

21 DAYS
WORSHIP THE

I AM

2024 AT-HOME GUIDE

A NOTE FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

Come Worship the I AM intensely for 21 days.

In 2024, we will focus our annual 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting on worshipping the I AM. In the book of Exodus, at the burning bush, God reveals his name to Moses. He says that he is the "I AM." Later, in chapter 8 of the Gospel of John, Jesus also claims to be the "I AM."

All my life I have been fascinated with God. My favorite class to teach at Dallas Seminary was on the doctrine of God. I have sought to know God's depths more and more. The Spirit of God reveals the deep things of God to us.

"What no eye has seen,
what no ear has heard,
and what no human mind has conceived"—
the things God has prepared for those who love him—
these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.
The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.
(1 Corinthians 2:9-10)

Many times, I have prayed Paul's prayer in Ephesians.

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and **deep** is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:17b-19)

My prayer for this 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting is that the Spirit will reveal to you the deep things of the I AM so that you might have power to grasp more of the depths of Christ and his love for you.

The I AM empowers us to carry out our vision: "to reduce loneliness, anxiety and addiction by having meaningful conversations where people experience the Holy Spirit's power through us." We must rely on the I AM so that people will experience Christ through us in the power of the Holy Spirit.

This year our focus is to **Bring the Vision Home**. To that end, we aim to **bring 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting home in 2024**. Our team has created a guide to help you do 21 Days at home, and with those close to you.

May the Lord God so transform you into the image of Jesus Christ, that by the Spirit, when people encounter you, they encounter Jesus Christ. When you walk into a room people see Jesus' love in your eyes. When you begin to talk, they hear Jesus' wisdom. I pray that Christ's life, love, and light shine through you and your home in the Spirit's power.

I invite you to a transforming spiritual experience. For 21 days, devote yourself to know and worship the I AM. Come discover who the I AM really is in his depths, and how he can give you abundant Life, a Life that you can share with others.

In Christ by the Spirit, for the I AM,

Bruce Miller
Senior Pastor

HOW TO GET STARTED

FAST

Choose something to fast from. Fasting can focus your mind. Use time you gain from fasting to engage with God individually. In 2024, we are encouraging you to consider some version of a “media fast.” Check out the CF Home mobile app or scan the QR code on this page to visit CFhome.org/21Days for tips on fasting and more ideas about what you could sacrifice over the next 21 days, along with videos on the “hows” and “whys” of fasting.

ENGAGE GOD INDIVIDUALLY

- Set a time to pray and study the Bible daily, using this guide to help you.
- Experiment with spending extended time in prayer or cultivating a new spiritual practice. For videos and tips to help you on your journey, visit cfhome.org/21days.

USE THE ENGAGE GOD DAILY

The Engage God Daily helps you to engage God individually in his Word and in prayer. We’ve included the full study for each day in this printed guide, so you’ll have everything you need, right here.

This year I am eager to lead you on a study of the “I AMs” in John’s Gospel (by the way, John is my favorite Gospel). Not only does John record Jesus claiming to be the “I AM” in John 8:58, but he also reveals seven other “I AMs” that disclose who Jesus is and what he does for us. Each of the seven includes a visual image: bread, light, gate, shepherd, resurrection, path, and a vine. Picture each one in your mind. If you are artistic, create an image of each one.

We will explore, study, and ponder the depths of Jesus Christ as he reveals himself in these 7 “I AMs” that show us who Jesus is, and disclose the Life that he gives to us.

The Engage God Daily will guide you to:

- Pray each day.
- Memorize and mediate on the 7 I AMs in John’s Gospel.
- Study texts from the Bible on the I AMs.
- Respond to God from what you are learning in his Word.

ENGAGE GOD IN YOUR HOME WITH OTHERS

Walk through the 21 days with the people you live with, your family, or roommates. You might do it with your family or close friends even if they do not live in your home through Zoom or FaceTime. You can also invite someone(s) into your home to experience 21 Days with you daily or weekly. Share what you are learning. If you are in a Life Group or other small group, you may want to do some of the 21 Days together in someone’s home.

In this guide, you’ll find a daily “**Worship Together**” page after each day’s Engage God Daily, but feel free to adapt it to the needs of your gathering. For example, if you have young children, you’ll need to keep it short, but meaningful. Or if someone gathered has a big need, you may need to spend extended time praying just for them. This is your time with God and others. Let the Spirit lead!

Each day will include:

- **WORSHIP:** A link to Spotify worship playlists
- **DISCUSS:** Meaningful conversation prompts
- **READ:** Verses you can read together
- **PRAY:** Prayer prompts

UNITE WITH OTHERS IN PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Join us on the first and last **Sunday nights for worship at the church at 6:00pm, on January 7 and 28**. We will worship the I AM together through bilingual singing, prayer, testimonies and more.

Visit cfhome.org/21days for more tips, resources, and information on our 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting.



WORSHIP THE I AM AT HOME FOR 21 DAYS

We invite you to dive into the Word for the next 21 Days - individually, and with others. We encourage you to study the Word and spend time with God in prayer, and gather each day with your spouse, your family, your neighbors, your life group, or even your long-distance friends and family via video chat.

This guide will do just that: *guide* your personal time with God through the Engage God Daily, and also guide your time together, day by day.

We've even included a few pages just for kids (pages 61-63) to help them grow their individual daily spiritual practices. Encourage them to cut out their pages, and read and pray over the verses provided each day to prepare their hearts for your gathering each evening. They can fill in the included sticker chart to track their daily progress, and color in and cut out the flash cards to help memorize the 7 I AMs.

IDEAS FOR YOUR AT-HOME GATHERINGS

For families with younger kids:

Keep it simple. We have tried to include music, verses, and at least one conversation question and prayer prompt that will work with younger kids, but you may still need to adapt the guide for your family.

For families with older kids and teens:

Select some discussion questions and prayer prompts that they would relate to best. Encourage them to read, contribute, and help lead the time together.

For adult-only households:

Consider inviting others to join you, even if it's just through a phone call on speaker or facetime.

For those who live alone:

Plan a daily meeting or phone call with a friend, family member, or group of friends.

IDEAS FOR LIFE GROUPS

You may want to meet as a small group during 21 Days and worship together. Structure the time in a way that best fits your group. Here are some suggestions:

- Share what you're fasting from and encourage one another daily in that fast.
- Share how God is moving in your life during 21 Days and pray for one another.
- Discuss what you're learning through the Engage God Daily. Use the questions listed under the "Respond" section of each day to guide you.
- Follow the At Home Guide together for the day you're meeting.

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN WORSHIP TOGETHER

- View an inspiring art piece. Share a painting, sculpture, photograph, or short video that is meaningful to you. Talk about how it draws you closer to God.
- Do something creative together. Draw, paint, or play with clay. Talk about how using your creativity draws you to God.
- Take a nature walk. Talk about how you experience God through his creation.
- Serve together. Explore ways you can serve with one of our ministry partners during 21 Days. Talk about how you experience God by serving others.

SHARE YOUR STORIES!

We would love to hear how the Spirit is moving in your life during these 21 Days, no matter how big or small. Scan the code to fill out a form to share with us:



OVERVIEW

WEEK 1 Jesus is the Bread of Life and the Light of the World

WEEK 2 Jesus is the Gate, the Shepherd, the Resurrection and the Life

WEEK 3 Jesus is the Way, Truth and Life and the True Vine

We pray that in these 21 days you will come to know Jesus, the I AM, and what he does for you.

As the bread of life: ingest him; he sustains you and satisfies you

Bread sustains life

As the light of the world: follow him; he enlightens you

Light enables life

As the gate: enter into his life; he gives you access

The gate gives access to life

As the good shepherd: listen to his voice; he protects you

The shepherd protects your life and gives you abundant life

As the resurrection and the life: believe in him; he raises you to eternal life

Jesus resurrects you to eternal life

As the way, the truth, and the life: trust him; he gives you the truthful way to life

The true way to life is found in the one who is life

As the true vine: remain in him; he gives you life and fruitfulness

The vine sustains life, enables fruitfulness and creates joy

ENGAGE GOD DAILY - WHAT'S DIFFERENT FOR 21 DAYS

Our aim is to give you about 10-15 minutes of study each day. We will provide additional opportunities throughout each week in a "For Further Study" section, if you'd like to spend more time with it. This year, we will challenge everyone to engage in richer study of God's Word.

Each day will follow a similar pattern:

1. Prepare your heart by praying to God.
2. Review the 7 I AMs
3. Study the Word
 - Observe the biblical texts closely.
 - Trace the images from the "I AM" statements in God's Word (i.e., "bread," "light," etc.)
 - Read historical background from a Bible dictionary such as on shepherding.
4. Respond - pray back to God, how will you think, feel, speak, or act differently?

Now, without further ado—let's begin!

WEEK 1

JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Bruce Miller, author

I love bread, especially a fresh, grainy bread or a hot bagel or a warm banana bread or a chocolate muffin. You get the idea. Like me, you may wonder why the first I AM statement that Jesus makes in John is that he is the Bread of Life. Bread is one of the most common, basic items that humans eat. People have been baking bread for thousands of years.

This week pray for the Spirit to grant you insight into the metaphor of bread. In what ways is Jesus like bread? Of course, he is not just bread, but the Bread of Life. As I've studied these seven I AM images, I realize they all relate to Life, Life with a capital "L." By that I mean more than just physical existence, but true Life, really living to the full, and eternal life. Fundamentally, Life comes from a relationship with the Life Giver. Jesus Christ enters us when we trust in him. Then we begin what the Bible calls "eternal life," a growing relationship with God himself.

I hope this week you will discover new insights into how Jesus is the Bread of Life by tracing his reference to "manna," which comes from an interesting, informative story in the Old Testament. I hope you will also see insights into how Jesus' miracle of feeding the 5000 sets up his identification of himself as the Bread of Life.

Not only is Jesus the Bread of Life, but he is also the Light of the World. Darkness can make me nervous. I can worry over what's hiding in the dark. Our yard does not have a fence, so when I hear our dog, Calvin, barking into the darkness, I wonder what could be in our yard. If he's barking at a rabbit, that's fine, but if a coyote came into the yard, that's concerning.

Jesus lights up our dark world and makes it less scary. This week, you'll read the story of Jesus healing the blind man and look to see how it relates to him as the Light of the Word. I hope you will also enjoy tracing the theme of light back to John chapter one and Genesis chapter one in creation.

Pray for spiritual eyes to see Jesus as the Light of the World.

DAY 1 | ENGAGE GOD DAILY | JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE

PRAY

Pray that you will understand what it means for Jesus to be the Bread of Life.

REVIEW THE 7 I AMS

The Bread of Life
The Light of the World
The Gate
The Good Shepherd
The Resurrection and the Life
The Way, the Truth, and the Life
The True Vine

STUDY GOD'S WORD

John 6:35: Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.⁴⁰ For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."

⁴¹ At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven."⁴² They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven?'"

⁴³ "Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered.⁴⁴ "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day."⁴⁵ It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me.⁴⁶ No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father.⁴⁷ Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life.⁴⁸ I am the bread of life.⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died.⁵⁰ But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die.⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

⁵² Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

⁵³ Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you."⁵⁴ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.⁵⁵ For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.⁵⁶ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them.⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me.⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever."⁵⁹ He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

▲ *WHO is involved in this story? List all the characters mentioned and referred to.*

▲ *WHAT is the setting? Where are they and how does the interaction start? Trace the flow of the conversation.*

▲ *What do you learn about Jesus from this passage?*

▲ *What is Jesus claiming about himself? How does the Bread of Life benefit those who come to him and believe?*

Let's look at the larger context.

