like to give the bread/dessert to someone else? What was their reaction to receiving the gift?



# BREAD

## **Memorize**

John 8:12

*Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."*

## **Pray**

God would show us our deepest needs.

For faith to believe that Jesus meets us in our needs.

*(Sheet to print and put on your fridge or desk)*



# DOOR

## Overview

Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. (John 10:7-9).

What need in us does Jesus fulfill? **Safety**

- Reflect on the experience of feeling safe.
- Be honest about areas of life where you don't feel secure.

How does Jesus address our need? **Sacrifice**

- Reflect on the image of Jesus as door or gate.
- See in the cross of Jesus the door to abundant life.

How do we respond faithfully? **Follow**

- Examine the rhythms of your life; where do you go in and out?
- Rest in the security of Jesus's sacrifice for you.
- See where Jesus is calling you to greater activity in the world and commit to follow.



## Open

When is the last time someone knocked on your door unexpectedly? Did you open the door?

If you're in a group, make sure you know everyone. Share one high and one low from the past week.

Have one person open your time with a prayer.

## Read

John 10:1-9

## React

What stands the most to you in the scripture?

How does God want you to respond to what you read?

## Scripture

Jesus says I am the door of the sheep. How does Jesus function as a door?

What is the good news of Jesus being the door?

What is the tough pill to swallow with Jesus being the door?

Jesus is often painted as an exclusive door. How does Jesus describe himself as inclusive?

## Heart and Life

If Jesus is the way in, what comfort do we have believing he is the door?

How does Jesus give us full life? What does a full life look like?

## Dive deeper

Read the Passover account in Exodus 12:1-13 and notice the instructions about the blood on the doorframes. How does this event point to Jesus?

Ponder the promise of Romans 8:31-39 and rest secure that nothing can separate you from the love of God in Jesus.

## **Activity**

1. Go through your house and count how many doors you see. How many did you count?
2. Go to a neighbor's house and knock on the door. Spend a few minutes saying hello and see how they are doing.



# DOOR

## **Memorize**

John 10:7-9

*Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep."*

## **Pray**

That Jesus would defend you as the door of the sheep.

For humility and patience in believing that Jesus is the door.

*(Sheet to print and put on your fridge or desk)*



# GOOD SHEPHERD

## Overview

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." (John 10:11).

What need in us does Jesus fulfill? **Be Known**

- Be honest about your tendencies to hide from others or seek attention.
- Discuss why being fully known is often uncomfortable.
- Examine the ways you curate what others know about you.

How does Jesus address our need? **By Name**

- Reflect on the good news that Jesus knows you by name.
- Listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd who sees and knows you as you are.

How do we respond faithfully? **Listen**

- Distinguish between the voice of Jesus and the other voices in your life.
- Practice the discipline of memorization as a way to listen to the voice of the Shepherd.

## Open

Is there someone you associate with regularly, but you do not know their name? In this group? At work/school? Worship?

If you're in a group, make sure you know everyone. Share one high and one low from the past week.

Have one person open your time with a prayer.

## Read

John 10:7, 10-18

## React

What stands the most to you in the scripture?

How does God want you to respond to what you read?

## Scripture

What benefit do we receive when Jesus calls himself the good shepherd?

Read John 10:16. What is the purpose of our small groups? How might Jesus' words change how you see this group?

Would you feel comfortable bringing a new friend into this group?

## Heart and Life

What does it mean to be known? In what way is it uncomfortable to be known?

How do you hear the voice of the "good shepherd" in your life with so many other voices?

## Dive deeper

Read Psalm 23 slowly and meditate on the goodness of our Shepherd.

The Shepherd-King motif runs throughout the Bible. Moses (Exodus 3:1) and David (1 Samuel 16:1-13) are two prime examples. How do these men point us to Jesus? In what ways did they fall short of being THE SHEPHERD of God's people?

## **Activity**

Find and watch sheep videos on Youtube.

For example: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/Mz2WfBFdOAU>



# GOOD SHEPHERD

## **Memorize**

John 10:10

*Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."*

## **Pray**

For the people you worship with that you do not know yet.

To listen to the voice of Jesus.

*(Sheet to print and put on your fridge or desk)*



WAY

## Overview

Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6).

What need in us does Jesus fulfill? **Direction**

- List some of the common ways our culture tries to get to God and/or achieve "the good life".
- Discuss why these various ways are appealing or not.
- Be honest about the "way" you are following.

