

## **I Am: Jesus is Lord: Intro Lesson Summary**

I spent my undergraduate years in college studying marketing and communications. We spent a significant amount of time considering advertising campaigns, branding, and marketing strategies. Central to all of these was brand and name recognition. There's something essential about a name. Names identify, differentiate, and call us to attention. My wife and I chose each of our children's names for specific reasons. It's been a joy to share with them why we selected their names and the significance of them in the Bible and our lives. If company names and personal names are significant, how much more significant is the name of God? As we enter into a new series for the summer, we are going to consider the 7 "I Am" statements of Jesus. Each one of these statements is intimately connected to the Lord's declaration that "I AM WHAT I AM" in Exodus 3:14. Jesus is identifying with the I AM.

When Moses asked God who he should tell the Israelites sent him, God responds with 3 profound answers. First, God declares that He is the I AM. He is the fullness of glory, the eternal, unchanging, self-existent one. None can compare to His authority and greatness. However, God goes further and instructs Moses to communicate even more about the identity and activities of God. Beyond declaring that He is the I AM God tells Moses to declare that the I AM sent him to them. The God of the universe sends a messenger to His people in order to promise deliverance. God's final instruction in regard to Moses' question encompasses His longstanding relationship with His people. By reminding them of His relationship with their ancestors, God is reminding them that He has been with them throughout history. These three responses to Moses' one question definitively declare that God is the fullness of glory, has eternally existed, and is deeply personal and present. God is the I AM who is with His people.

Consider the magnitude of God's response to Moses. The depth of God's words can be hard to grasp. Fast forward to Jesus' ministry and consider His public declaration that "I am...". When Jesus speaks this way there should be no misunderstanding. Jesus is declaring that He too is the I AM. Jesus is Lord, eternally existed, present with His people, and coming to deliver His people. He is not simply declaring to be the one sent by God, but that He is God Himself. He's not a helper, great teacher, or representation of God, HE IS GOD. Why is this so significant for the Christian? When Jesus declares that He is the I AM and then later promises to send His Spirit, He promises that the I AM will dwell within us through His Spirit. That changes everything! Our names become intimately connected to the I AM. Our identity changes. We are no longer defined by human standards. Our money, reputation, jobs, talents, or any other thing no longer define us, but instead, we are defined by the I AM who lives within us. In some mysterious way, we become those who offer the bread of life, share the light of the world, enter the gate and the door, and point others to the Good Shepherd who offers resurrection power and life as He shows us the way, the truth, and the life as the true vine. Jesus' declaration the He is the I AM radically redefines our identities. As we consider Jesus' words, we need to challenge the many other places we find our identity. We must be reminded that we identify with the I AM.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- 1) What are some significant names in history? Why are these names remembered?
- 2) When you consider the name I AM, what are some of your first thoughts? Have do you think you would have responded to God's call if you were Moses and had a conversation with the I AM? How do you feel when you think about how God has allowed you to have a conversation with the I AM through Christ?
- 3) When we find our identity in the reality that we have the I AM living within us, how does that challenge the other things in your life you may identify with? (social status, possessions, skillsets, ethnicity, gender, reputation, etc.)