John 6:25-59

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

²⁶ Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill."²⁷ Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."

²⁸ Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?"

²⁹ Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

³⁰ So they asked him, "What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?"³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

³² Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven."³³ For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

³⁴ "Sir," they said, "always give us this bread."

³⁵ Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."³⁶ But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe."³⁷ All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away."³⁸ For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me."³⁹ And this is the will of him who

Now read the related miracle.

John 6:1-14

Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), ² and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. ³ Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. ⁴ The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

⁵ When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

⁷ Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

⁸ Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, ⁹ "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

¹² When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." ¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

¹⁴ After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."

▲ *How is this miracle related to Jesus being the Bread of Life?*

▲ *How does this miracle set up the dialog about being the Bread of Life?*

RESPOND

Jesus accuses the people of coming to him because he gave them bread (6:26). How can we, too, come to God only for what he will give us on this earth?

Have you believed in Jesus Christ for eternal life? When did you?

Thank Jesus for giving his flesh and blood so we could live eternally.

DAY 1 | WORSHIP TOGETHER

WORSHIP

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit to lead your time together. Worship in song. Sing together, or simply listen. You can choose from our playlist provided here, or select music that is meaningful to you.



scan the code to
use our Spotify
playlist



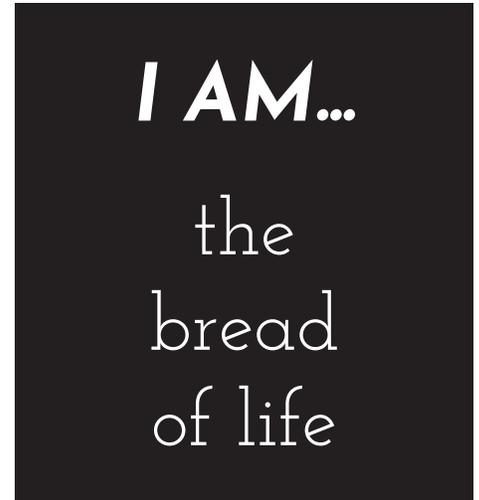
READ THE WORD

This morning in the Engage God Daily, you read John 6:25-59 where Jesus declared himself the Bread of Life.

Read **John 6:35** out loud together:

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Read more (optional): In John 6:1-14, Jesus performs a miracle and feeds a hungry crowd. Re-read this section together.



HAVE A MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION

Select as many questions as work for your gathering. Adapt the questions as needed.

- What does bread do for our physical bodies? In comparing himself to bread, what is Jesus telling us?
- Share one thing God provided today to meet your basic needs.
- Describe how God is meeting your spiritual needs through Jesus.
- What's one thing we can do to help those who are lacking basic necessities? Brainstorm ideas together. Make an action plan to help someone in need.
- What's one prayer request you'd like to share?

PRAY TOGETHER

Select as many prayer prompts as work for your gathering. Adapt as needed.

- Pray that you would know Jesus as the Bread of Life—that he would nourish, sustain, and strengthen each of you physically and spiritually.
- Praise God for providing for your basic needs.
- Pray for under-resourced people in our area. Pray that God would provide you with opportunities to meet the needs of others.
- Have each person name a friend or family member who doesn't know Jesus. Pray that they will trust in Christ. Ask for opportunities for that person to experience Christ in you.
- Pray for each person's prayer request.

DAY 2 | ENGAGE GOD DAILY | JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE

PRAY

Pray you might know Jesus as the Bread of Life, who nourishes and sustains you.

REVIEW THE 7 I AM'S

The Bread of Life
The Light of the World
The Gate
The Good Shepherd
The Resurrection and the Life
The Way, the Truth, and the Life
The True Vine

STUDY GOD'S WORD

Scan back over **John 6:25-59** focusing on every reference to "manna." Circle every use of the word, "manna."

Jesus is referring to a story from the Old

that I am the LORD your God."

¹³ That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp.

¹⁴ When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. ¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was.

Moses said to them, "It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat. ¹⁶ This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Everyone is to gather as much as they need. Take an omer for each person you have in your tent.' "

¹⁷ The Israelites did as they were told; some gathered much, some little. ¹⁸ And when they measured it by the omer, the one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little. Everyone had gathered just as much as they needed.

¹⁹ Then Moses said to them, "No one is to keep any of it until morning."

²⁰ However, some of them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell. So Moses was angry with them.

²¹ Each morning everyone gathered as much as they needed, and when the sun grew hot, it melted away. ²² On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much—two omers for each person—and the leaders of the community came and reported this to Moses. ²³ He said to them, "This is what the LORD commanded: 'Tomorrow is to be a day of sabbath rest, a holy sabbath to the LORD. So bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil. Save whatever is left and keep it until morning.' "

²⁴ So they saved it until morning, as Moses commanded, and it did not stink or get maggots in it. ²⁵ "Eat it today," Moses said, "because today is a sabbath to the LORD. You will not find any of it on the ground today. ²⁶ Six days you are to gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will not be any."

²⁷ Nevertheless, some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather it, but they found none. ²⁸ Then the LORD said to Moses, "How long will you refuse to keep my commands and my instructions? ²⁹ Bear in mind that the LORD has given you the Sabbath; that is why on the sixth day he gives you bread for two days. Everyone is to stay where they are on the seventh day; no one is to go out." ³⁰ So the people rested on

Testament.

Read Exodus 16:1-36.

The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt. ² In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. ³ The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death."

⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. ⁵ On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days."

⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt, ⁷ and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?" ⁸ Moses also said, "You will know that it was the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD."

⁹ Then Moses told Aaron, "Say to the entire Israelite community, 'Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.' "

¹⁰ While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud.

¹¹ The LORD said to Moses, ¹² "I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know

the seventh day.

³¹ The people of Israel called the bread manna. It was white like coriander seed and tasted like wafers made with honey.

³² Moses said, "This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Take an omer of manna and keep it for the generations to come, so they can see the bread I gave you to eat in the wilderness when I brought you out of Egypt.'"

³³ So Moses said to Aaron, "Take a jar and put an omer of manna in it. Then place it before the LORD to be kept for the generations to come."

³⁴ As the LORD commanded Moses, Aaron put the manna with the tablets of the covenant law, so that it might be preserved.

³⁵ The Israelites ate manna forty years, until they came to a land that was settled; they ate manna until they reached the border of Canaan.

³⁶ (An omer is one-tenth of an ephah.)

▲ *How does Jesus draw on this story to identify himself?*

▲ *How is Jesus like Manna?*

RESPOND

How could you "take in" the Bread of Life on a daily basis (like manna) to give you life?

How could eating the bread in the Lord's Supper connect you with the Bread of Life? Pray over your response.

DAY 2 | WORSHIP TOGETHER

WORSHIP

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit to lead your time together. Worship in song. Sing together, or simply listen. You can choose from our playlist provided here, or select music that is meaningful to you.



scan the code to
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playlist



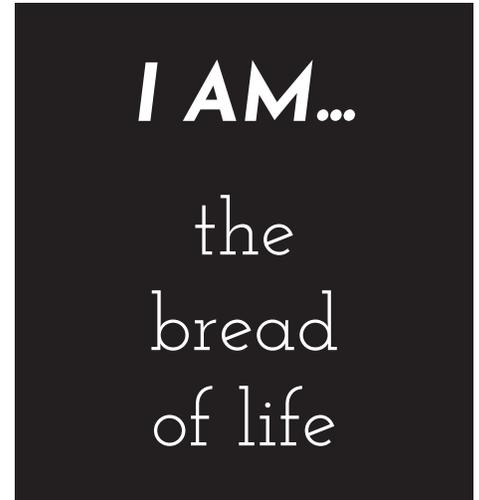
READ THE WORD

We are focusing on Jesus as the Bread of Life. Today in the Engage God Daily, you read how God provided manna to the Israelites in the desert.

Read **Exodus 16:10-12** together:

While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the Lord appearing in the cloud.

¹¹The Lord said to Moses, ¹²"I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.'"



HAVE A MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION

Select as many questions as work for your gathering. Adapt the questions as needed.

- When the Israelites were in the desert, they became afraid and grumbled, complained, and doubted that God would provide for them. Share a time when you grumbled or doubted God. How did he show you that you can trust him as your provider?
- Who is one person who showed God's love to you today? How?
- What's something that happened today that you can praise God for?
- What's one prayer request you'd like to share with those gathered?

PRAY TOGETHER

Select as many prayer prompts as work for your gathering. Adapt as needed.

- Pray that you would know Jesus as the Bread of Life. That he would nourish, sustain, and strengthen each of you physically and spiritually.
- Praise God for providing for your spiritual needs. Praise him for eternal life.
- Ask God to grow your faith. Pray that you would learn to trust him more and more, even when you're afraid.
- Pray for a missionary you know who lives in another country or pick another country to pray for outside of the US.
- Pray for each person's prayer request.

DAY 3 | ENGAGE GOD DAILY | JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE

PRAY

Pray you may more and more grasp what it means that Jesus is the Bread of Life in your life.

REVIEW THE 7 I AMS

The Bread of Life
The Light of the World
The Gate
The Good Shepherd
The Resurrection and the Life
The Way, the Truth, and the Life
The True Vine

STUDY GOD'S WORD

Read the references to bread in John's Gospel outside of chapter 6 (it's only in two other chapters). In what other contexts does John use the word "bread"? To gain more context, look up John

John 21:9

⁹ When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

John 21:13

¹³ Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

What have you learned about the image of bread?

Now let's look at New Testament references to manna outside of John 6. What do you notice? You may want to look up Hebrew 9 and Revelation 2 to understand more of the context.

Hebrews 9:4

⁴ which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant.

Revelation 2:17

¹⁷ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.

▲ *What do you notice about the mention of manna?*

13 and 21 in your Bible. What's going on in those chapters? What significance does bread have to the stories John is telling?

John 13:18

¹⁸ "I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: 'He who shared my bread has turned against me.'

John 13:26

²⁶ Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.

John 13:27

²⁷ As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. So Jesus told him, "What you are about to do, do quickly."

John 13:30

³⁰ As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

RESPOND

How is the Bread of Life more important to you than physical "bread"?

How are you taking in the Bread of Life on a daily basis? Pray over your answer.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Open up a digital Bible (such as Bible Gateway) and type the word "bread" into the search bar. We already looked at the references in John. Now let's look at the widening circles of context, starting with the other books John wrote (1, 2, and 3 John and Revelation), then the other Gospels, the whole New Testament, and finally in the entire Bible.

In the NIV, I found this many references to "bread," in each circle. How many did you find in your translation?

John: 25

Other books by John: 25

Gospels: 67

The New Testament: 83

Bible: 267

Then type in "manna." I found 20 references in the NIV. Read all the Old Testament passages that mention "manna."

DAY 3 | WORSHIP TOGETHER

WORSHIP

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit to lead your time together. Worship in song. Sing together, or simply listen. You can choose from our playlist provided here, or select music that is meaningful to you.