How does Jesus address our need? **Wayfinder**

- Distinguish between "I am the way" and "This is the way"; going with a person vs. going on your own.
- Examine the link that Jesus makes between person and place.
- See the unity of the Father and the Son.

How do we respond faithfully? **Trust**

- Distinguish between trust in an idea versus trust in a person.
- Seek the narrow road that leads to life (Matt. 7:14).
- Practice disciplines of prayer as a way to put trust into action.



## Open

When is the last time your got lost? What happened?

If you're in a group, make sure you know everyone. Share one high and one low from the past week.

Have one person open your time with a prayer.

## Read

John 14:1-14

## React

What stands the most to you in the scripture?

How does God want you to respond to what you read?

## Scripture

What reason do we have for our hearts to be troubled? What need does Jesus answer when he says "I am the way."

What answer does Jesus give when Philip asks to see the father?

In what sense is Jesus as the way limiting? In what sense is Jesus as the way life giving?

What in the person and work of Jesus proves his claim to be the way?

## Heart and Life

Share a time you got "your way" but things did not work out the way you wanted.

Has following Jesus' way made your life simpler or more complex?

How do you daily live out the way of Jesus?

## **Dive deeper**

Read Hebrews 12:1-3 and reflect on Jesus as the pioneer of our faith.

Part of following Jesus is recognizing where we have strayed. Meditate on Psalm 32 as both a confession and confirmation in the way you should go.

## **Activity**

Prayer walk. Take a walk or drive in the car. While you walk or drive pray for the people who you pass or homes you go by. Ask Jesus to bless and care for them.



WAY

## **Memorize**

John 14:6

*Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life."*

## **Pray**

For the Holy Spirit to cultivate faith that leads to trusting the way of Jesus.

For humility in believe Jesus' words when he is the way.

*(Sheet to print and put on your fridge or desk)*



# VINE

## Overview

Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5).

What need in us does Jesus fulfill? **Purpose**

- Be honest about the areas in your life you seek self-sufficiency, independence, and meaning apart from Jesus.
- Distinguish between false vines and the true vine.
- Reflect on what it means to "bear fruit" and how it's related to being connected to Jesus.

How does Jesus address our need? **Connection**

- See that Jesus has already connected you to himself.
- Recognize that connection to Jesus also means connection to his Body, the Church.
- Examine the link between connection to Jesus and obedience to Jesus.

How do we respond faithfully? **Abide**

- Describe what it means to abide in Jesus.
- Support one another in staying connected to Jesus.
- Commit to prune a false vine from your life.

## Open

What was the best drink you ever had? Where was it? What was it? Who were you with?

If you're in a group, make sure you know everyone. Share one high and one low from the past week.

Have one person open your time with a prayer.

## Read

John 15:1-17

## React

What stands the most to you in the scripture?

How does God want you to respond to what you read?

## Scripture

How does being connected to Jesus as the true vine offer us a life of receiving, rather than achieving?

In verses 12-13, how does Jesus describe the cost of his love?

What is the source of our love for one another? How does this change our love for one another?

What is the "fruit that will last?"

## Heart and Life

Name a time you knew you were connected to Jesus?

What areas in your life do you seek self-sufficiency, independence, or meaning apart from Jesus?

Jesus says, "I am the vine, you are the branches." How does this reflect our call to be loved and sent?



# VINE

## **Memorize**

John 15:5

*Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches."*

## **Pray**

For one another to be connected to the true vine.

Through the week we would be reminded to love one another.

*(Sheet to print and put on your fridge or desk)*



Supplementary 42-day Book of John Reading Plan

1	1:1-28	22	11:38-57
2	1:29-51	23	12:1-36
3	2:1-25	24	12:37-50
4	3:1-21	25	13:1-17
5	3:22-36	26	13:18-38
6	4:1-26	27	14:1-14
7	4:27-54	28	14:15-31
8	5:1-30	29	15:1-17
9	5:31-46	30	15:18-27
10	6:1-24	31	16:1-15
11	6:25-59	32	16:16-33
12	6:60-71	33	17:1-19
13	7:1-24	34	17:20-26
14	7:25-52	35	18:1-18
15	8:1-30	36	18:19-40
16	8:31-59	37	19:1-27
17	9:1-12	38	19:28-42
18	9:13-41	39	20:1-18
19	10:1-21	40	20:19-31
20	10:22-42	41	21:1-14
21	11:1-37	42	21:15-25