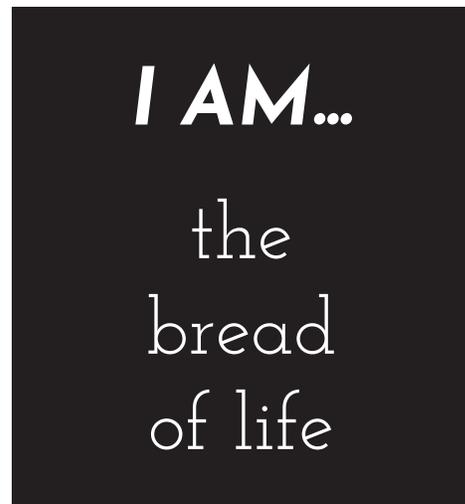
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READ THE WORD

This morning in the Engage God Daily, you looked at other times bread is mentioned in John's Gospel. One of those times is during the Last Supper. Jesus announces that one of his disciples will betray him. He goes on to indicate who it will be:

Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot (John 13:25-26).



HAVE A MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION

Select as many questions as work for your gathering. Adapt the questions as needed.

- Why is it amazing that Jesus would share a meal with and offer bread to someone who was going to betray him?
- How can you be like Jesus when someone is mean to you? How can you show them kindness?
- It's during this Last Supper that Jesus tells us to celebrate the Lord's Supper. How is it significant that Jesus tells us to remember that his body was broken for us as we eat the bread?
- What's one prayer request you'd like to share with those gathered?

PRAY TOGETHER

Select as many prayer prompts as work for your gathering. Adapt as needed.

- Pray that you would know Jesus as the Bread of Life. That he would nourish, sustain, and strengthen each of you physically and spiritually.
- Pray that God will help you show kindness to those who hurt you.
- Have each person name someone they know who is going through a hard time—maybe because of illness, relationship hurt, financial trouble, or another struggle. (Be careful not to share any confidential details that you might know.) Pray for them.
- Pray for each person's prayer request.

DAY 4 | ENGAGE GOD DAILY | JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

PRAY

Pray to know Christ as the Light of the World and be filled with his light.

REVIEW THE 7 I AMS

The Bread of Life
The Light of the World
The Gate
The Good Shepherd
The Resurrection and the Life
The Way, the Truth, and the Life
The True Vine

STUDY GOD'S WORD

Read John 8:12

¹² When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

¹⁴ Jesus answered, "Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going. ¹⁵ You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one. ¹⁶ But if I do judge, my decisions are true, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me. ¹⁷ In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true. ¹⁸ I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me."

▲ *What is the benefit if we follow the Light of the World?*

▲ *What do you think the "darkness" represents?*

Let's look at the larger context.

John 8:12-20

¹² When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

¹⁵ The Pharisees challenged him, "Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid."

¹⁹ Then they asked him, "Where is your father?"

"You do not know me or my Father," Jesus replied. "If you knew me, you would know my Father also." ²⁰ He spoke these words while teaching in the temple courts near the place where the offerings were put. Yet no one seized him, because his hour had not yet come.

▲ *Why do the Pharisees accuse Jesus' testimony of not being valid? How does Jesus reply?*

▲ *From this passage, how would you describe Jesus' relationship with his father?*

RESPOND

To what extent are you following the Light of the Word?

How could you walk in the Light today? Pray over your response.

DAY 4 | WORSHIP TOGETHER

WORSHIP

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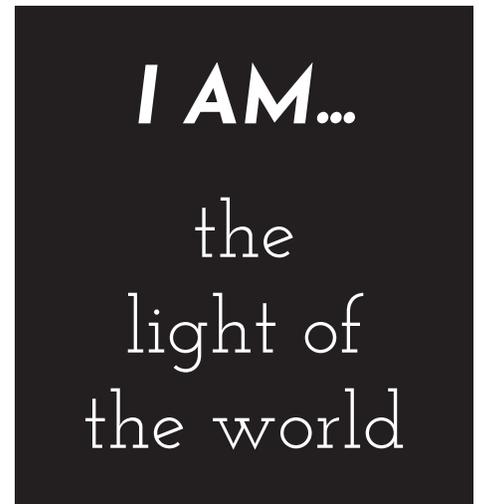


READ THE WORD

This morning in the Engage God Daily, you read John 8:12-20 where Jesus declared himself the Light of the World.

Read **John 8:12** together:

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."



HAVE A MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION

Select as many questions as work for your gathering. Adapt the questions as needed.

- What's scary about the dark? Why do we need light?
- According to the verse we read, what is the benefit if we follow the Light of the World? What do you think "darkness" represents here?
- What does it mean to follow Jesus? How are you a Jesus follower?
- What's one prayer request you'd like to share with those gathered?

PRAY TOGETHER

Select as many prayer prompts as work for your gathering. Adapt as needed.

- Pray that you would know Jesus as the Light of the World—that he would allow you to see truth, guide you, and reassure you in dark times.
- Pray that the people in your life who do not follow Jesus would come to know the Light of the World.
- Pray for your neighbors who live next door, even if you don't know them by name. Pray for an opportunity to have a meaningful conversation with them.
- Pray for each person's prayer request.

DAY 5 | ENGAGE GOD DAILY | JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

PRAY

Pray to know the power and presence of the Light of the World.

REVIEW THE 7 I AMS

The Bread of Life
The Light of the World
The Gate
The Good Shepherd
The Resurrection and the Life
The Way, the Truth, and the Life
The True Vine

STUDY GOD'S WORD

Read the related miracle in John 9:1-41 where Jesus heals a blind man.

Read John 9:1-41

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples

asked him, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided.

¹⁷Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened."

The man replied, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. ¹⁹"Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?"

²⁰"We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. ²¹But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner."

²⁵He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

²⁶Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

²⁷He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?"

²⁸Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! ²⁹We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from."

³⁰The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. ³²Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

³⁴To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

³"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

⁶After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. ⁷"Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

⁸His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?"

⁹Some claimed that he was.

Others said, "No, he only looks like him."

But he himself insisted, "I am the man."

¹⁰"How then were your eyes opened?" they asked.

¹¹He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see."

¹²"Where is this man?" they asked him.

"I don't know," he said.

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind.

¹⁴Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see."

¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath."

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

³⁶ "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."

³⁷ Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."

³⁸ Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

³⁹ Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

⁴⁰ Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and

asked, "What? Are we blind too?"

⁴¹ Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

▲ *How does Jesus identify himself?*

▲ *Why was this man blind?*

▲ *In what ways were the Pharisees blind?*

▲ *How does this miracle relate to Jesus' identity as the Light of the World?*

RESPOND

In what ways can we be blind today like the religious leaders?

How can you respond to Jesus as the blind man did (see v. 38)? Pray over your response.

DAY 5 | WORSHIP TOGETHER

WORSHIP

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit to lead your time together. Worship in song. Sing together, or simply listen. You can choose from our playlist provided here, or select music that is meaningful to you.



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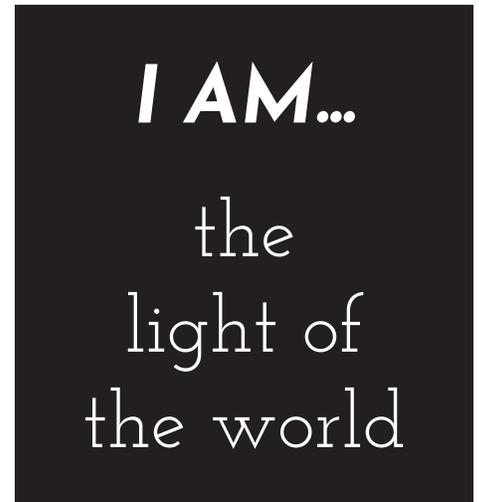


READ THE WORD

This morning in the Engage God Daily, you read about a miracle related to Jesus' claim that he is the Light of the World. In **John 9:1-41** Jesus heals a blind man:

"As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing (John 9:4-7).



HAVE A MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION

Select as many questions as work for your gathering. Adapt the questions as needed.

- Do you know anyone who is physically blind? Or more commonly, someone who needs glasses or contacts to see? What is hard about not being able to see?
- How does knowing Jesus as the Light of the World give us sight to see the world as God sees it? How should that kind of sight impact how we live?
- What's one prayer request you'd like to share with those gathered?

PRAY TOGETHER

Select as many prayer prompts as work for your gathering. Adapt as needed.

- Pray that you would know Jesus as the Light of the World. That he would allow you to see truth, guide you, and reassure you in dark times.
- Pray for someone you know who deals with a physical disability or an ongoing health issue. Pray for healing. Pray that they would feel known and loved. Pray for God's comfort and care in their lives.
- Have each person name a current teacher or supervisor from their job. Pray for them.
- Pray for each person's prayer request.

DAY 6 | ENGAGE GOD DAILY | JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

PRAY

Pray to help others discover the Light of the World.

REVIEW THE 7 I AM'S

The Bread of Life
The Light of the World
The Gate
The Good Shepherd
The Resurrection and the Life
The Way, the Truth, and the Life
The True Vine

STUDY GOD'S WORD

John uses the image of light throughout his Gospel.

Read the 21 uses in the Gospel of John.

John 1:4

⁴In him was life, and

that life was the light of all mankind.

John 1:5

⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:7

⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.

John 1:8

⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

John 1:9

⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

John 3:19

¹⁹This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

John 3:20

²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.

John 3:21

²¹But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

John 5:35

³⁵John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you chose for a time to enjoy his light.

John 8:12

¹²When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 9:5

⁵While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

John 11:9

⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light."

John 11:10

¹⁰It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.

John 12:35

³⁵Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going."

John 12:36

³⁶"Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light." When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them.

John 12:46

⁴⁶I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

▲ *How does John use "light" to open his Gospel (notice the references from chapter 1)?*

Now, look at the uses of "light" in Genesis chapter one, and note the connections to "light" in John chapter one.

Genesis 1:3-5

³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

⁴God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.

⁵God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

Genesis 1:14-18

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so.

¹⁶God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the

day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars.

¹⁷ God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good.

▲ How does John use "light" in Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus in John 3?

▲ According to John 12, what is a Christian's relationship to the Light of the World?

RESPOND

Take time to thank Jesus for being the Light of the World.

Determine how you will shine your light today. Pray over your response.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Trace the theme of light in God's Word in increasingly larger circles of context. Search an online Bible, such as Bible Gateway. How many uses in each circle did you find in your translation?

John: 21

Johannine literature: 38

Gospels: 50

New Testament: 100

Old Testament: 144

Look up some of the Old Testament references. Consider the uses of the image "light" in different genres of Scripture: history, wisdom, prophets. Note the significance of light in creation, the Exodus, the tabernacle/temple, and in wisdom literature, especially Psalms and Proverbs.

DAY 6 | WORSHIP TOGETHER

WORSHIP

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit to lead your time together. Worship in song. Sing together, or simply listen. You can choose from our playlist provided here, or select music that is meaningful to you.



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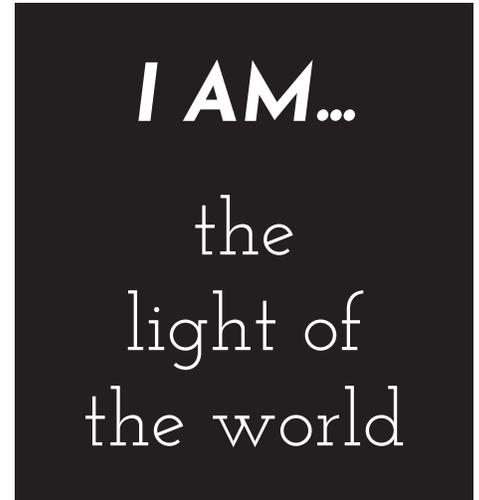


READ THE WORD

Today in the Engage God Daily, you looked at other times light is mentioned in John's Gospel. John talks about light a lot and often uses it to describe Jesus. Look at how John describes Jesus in the beginning of his Gospel:

In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1:4-5).

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God (John 1:9-12).



HAVE A MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION

Select as many questions as work for your gathering. Adapt the questions as needed.

- How does it make you feel safe knowing that Jesus is the Light and the darkness cannot overcome him?
- John says that the Light came into the world, but "the world" did not recognize him. What do you think John means by "the world" and why do you think the world fails to recognize Jesus as the Light?
- Are you someone who has received Jesus and believed in his name? If so, what does it mean to you that you have become a child of God?
- What's one prayer request you'd like to share with those gathered?

PRAY TOGETHER

Select as many prayer prompts as work for your gathering. Adapt as needed.

- Pray that you would know Jesus as the Light of the World. That he would allow you to see truth, guide you, and reassure you in dark times.
- Praise Jesus for being the Light of the World. Thank him for what he has done for you.
- Pray for government leaders, that they would know Jesus as the Light and govern according to the light he provides. Have each person pick a city, county, state, or federal office and pray for those leaders.
- Pray for each person's prayer request.

DAY 7 | ENGAGE GOD DAILY | JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

PRAY

Pray to more deeply know the Light of the Word, Jesus Christ, and be filled with his light.

REVIEW THE 7 I AMS

The Bread of Life
The Light of the World
The Gate
The Good Shepherd
The Resurrection and the Life
The Way, the Truth, and the Life
The True Vine

STUDY GOD'S WORD

Review our two main verses for this week.

John 6:35

³⁵ Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

John 8:12

¹² When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

- ▲ Given your study this week, how has your understanding deepened about how Jesus is the Bread of Life?
- ▲ The Light of the World?
- ▲ How is God the Father associated with bread and light? How do these images connect the Father and the Son?

RESPOND

Spend time in prayer reflecting on what God has shown you personally this week through his Holy Spirit as you've studied the Word.

How does your richer understanding that Jesus is the Bread of Life impact your life?

How does your richer understanding that Jesus is the Light of the World impact your life?

What has God revealed to you this week? How has he convicted you? Comforted you or inspired you?

DAY 7 | WORSHIP TOGETHER

WORSHIP

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit to lead your time together. Worship in song. Sing together, or simply listen. You can choose from our playlist provided here, or select music that is meaningful to you.



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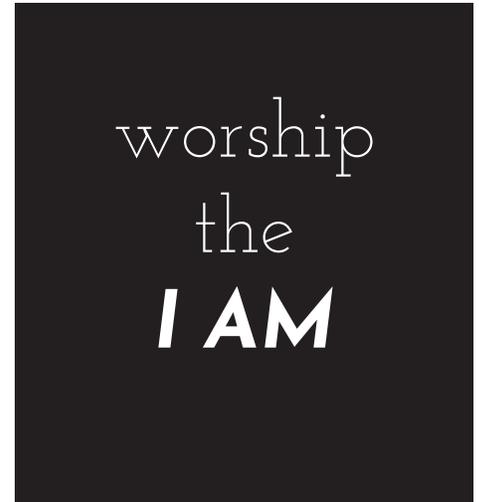
READ THE WORD

Let's review our two main verses for the week.

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." (John 6:35)

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Over the 21 Days, we want to memorize the "I AM" statements. What two "I AM" statements have we focused on so far? Say them together.



HAVE A MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION

Select as many questions as work for your gathering. Adapt the questions as needed.

- What have you learned this week about Jesus as the Bread of Life?
- What have you learned this week about Jesus as the Light of the World?
- Share what you've experienced during the first week of 21 Days. How have you experienced God through fasting, Bible study, individual prayer, and prayer with one another?
- Encourage one another to continue to dedicate time to worshipping the I AM for the rest of the 21 Days. Encourage those who've missed days to jump back in and keep going.
- What's one prayer request you'd like to share with those gathered?

PRAY TOGETHER

Select as many prayer prompts as work for your gathering. Adapt as needed.

- Pray that you would know Jesus as the Bread of Life and the Light of the World.
- Pray for one another, that each of you will experience God during the 21 Days— that you will be faithful to fast, pray, and study God's Word.
- Pray for each person's prayer request.

WEEK 2

JESUS IS THE GATE, SHEPHERD, RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

Bruce Miller, author

This is the only week we get to study three of the “I AMs” in John’s Gospel. Two are in chapter 10, the Gate and the Shepherd, and both are drawn from metaphors around sheep. One is in chapter 11 and combines the images of resurrection and life.

Since shepherding is unfamiliar to most of us in suburban America, it’s worth learning a bit about the historical practice to better understand the metaphors of the “gate (also translated “door”) and the “good shepherd.” These images give me insights into Jesus’ love and care for me. He protects me and watches over me.

Once you understand more about how Jesus is a good shepherd, you can see how you can be a “shepherd” to others—your friends, family, children, those you mentor, and those you work with or who work under you.

Then when you move to John 11, you will encounter a detailed and fascinating story about Jesus miraculously raising his friend Lazarus from the dead. It’s in the context of this story that Jesus reveals himself to be the resurrection and the life. He shares implications of this truth with Mary and Martha, Lazarus’ sisters, and also Jesus’ friends.

I’m deeply struck by what Jesus says right after he states that he is the resurrection and the life. This week enjoy pondering John 11:25-26, as you consider the implications for you and those you love as you face your death and theirs. You too should answer Jesus’ question at the end of verse 26.

DAY 8 | ENGAGE GOD DAILY | JESUS IS THE GATE

PRAY

Pray that you will come to understand how Jesus is the Gate.

REVIEW THE 7 I AMS

The Bread of Life
The Light of the World
The Gate
The Good Shepherd
The Resurrection and the Life
The Way, the Truth, and the Life
The True Vine

STUDY GOD'S WORD

Read John 10:7

⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep."

▲ *The word "gate" can also be translated "door." What are functions of a gate or door?*

Let's look at the larger context.

John 10:1-10

"Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

▲ *Identify the references to the images. Who is the gate? The gatekeeper? The thieves? The sheep? Pasture?*

▲ *Describe the contrasting results for those who enter through the true Gate and those who follow thieves?*

RESPOND

Have you entered the "Gate" and been saved? When did you do this?

To what extent are you living in "pasture," a full, abundant life? Pray over your response, asking the Holy Spirit for insight.

DAY 8 | WORSHIP TOGETHER

WORSHIP

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit to lead your time together. Worship in song. Sing together, or simply listen. You can choose from our playlist provided here, or select music that is meaningful to you.



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READ THE WORD

This morning in the Engage God Daily, you read John 10:1-10 where Jesus declared that he was the gate (some translations say “door”) for the sheep.

Read **John 10:7** together:

Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.”

Jesus goes on to explain: *“I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.” (John 10:9)*



HAVE A MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION

Select as many questions as work for your gathering. Adapt the questions as needed.

- The word “gate” in the verse above can also be translated “door.” Why do we have gates or doors? What do they do?
- How is Jesus like a gate for us? What does he lead to? What does he keep out?
- Describe how you entered through the gate to salvation. When did you put your full trust in Christ and decide to follow him?
- What’s one prayer request you’d like to share with those gathered?

PRAY TOGETHER

Select as many prayer prompts as work for your gathering. Adapt as needed.

- Pray that you would more and more know Jesus as the Gate to salvation—that you would experience his “pasture” (a full, abundant life) now, even as you wait to experience it fully in Heaven.
- Have each person pray for someone who hasn’t yet gone through the gate to salvation. How can you help them find and follow Christ?
- This week, we’re going to pray for our church. Today, pray for Christ Fellowship to be a place where people would feel less lonely and more connected, experience less anxiety and more of the peace of God, and be freed from addictions and into healthy habits.
- Pray for each person’s prayer request.

DAY 9 | ENGAGE GOD DAILY | JESUS IS THE SHEPHERD

PRAY

Pray that you will grow in your understanding of Jesus as Shepherd.

REVIEW THE 7 I AMS

The Bread of Life
The Light of the World
The Gate
The Good Shepherd
The Resurrection and the Life
The Way, the Truth, and the Life
The True Vine

STUDY GOD'S WORD

Read John 10:11

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

▲ *How did the good shepherd lay down*

his life for the sheep? How could that image be true in a real historical context with a physical shepherd and sheep?

sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

¹⁹ The Jews who heard these words were again divided.

²⁰ Many of them said, "He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?"

²¹ But others said, "These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

▲ *WHO is mentioned in this passage? Identify all characters.*

▲ *List contrasts between the good shepherd and the hired hand?*

▲ *How do the sheep know the Shepherd?*

▲ *Describe Jesus' authority in relation to the Father.*

Let's look at the larger context.

John 10:11-21

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other

RESPOND

How well do you know the voice of the Shepherd? How well do you listen to his voice?

How could you listen to the Shepherd's voice today?

How do you feel about the truth that the good Shepherd cares for you so much he gave his life for you?

DAY 9 | WORSHIP TOGETHER

WORSHIP

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit to lead your time together. Worship in song. Sing together, or simply listen. You can choose from our playlist provided here, or select music that is meaningful to you.



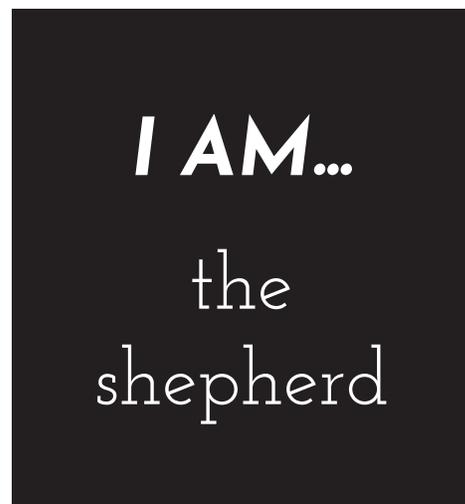
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READ THE WORD

This morning in the Engage God Daily, you read John 10:11-21 where Jesus declared that he was the Good Shepherd.

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



HAVE A MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION

Select as many questions as work for your gathering. Adapt the questions as needed.

- What does a shepherd do?
- How has Jesus shown us that he is a good shepherd? How did he lay his life down for us?
- What does Jesus' sacrificial love mean to you? How should we live in light of it?
- What's one prayer request you'd like to share with those gathered?

PRAY TOGETHER

Select as many prayer prompts as work for your gathering. Adapt as needed.

- Pray that you would know Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Pray that you would experience his loving, sacrificial care for you and respond in obedience to his guidance.
- Spend some time thanking Jesus for laying down his life for us.
- Pray for Christ Fellowship: Pray that God would strengthen our unity as one church, two languages as we listen to and follow the Shepherd's voice.
- Pray for each person's prayer request.

DAY 10 | ENGAGE GOD DAILY | JESUS IS THE SHEPHERD

PRAY

Pray that you will become like the Good Shepherd in relationships where you lead others.

REVIEW THE 7 I AMS

The Bread of Life
The Light of the World
The Gate
The Good Shepherd
The Resurrection and the Life
The Way, the Truth, and the Life
The True Vine

STUDY GOD'S WORD

Read all the references to shepherds in the New Testament outside of the Gospels. (Bonus: search the word "shepherd" on an online Bible, such as Bible Gateway, and

² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve;

1 Peter 5:4

⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

Jude 12

¹² These people are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm—shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted—twice dead.

Revelation 7:17

¹⁷ For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

▲ *How are church leaders to be shepherds?*

▲ *How is Jesus described by Peter and the author of Hebrews?*

▲ *What do we learn about Jesus is the last reference to a shepherd in the Bible?*

read the references to shepherds in all the Gospels. Note the birth of Jesus in Luke.)

Acts 20:28

²⁸ Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

Hebrews 13:20

²⁰ Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep,

1 Peter 2:25

²⁵ For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

1 Peter 5:2

RESPOND

Take time to praise Jesus for being our good and chief shepherd.

How can you better follow the Good Shepherd's voice?

How can you better "shepherd" other people as Jesus does?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Trace the word "shepherd" in the increasingly larger circles of context.

John: 6 (all in chapter 10)

Other books by John: 1 in Revelation

Gospels: 16

New Testament: 23

Old Testament: 101

(To go deeper, focus on the Old Testament references to shepherds. Consider the uses of the image "shepherd" in the different genres of Scripture such as history, wisdom, and prophets. Note the way Ezekiel speaks of shepherds.)

DAY 10 | WORSHIP TOGETHER

WORSHIP

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit to lead your time together. Worship in song. Sing together, or simply listen. You can choose from our playlist provided here, or select music that is meaningful to you.



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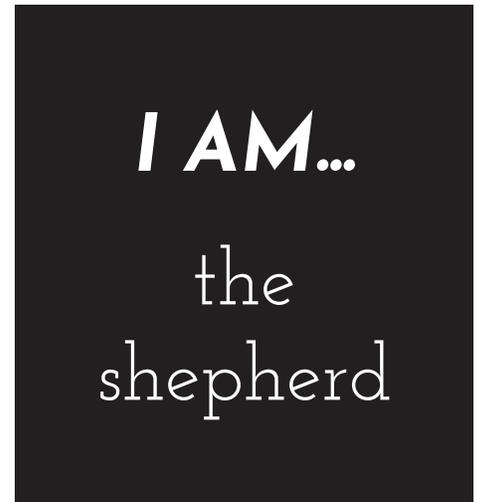


READ THE WORD

Today in the Engage God Daily, you read other references to shepherds that appear in the New Testament. Notice how Peter describes what Jesus did for us and how we are compared to sheep.

Read **1 Peter 2:24-25** together:

"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.



HAVE A MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION

Select as many questions as work for your gathering. Adapt the questions as needed.

- What are sheep like? Why do they need shepherds? Why do we need a Good Shepherd?
- 1 Peter 2:25 calls Jesus our "Overseer." Other translations say "guardian" or "mentor." How does Jesus oversee or mentor you?
- Peter says that Jesus bore our sins so that we can die to sins and live for righteousness. In what ways, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, are you doing that?
- What's one prayer request you'd like to share with those gathered?

PRAY TOGETHER

Select as many prayer prompts as work for your gathering. Adapt as needed.

- Pray that you would know Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Pray that you would experience his loving, sacrificial care for you and respond in obedience to his guidance.
- Pray that more and more that you would die to sin and live for righteousness.
- Pray for Christ Fellowship: Pray that as the people of Christ Fellowship, we would grow to be more and more like Jesus and that each of us will help someone feel known and loved.
- Pray for each person's prayer request.

DAY 11 | ENGAGE GOD DAILY | JESUS IS THE SHEPHERD

PRAY

Pray that you will ever more love and trust the Good Shepherd who gave his life for you and that you will obediently follow him.

REVIEW THE 7 I AMS

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The Gate
The Good Shepherd
The Resurrection and the Life
The Way, the Truth, and the Life
The True Vine

STUDY GOD'S WORD

Study historical background on shepherds by reading excerpts from two articles: one in the *Lexham Bible Dictionary* and one in the *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*.

In Acts, Paul warns the Ephesian elders of false teachers (i.e., “the wolves”) and admonishes them to shepherd and care for the flock—“the church of God” (Acts 20:28-30). In Ephesians 4:11, Paul references offices that Christ ordained to strengthen the Church. The position often translated “pastor” is the same Greek word (ποιμήν, poimēn) that is usually translated as “shepherd.”

▲ What’s one or two interesting facts you learned about shepherds in the Bible?

▲ What’s one of the most helpful insights you gained about Jesus being the Good Shepherd in light of the historical background on shepherds in the Bible?

Based on Information from the *Lexham Bible Dictionary*:

SHEPHERD (הֹרֵעַ, הָרֵעַ; ποιμήν, poimēn). In the ancient world, the metaphor of shepherding is often connected with a “king’s role as just ruler, benevolent provider and/or powerful defender” (Laniak, *Shepherds after My Own Heart*, 58). Gods were known to share this title in the ancient Near East.

Rulers are often depicted as shepherds in Graeco-Roman literature [such as in Homer, Plato, and Aristotle].

Due to the economic importance of sheep, a shepherd’s role was marked by a sustained vigilance for his flock. Shepherds dealt with inclement weather, substandard lodging, and the threat of dangerous animals intent on preying on the flock (Gen 31:40; Joel 1:17-20; Amos 1:2; 3:12; Isa 31:4; 38:12; 1 Sam 17:34-35; Mic 5:8).

Shepherds also guided the flock to sustenance and places of rest (1 Chr 4:39-41; Psa 23:2; Gen 33:13). He was responsible for keeping the flock together and finding any that were lost (Ezek 34:11-12).

New Testament

The only literal reference to shepherds in the New Testament occurs in Luke’s birth narrative, where shepherds come to see Jesus in a manger (Luke 2:8-20). Other uses are metaphorical, much like the majority of Old Testament uses.

In the Gospels, Jesus is portrayed as the “good shepherd”:

- He exhibits compassion for the helpless (Matt 9:6; Mark 6:34)
- He seeks out his lost sheep of Israel (Matt 18:12-14; Luke 15:3-7)
- His mission is to gather those who have been scattered (Matt 10:6; 15:24)
- As the good shepherd, He will sacrifice His own life for the sake of the flock (John 10:11, 15, 17, 18)
- He knows His sheep (John 10:14-15, 27)
- His sheep know Him and follow Him (John 10:4-5, 15, 27)

Based on information from the *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*:

Sheep, Shepherd

Abraham, Isaac, Moses, David and Amos were all shepherds (Gen 12:16; 26:14; Ex 3:1; 2 Sam 7:8; Amos 1:1). Shepherds were not always men; shepherdesses include Rebekah (Gen 29:9) and the daughters of Jethro (Ex 2:16).

Sheep in ancient Palestine wouldn’t survive long without a shepherd—they were completely dependent on shepherds for protection, food, water, shelter, and recovering from injuries. Sheep are also prone to wandering and unable to find their way back to the flock even when it is in sight. Because of the helplessness of sheep, they need a good shepherd, one who is compassionate, caring, and attentive to their many needs.

To protect sheep against predators, shepherds would carry two pieces of equipment, the “rod and staff” of Psalm 23:4, one of them a clublike weapon and the other the familiar crook used for protection, rescue and placing across the backs of sheep to count them as they entered the sheepfold (a process known as “the rodding of the sheep”; see Lev 27:32). Psalm 23, built around a typical day in the life of a shepherd, is a virtual handbook of these shepherding practices.

Shepherds were thus providers, guides, protectors and constant companions of sheep. They were also figures of authority and leadership to the animals under their care.

▲ What were functions of a shepherd in ancient times?

▲ How does the imagery of a shepherd describe a godly leader?

▲ What new insights did you gain into how Jesus is the Good Shepherd and what that image conveys?

RESPOND

Praise God the Father and Jesus for being your Shepherd.

How are you like a sheep in need of a Shepherd? Pray over your answer.

How can you better shepherd someone today? Maybe one of your kids, someone who works under you, or someone who needs mentoring. Ask the Spirit for strength and wisdom.

DAY 11 | WORSHIP TOGETHER

WORSHIP

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit to lead your time together. Worship in song. Sing together, or simply listen. You can choose from our playlist provided here, or select music that is meaningful to you.



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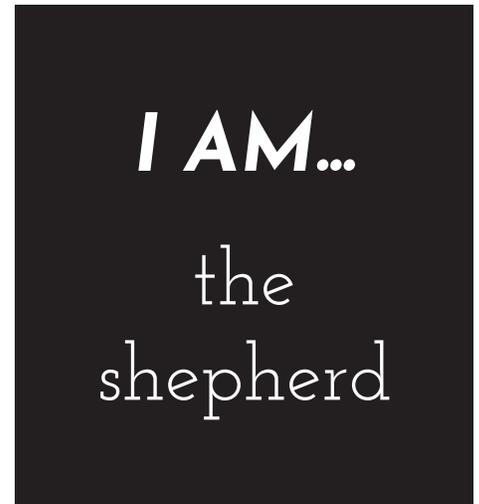
READ THE WORD

This morning in the Engage God Daily, you read about sheep and shepherds. God is not the only one compared to a shepherd. Leaders were described as shepherds too.

Read **Ephesians 4:11-13** together:

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

The Lexham Bible Dictionary taught us that the position often translated "pastor" is the same Greek word that is usually translated as "shepherd."



HAVE A MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION

Select as many questions as work for your gathering. Adapt the questions as needed.

- How are pastors like shepherds? What kinds of things do they do?
- The Bible compares other leaders to shepherds as well. How is a good leader like a good shepherd?
- Is there anyone you are responsible for "shepherding"? As a parent, manager, teacher, mentor, or small group leader? How can you shepherd people well? What are some mistakes you want to avoid?
- What's one prayer request you'd like to share with those gathered?

PRAY TOGETHER

Select as many prayer prompts as work for your gathering. Adapt as needed.

- Pray that you would know Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Pray that you would experience his loving, sacrificial care for you and respond in obedience to his guidance.
- If you are a "shepherd" of some kind, pray that God will give you grace, patience, wisdom, and strength to be a good shepherd.
- Pray for Christ Fellowship: Pray for the leaders in our church—elders, pastors, staff, and volunteer leaders—that God would lead and guide them as they shepherd people.
- Pray for each person's prayer request.

PRAY

Pray that you will better understand how Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life.

REVIEW THE 7 I AMS

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The True Vine

STUDY GOD'S WORD

Read John 11:25

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;

¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

▲ *How does Jesus describe himself?*

²¹ "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

▲ *What happens to the person who believes in him?*

²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

Let's look at the larger context.

²⁴ Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

John 11:1-44

¹ Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) ³ So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

⁴ When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." ⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, ⁷ and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

²⁷ "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

⁸ "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?"

²⁸ After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." ²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. ¹⁰ It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light."

³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

¹¹ After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up."

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied.

¹² His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better."

¹³ Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

³⁵ Jesus wept.

¹⁴ So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

³⁶ Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

¹⁶ Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a

cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ "Take away the stone," he said.

"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."

⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

▲ *How is the miracle of raising Lazarus related to how Jesus identifies himself?*

▲ *WHO is involved in this story? Note all the characters.*

▲ *What does Jesus say is the purpose of Lazarus' sickness? (11:4,14 and 40-41)*

RESPOND

Do you know for sure that you will have eternal life when you die? Why or why not?

How do you relate to Martha and to Mary? Which one do you identify with more and

How would you rate your own faith in God on a scale from 1 to 10? Take a moment to pray that God will grow your faith.

DAY 12 | WORSHIP TOGETHER

WORSHIP

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit to lead your time together. Worship in song. Sing together, or simply listen. You can choose from our playlist provided here, or select music that is meaningful to you.



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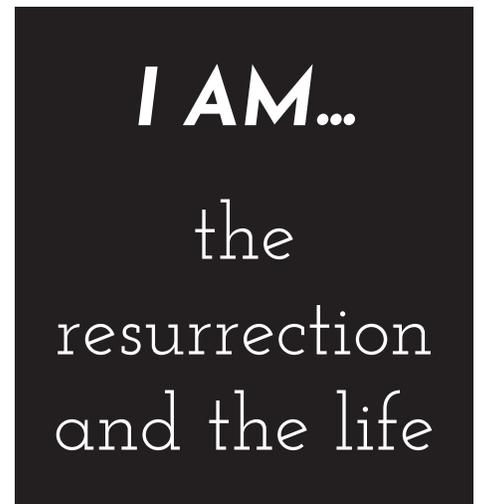


READ THE WORD

This morning in the Engage God Daily, you read John 11:1-44 where Jesus declares that he is the resurrection and the life before raising Lazarus from the dead. Jesus is talking to Martha, Lazarus' sister when he says this, assuring her that he has power over death.

Read **John 11:25** together:

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die..."



HAVE A MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION

Select as many questions as work for your gathering. Adapt the questions as needed.

- How is it comforting to know that Jesus has power over death? That he can give us eternal life?
- As the resurrection and the life, Jesus is promising that people who believe in him will experience life after death, and eventually, their bodies will be resurrected. Do you know for sure that you will have eternal life when you die? Why or why not?
- Why is important that we tell people about Jesus? How can we give them hope in a world where there is so much sickness and death?
- What's one prayer request you'd like to share with those gathered?

PRAY TOGETHER

Select as many prayer prompts as work for your gathering. Adapt as needed.

- Pray that you would know Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life. That he has defeated death, offers eternal life, and will resurrect the dead.
- Pray for someone you know who doesn't know Jesus. Pray that they will come to know Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life. Pray that God will use you to help them find Jesus.
- If you know someone who is grieving the death of a loved one, or if you are grieving, ask God for comfort and peace in the sorrow.
- Pray for Christ Fellowship: Pray that all of us who are a part of this church will live out the mission of Christ Fellowship to be people helping people find and follow Christ.
- Pray for each person's prayer request.

DAY 13 | ENGAGE GOD DAILY | JESUS IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

PRAY

Pray that you might know deeply the One who is the Resurrection and the Life.

REVIEW THE 7 I AM'S

The Bread of Life
The Light of the World
The Gate
The Good Shepherd
The Resurrection and the Life
The Way, the Truth, and the Life
The True Vine

STUDY GOD'S WORD

Re-read **John 11:1-44** from yesterday.

Mark up the passage to help you observe it more closely. Try different colors or forms of underlining.

- Mark all of Jesus' words. Consider using red.
- Circle every reference to life.
- Then box every reference to resurrection or being raised.
- Underline every reference to faith, belief or believe.

▲ *What is the central point of this passage? Summarize the main point in a sentence. [This is another great Bible study technique for any passage you study.]*

▲ *What did you notice this time that you did not see yesterday when you first read this passage?*

RESPOND

How do think you would have responded if you had been in the crowd around Lazarus before Jesus raised him? And then after he raised him?

How are you facing your own death? What confidence does this text give you?

DAY 13 | WORSHIP TOGETHER

WORSHIP

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit to lead your time together. Worship in song. Sing together, or simply listen. You can choose from our playlist provided here, or select music that is meaningful to you.

READ THE WORD

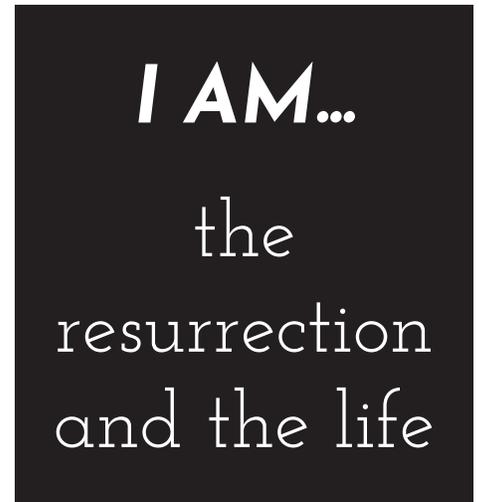
We are looking at Jesus' declaration that he is the Resurrection and the Life.

One of the most well-known verses in the Bible is **John 3:16**. Read it together:

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.



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HAVE A MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION

Select as many questions as work for your gathering. Adapt the questions as needed.

- According to John 3:16, why did God give his only son? What does it mean to have eternal life?
- What does it mean to believe in Jesus? How is it more than something that happens in our head?
- Eternal life is not just something we experience after death. Eternal life starts now. How should we live now in light of God's gift?
- What's one prayer request you'd like to share with those gathered?

PRAY TOGETHER

Select as many prayer prompts as work for your gathering. Adapt as needed.

- Pray that you would know Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life—that he has defeated death, offers you eternal life, and will resurrect the dead.
- Pray that you will demonstrate your belief in Jesus in your actions. Pray people will experience Christ in you.
- Pray for Christ Fellowship: Pray for our Senior Pastor, Bruce Miller, and his wife, Tamara, as he transitions out of his role and into the Founding Pastor role. Pray that God would give wisdom and discernment in the search for the next Senior Pastor.
- Pray for each person's prayer request.

DAY 14 | ENGAGE GOD DAILY | WORSHIP THE I AM

PRAY

Pray that God will give you wisdom and understanding by the Spirit to know Jesus as the Gate, and the Resurrection and the Life.

REVIEW THE 7 I AMS

The Bread of Life
The Light of the World
The Gate
The Good Shepherd
The Resurrection and the Life
The Way, the Truth, and the Life
The True Vine

STUDY GOD'S WORD

Re-read our three key verses for this week.

John 10:7

⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep."

▲ *From your study this week, what have you learned about Jesus being the gate for the sheep?*

▲ *The good shepherd?*

▲ *The resurrection and the life?*

How does the Father relate to the imagery of the Gate and the Good Shepherd? How does he connect to Jesus' identity as the Resurrection and the Life?

▲ *What has stuck with you?*

John 10:11

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

John 11:25

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;"

RESPOND

Spend time in prayer reflecting on what God has shown you personally this week through his Holy Spirit as you've studied the Word.

Take time to worship and praise Jesus for being the Gate, the Shepherd, and the Resurrection and the Life.

How could your life be different based on what you have learned this week? Pray over your responses. Ask for the Spirit's wisdom and power to make any changes he's leading you to make.

DAY 14 | WORSHIP TOGETHER

WORSHIP

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit to lead your time together. Worship in song. Sing together, or simply listen. You can choose from our playlist provided here, or select music that is meaningful to you.



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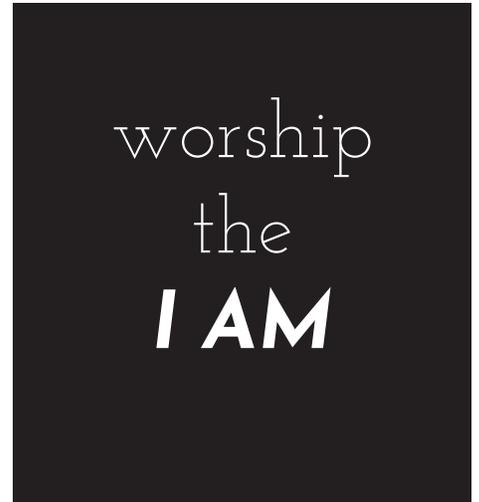
READ THE WORD

Together, read our three key verses for this week.

Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep." (John 10:7)

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

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die." (John 11:25)



HAVE A MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION

Select as many questions as work for your gathering. Adapt the questions as needed.

- We've now discussed five I AM statements. Can you list them all? Which one has been the most meaningful to you so far? Why?
- What have you learned this week about Jesus as the Gate (door) for the sheep and the Good Shepherd?
- What have you learned this week about Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life?
- Share what you've experienced during the 21 Days so far. How have you experienced God through fasting, Bible study, individual prayer, prayer with one another, and worship?
- Encourage one another to continue to dedicate time to worshipping the I AM for the rest of the 21 Days. Encourage those who've missed days to jump back in and keep going.
- What's one prayer request you'd like to share with those gathered?

PRAY TOGETHER

Select as many prayer prompts as work for your gathering. Adapt as needed.

- Pray that you would know Jesus as the Bread of Life, the Light of the World, the Gate, the Shepherd, and the Resurrection and the Life.
- Pray for one another, that each of you will experience God during the 21 Days. That you will be faithful to fast, pray, and study God's Word.
- Pray for Christ Fellowship. By name, pray for people in your life group/small group and other ministries you're a part of at Christ Fellowship.
- Pray for each person's prayer request.

WEEK 3

JESUS IS THE WAY, TRUTH, AND LIFE; AND THE TRUE VINE

Bruce Miller, author

I can hardly believe we are starting our last week! Our final two I AMs bring even more insights into the depths of who Jesus is and what he does for us. The first one from John 14 combines three words—way, truth, and life. Then the second one in John 15 adds another food image, the True Vine.

Jesus' identification of himself as the way, the truth, and the life, comes in a conversation with his disciples. It's specifically in response to a question that Thomas asks. I love Thomas' honesty. He speaks his mind and is not afraid to ask hard questions that others are likely thinking but don't want to say out loud.

In the ensuing conversation Jesus reveals more about his relationship with his Father. And then he makes a pretty astounding claim about those who believe in him. Jesus' claim in verse 12 empowers me as I seek to live for Christ in this difficult world. See what you think about it.

Then, in chapter 15, Jesus gives us an extended word picture drawn from vine growing, ancient viticulture. Pray for the Spirit to show you the deeper meaning of the main elements in this more complex metaphor.

Building on what he shared in John 14, Jesus shares more about his relationship with the Father, and the implications of that relationship for us. Long ago I memorized John 15:11 and have meditated on it and been encouraged by it over and over as I imagine what complete joy would be like.

Notice how the final image of the vine connects back to the first image of bread. Wine comes from the vine, and in the Lord's Supper we drink wine and eat bread as we remember the blood and body of Christ.

This week, after you study the last two I AMs, I encourage you to reflect back over all seven I AMs. Pray once again for insight into the depths of God the Father and Jesus, so you can know them, worship them, and represent them.

DAY 15 | ENGAGE GOD DAILY | JESUS IS THE WAY, TRUTH, AND LIFE

PRAY

Pray to understand how Jesus is the Way, Truth, and Life.

REVIEW THE 7 I AMS

The Bread of Life
The Light of the World
The Gate
The Good Shepherd
The Resurrection and the Life
The Way, the Truth, and the Life
The True Vine

STUDY GOD'S WORD

Read John 14:6.

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

▲ How does Jesus identify himself?

▲ How do these three images work together? What implication does Jesus draw?

Let's look at the larger context.

John 14:1-14

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going."

⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

⁸ Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

⁹ Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

▲ In your Bible, scan John 13. When is this conversation happening in the context of Jesus' life? What is the significance of this timing for what Jesus shares with his disciple?

▲ Mark the text. Circle every reference to Jesus. Box every reference to the Father. How does Jesus describe his relationship with the Father?

▲ To what or where is Jesus the way? What does the "way" signify?

▲ Underline every use of the word "believe." What are we to believe?

RESPOND

Have you believed in Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life? How did that come about? Who told you about Jesus?

What will you ask in Jesus' name so that the Father will be glorified in the Son?

Jesus promised that those who believe in him will do "greater things." What are you doing for God in the power of the Spirit? What is God inspiring you to do? Pray over your response.

DAY 15 | WORSHIP TOGETHER

WORSHIP

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit to lead your time together. Worship in song. Sing together, or simply listen. You can choose from our playlist provided here, or select music that is meaningful to you.



scan the code to
use our Spotify
playlist



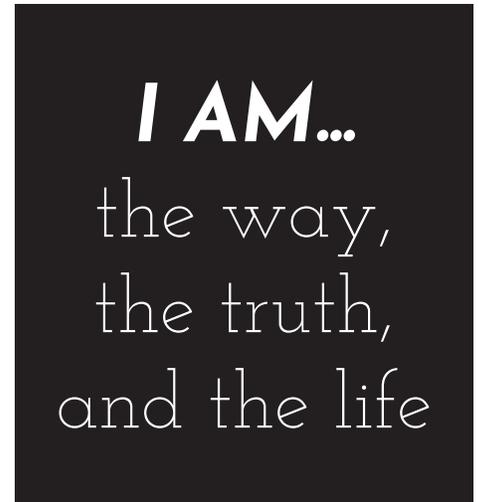
READ THE WORD

This morning in the Engage God Daily, you read John 14:1-14 where Jesus declared that he is the Way, the Truth, and the Life in a conversation he has with his disciples at the Last Supper. He is telling his closest followers that he is leaving and that they can't follow him, but he is going to prepare a place for them in his Father's house. He tells them that they know the way there.

Read **John 14:5-6** together:

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."



HAVE A MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION

Select as many questions as work for your gathering. Adapt the questions as needed.

- Describe a time when you got lost. When you need to get somewhere, why is important that you know the way? Who is Jesus the way to?
- How do you think the disciples felt knowing that Jesus was leaving them? How is Jesus reassuring them?
- How can we help show people that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life?
- What's one prayer request you'd like to share with those gathered?

PRAY TOGETHER

Select as many prayer prompts as work for your gathering. Adapt as needed.

- Pray that you would experience Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He is the one, true way to the Father and eternal life.
- Pray for those who are anxious about the future—someone you know or yourself. Ask the Spirit to reassure you that Jesus has secured your ultimate future in the Father's house.
- Pray for missionaries around the world who are sharing the good news that Jesus is the way.
- This week, we're praying for people involved in various ministries here at Christ Fellowship. Pray specifically for one of our ministries for adults—Re:generation, Spanish Celebrate Recovery, Re|engage, the Spanish Marriage Ministry, Life Groups, Men's and Women's Bible studies in English and Spanish, Moms Connection, or Digging Deeper.
- Pray for each person's prayer request.

DAY 16 | ENGAGE GOD DAILY | JESUS IS THE WAY, TRUTH, AND LIFE

PRAY

Pray that you will know Jesus deeply as the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

REVIEW THE 7 I AMS

The Bread of Life
The Light of the World
The Gate
The Good Shepherd
The Resurrection and the Life
The Way, the Truth, and the Life
The True Vine

STUDY GOD'S WORD

Let's look at references to "way," "truth," and "life"

Let's start with uses of "way" in the Gospel of John.

John 7:18

¹⁸ Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him.

John 8:32

³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

John 8:40

⁴⁰ As it is, you are looking for a way to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things.

John 8:44

⁴⁴ You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

John 8:45

⁴⁵ Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!

John 8:46

⁴⁶ Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me?

John 9:24

²⁴ A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner."

John 14:17

¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

John 15:26

²⁶ When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me.

John 16:13

¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

John 17:17

¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

John 1:23

²³ John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

In John 1:23, John quotes the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 40:3

A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

▲ How does John the Baptist fulfill Isaiah's prophecy?

Now look at occurrences in John of the word truth.

John 1:14

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:17

¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

John 3:21

²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

John 4:23

²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

John 4:24

²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.

John 5:33

³³ You have sent John and he has testified to the truth.

John 18:23

²³ “If I said something wrong,” Jesus replied, “testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?”

John 18:38

³⁸ “What is truth?” retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him.”

▲ *What is the first reference to “truth” in John’s Gospel?*

▲ *What does Jesus say about truth to Pilate near the end of his Gospel?*

Finally, let’s look at “life.”

John 3:15-16

¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.
¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:36

³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on them.

John 4:14

¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

John 4:36

³⁶ Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together.

John 5:21

²¹ For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.

John 5:24

²⁴ Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.

John 5:26

²⁶ For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.

John 5:39

³⁹ You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me,

John 6:33

³³ *For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.*

John 6:35

³⁵ Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

John 6:40

⁴⁰ For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.

John 6:47

⁴⁷ Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life.

John 6:51

⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

John 6:53

⁵³ Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.”

John 6:54

⁵⁴ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.

John 6:63

⁶³ The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life.

John 6:68

⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

John 8:12

¹² When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

John 10:10

¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

John 10:11

¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

John 10:15

¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

John 10:17

¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again.

John 10:28

²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one

will snatch them out of my hand.

John 11:25

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die"

John 12:25

²⁵ Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

John 12:50

⁵⁰ I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.

John 15:13

¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 17:2

² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.

John 17:3

³ Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

John 20:31

³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

▲ *What does John say about life and Jesus at the start of his Gospel? (1:4)*

▲ *What did Jesus say to Nicodemus about life in chapter 3? (3:15, 16, 36)*

▲ *What did Jesus say to the woman at the well about life in John 4? (4:14, 26)*

▲ *What is the last thing that John says about life in his Gospel?*

RESPOND

Summarize what you have learned about how John speaks about the Way, the Truth, and the Life in his Gospel.

To what extent are you currently experiencing "abundant life" in Jesus? Why not more?

How confident are you that you will experience eternal life when you die? Why?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Trace the words "way," "truth," and "life" in the increasingly larger circles of context. How many references to each word did you find in your translation? Focus on the uses of each word in the Gospel of John.

"WAY":

John: 15

Johannine literature: 19 (only 4 outside of the Gospel of John)

Gospels: 89

New Testament: 249 (to go deeper, note uses in the book of Acts.)

Old Testament: 556 (to go deeper, consider the uses of the image "way" in Proverbs.)

Notice the difference between literal uses of the word, "way" (which is most of them), and metaphorical uses, such as the first use of the term in John.

Now look up the word "TRUTH" in widening circles of context.

John: 28

Johannine literature: 49

Gospels: 32

New Testament: 110

Old Testament: 36

Now look at "LIFE":

John: 48 (obviously a big theme in John's Gospel)

Gospels: 16

New Testament: 23

Old Testament: 101

What do you notice about the number of times these occur?

DAY 16 | WORSHIP TOGETHER

WORSHIP

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit to lead your time together. Worship in song. Sing together, or simply listen. You can choose from our playlist provided here, or select music that is meaningful to you.



scan the code to
use our Spotify
playlist



READ THE WORD

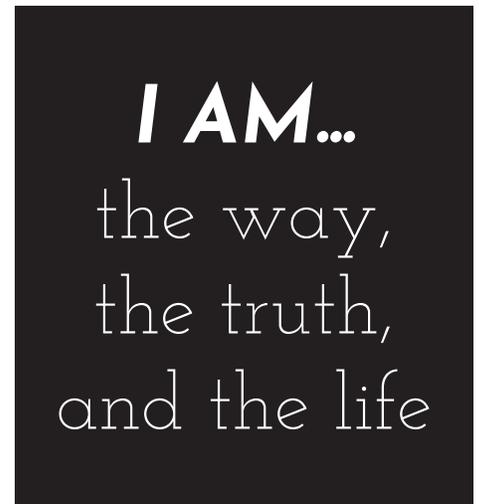
This morning in the Engage God Daily, you looked at other verses in John's Gospel that have the word "way," "truth," or "life." Take another look at three examples:

Read these verses together. Where do you see the word "way," "truth," or "life"?

John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" (John 1:23)

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32)

"Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life." (John 5:24)



HAVE A MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION

Select as many questions as work for your gathering. Adapt the questions as needed.

- What does it mean to tell the truth? Why is it important?
- Share a time when the truth set you free.
- According to Jesus, how do we cross over from death to life? How does knowing that you have eternal life give you hope in your struggles today?
- What's one prayer request you'd like to share with those gathered?

PRAY TOGETHER

Select as many prayer prompts as work for your gathering. Adapt as needed.

- Pray that you would experience Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He is the one, true way to the Father and to eternal life.
- Ask the Spirit to reveal truth to you. Ask him to help you be an honest person, a person of integrity who values truth.
- Pray for Christ Fellowship: Pray for our CF students. Pray that middle schoolers and high schoolers would follow Jesus, develop healthy friendships, and grow deeper in their relationship with God.
- Pray for each person's prayer request.

DAY 17 | ENGAGE GOD DAILY | JESUS IS THE WAY, TRUTH, AND LIFE

PRAY

Pray to receive what God has for you in Christ as the way, truth, and life.

REVIEW THE 7 I AMS

The Bread of Life
The Light of the World
The Gate
The Good Shepherd
The Resurrection and the Life
The Way, the Truth, and the Life
The True Vine

STUDY GOD'S WORD

Study background on the terms "way," "truth," and "life" by reading excerpts from articles in the *Lexham Bible Dictionary*, *The Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*, and the *Lexham Theological*

1. Truth may be used to convey a sense of being in accordance with fact or reality, as opposed to being false or in error.
2. Though truth as faithfulness or reliability is more common in the Old Testament, it is used in the New Testament.
3. Truth may be used to describe that which is real and genuine, as opposed to fake or only an imitation. It also describes that which is complete versus incomplete.

Wordbook.

WAY, THE (ἡ ὁδός, *hē hodos*). One of the primary terms used in the book of Acts to describe the early Jesus movement (e.g., Acts 9:2).

The origin of the term "the Way" (e.g., Acts 9:2; 19:9, 23; 22:4; 24:14, 22) as an early name for the Jesus community is not fully clear, although there is parallel usage to define a community...The use of "the Way" may to some extent be taken as referring to the mode of Christian life and morals.

"The Way" is also applied in Christ-related, exclusivist terms (compare John 14:6), meaning Christ is viewed as the only "way" who demands exclusive loyalty; this proclamation and the faith-based and self-sacrificial lifestyle it demanded became a marker for the early church of identity and membership.

▲ *Why do you think "the Way" was the original name for Christians, and what did it convey?*

TRUTH (ἀλήθεια, *emeth*; ἀλήθεια, *alētheia*). Factuality, faithfulness, firmness, reality, reliability.

The most common term for "truth" in the Old Testament is *emeth*.

When used in a factual sense *emeth* indicates a genuine state of affairs as opposed to a false one.

Emeth, understood as "faithfulness", frequently occurs together with "mercy," to indicate God's loyalty to people. People are also described as *emeth* in the sense of faithfulness or reliability.

The most common terms associated with truth in the New Testament are *alētheia*, "truth, *alēthēs*, "true", *alēthinos*, "true," "real", *alētheuō*, "to tell the truth", and *alēthōs*, "truly". These words are used in three senses:

- Jesus is the true light (John 1:9).
- The Father desires true worshipers (John 4:23-24).
- Jesus' body is true food (John 6:32, 55).
- Jesus is the true vine (John 15:1).
- The truth of God is exchanged for a lie (Rom 1:25).
- Jesus ministers in the true tabernacle (Heb 8:2; 9:24).
- Love must be performed not with words, but in truth (1 John 3:18).

▲ *What's one insight you learned about "truth" as it is used in the Bible?*

LIFE

Life, both physical and spiritual, originates from God. Physical life is the time between one's birth and death. Spiritual life is communion with God. Physical and spiritual life flourish when one is in communion with God.

The concept of life as expressed in the Bible is fundamentally concerned with communion with God. In Genesis 1, God intends to transform an earth incapable of producing and sustaining life (Gen 1:2) into an earth full of life and vitality by bringing into existence plants and "living beings": animals and humans (Gen 1:20-21, 24; 2:7). God blesses humanity as his image-bearers with the duty of filling the earth with human life and bringing the earth under God's rule of life (Gen 1:26-29). However, humanity rebels against God's rule of life, bringing death into the garden, and as a result God exiles them from his presence.

In the New Testament, Jesus brings life in the promise of communion with God the Father. Jesus is creational life and light (John 1:1-5), bringing humanity (and Israel) back from exile to communion with God (John 1:14-18). In John's Gospel, Jesus states, "Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent" (John 17:3). True life—communion with God the Father and Jesus—is a gift from the indwelling Spirit (2 Cor 3:6). This new life is made evident by one's conduct or way of life (1 Pet 2:12; 3:1-2,

16). It is seen also in someone giving his or her "life" (2 Cor 12:15) for others or sharing "possessions" (1 John 3:16) with someone in need.

▲ *What did you learn that helps you better understand what it means that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life?*

▲ *What other fresh or interesting insights did you gain from your reading?*

RESPOND

What do you sense that God is saying to you about Jesus being the way, the truth, and the life?

What are implications of Jesus' identity for your life? For today? Pray over your response.

DAY 17 | WORSHIP TOGETHER

WORSHIP

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit to lead your time together. Worship in song. Sing together, or simply listen. You can choose from our playlist provided here, or select music that is meaningful to you.



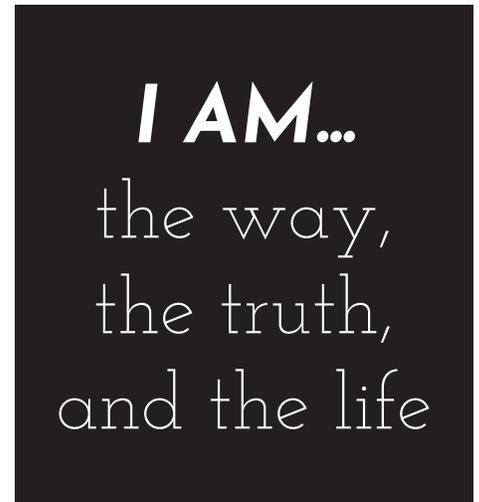
scan the code to
use our Spotify
playlist



READ THE WORD

Today in the Engage God Daily, you read about how the terms “way,” “truth,” and “life” are used in the Bible. You discovered that:

- In the earliest days of Christianity, “The Way” was an early name for the community of Jesus-followers.
- “Truth” can mean factual, but also indicates that something or someone is faithful and reliable, real and genuine.
- “Life”—both physical and spiritual—originates from God. Physical life is the time between one’s birth and death and spiritual life is communion with God. Both physical and spiritual life flourish when you are in communion with God.



HAVE A MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION

Select as many questions as work for your gathering. Adapt the questions as needed.

- Early Christians were followers of “The Way.” What do you think of that title? How do you refer to yourself as a follower of Jesus today?
- Can you be a truthful person but not faithful and reliable? Real and genuine? Explain your answer.
- Discuss the idea that both physical and spiritual life flourish when you are in communion with God. How have you found that to be true in your own life?
- What’s one prayer request you’d like to share with those gathered?

PRAY TOGETHER

Select as many prayer prompts as work for your gathering. Adapt as needed.

- Pray that you would experience Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He is the one, true way to the Father and to eternal life.
- Pray that you would live in the way of Jesus—truthful, reliable, genuine, and full of life.
- Praise God for the life, physical and spiritual, he’s given you through Jesus.
- Pray for Christ Fellowship: Pray for all the kids involved in Promiseland (children’s ministry)—that kids would come to know, love, and follow our Lord.
- Pray for each person’s prayer request.

DAY 18 | ENGAGE GOD DAILY | JESUS IS THE TRUE VINE

PRAY

Pray that you will understand how Jesus is the true Vine.

REVIEW THE 7 I AMS

The Bread of Life
The Light of the World
The Gate
The Good Shepherd
The Resurrection and the Life
The Way, the Truth, and the Life
The True Vine

his relationship with his Father?

Let's look at the larger context.

John 15:1-17

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

STUDY GOD'S WORD

Read John 15:1:

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener."

- ▲ *How does Jesus identify himself?
How does he depict*

⁹ "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

- ▲ *What words are most often repeated in this passage? (This is a good study approach to most any text.)*
- ▲ *Identify each element in the analogy and to whom does each element refer, such as the Vine?*
- ▲ *What all does the Father do?*
- ▲ *What all does Jesus do?*
- ▲ *What all are we to do?*
- ▲ *What are the results if we do what Jesus says to do?*

RESPOND

How are you remaining in the Vine today?

What could you do to remain more deeply or more frequently? Pray over your response, asking the Spirit for insight.

DAY 18 | WORSHIP TOGETHER

WORSHIP

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit to lead your time together. Worship in song. Sing together, or simply listen. You can choose from our playlist provided here, or select music that is meaningful to you.



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READ THE WORD

Today in the Engage God Daily, you read John 15:1-17 where Jesus declared that he was the True Vine.

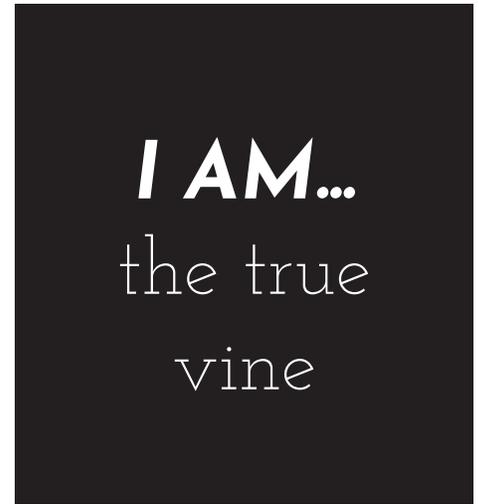
Read **John 15:1** together:

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener."

Jesus also says:

"Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:4-5)

"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." (John 15:8)



HAVE A MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION

Select as many questions as work for your gathering. Adapt the questions as needed.

- What kinds of things grow on a vine? What happens if you cut off a branch? Can that branch still grow fruit?
- How do we produce "fruit" as a Christian? What kind of "fruit" will we grow if we remain in the True Vine?
- What's one prayer request you'd like to share with those gathered?

PRAY TOGETHER

Select as many prayer prompts as work for your gathering. Adapt as needed.

- Pray that you would know Jesus as the True Vine. That you would remain in him, grow much fruit, and glorify the Father with your life.
- Pray that you show yourself as a disciple of Jesus—that your life would point people to Jesus.
- Pray for Christ Fellowship: Pray for all of those who are going on a short-term mission trip. Pray that they would bear much fruit!
- Pray for each person's prayer request.

DAY 19 | ENGAGE GOD DAILY | JESUS IS THE TRUE VINE

PRAY

Pray that you will remain always in Jesus as the True Vine and that you will more and more understand what that means for your life.

REVIEW THE 7 I AMS

The Bread of Life
The Light of the World
The Gate
The Good Shepherd
The Resurrection and the Life
The Way, the Truth, and the Life
The True Vine

STUDY GOD'S WORD

Look at all seven uses of "vine" in the New Testament.

Matthew 26:29

²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now

on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

Mark 14:25

²⁵ Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.

Luke 22:18

¹⁸ For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.

John 15:1

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

John 15:4

⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

John 15:5

⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Revelation 14:18

¹⁸ Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, "Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe."

▲ *What does Jesus say about the vine at the end of Matthew, Mark, and Luke?*

▲ *What is the last use of "vine" in the New Testament?*

RESPOND

How are you looking forward to drinking from the fruit of the vine with Jesus one day in the Father's kingdom? Pray over your response.

FOR FUTHER STUDY

There are 65 mentions of the word "vine" in the Old Testament (in the NIV).

Using an online Bible, such as Bible Gateway, search "vine" to look up the references and consider the uses of the image "vine" in the history books, wisdom literature, and then the prophets. Distinguish between literal and metaphorical uses of the term "vine."

DAY 19 | WORSHIP TOGETHER

WORSHIP

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READ THE WORD

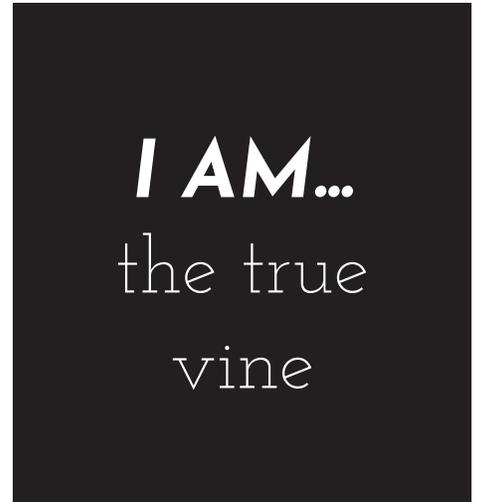
Today in the Engage God Daily, you read other verses in the New Testament that have the word “vine.” Some were during the Last Supper when Jesus adapted the Jewish Passover meal and taught the disciples to observe the Lord’s Supper as a way of remembering him. We do this every Sunday at Christ Fellowship when we eat bread (a wafer) and drink the fruit of the vine (grape juice).

Consider observing the Lord’s Supper together right now, as you spend time with God and others. All you need is some form of bread and something to drink. Read the passage below and eat and drink together.

Read **Matthew 26:26-29** together:

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.”

Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”



HAVE A MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION

Select as many questions as work for your gathering. Adapt the questions as needed.

- How is the “fruit of the vine” (wine or grape juice) used in the Lord’s Supper? What does it represent? When will Jesus drink the fruit of the vine again?
- Is the Lord’s Supper a meaningful part of the Sunday worship experience for you? Why or why not? How could it be more meaningful for you?
- Why is it important that we remember what Jesus did for us on the cross? How should it impact our thoughts and actions?
- What’s one prayer request you’d like to share with those gathered?

PRAY TOGETHER

Select as many prayer prompts as work for your gathering. Adapt as needed.

- Pray that you would know Jesus as the True Vine—that you would remain in him, grow much fruit, and glorify the Father with your life.
- Praise God for the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross.
- Pray for Christ Fellowship. Pray for the many volunteers who serve faithfully. Pray that God will raise up more people to serve one another.
- Pray for each person’s prayer request.

DAY 20 | ENGAGE GOD DAILY | JESUS IS THE TRUE VINE

PRAY

Pray that you will experience Jesus in all the ways he is described in the "I AM" statements.

REVIEW THE 7 I AM'S

The Bread of Life
The Light of the World
The Gate
The Good Shepherd
The Resurrection and the Life
The Way, the Truth, and the Life
The True Vine

STUDY GOD'S WORD

Study historical background by reading material from articles on "Vines and Viticulture" in the *Lexham Bible Dictionary* and "Vine, vineyards" in the *Dictionary on Biblical*

5:1-7; Matthews, "Actual and Metaphorical Viticulture," 19-32).

- Choice vines are symbolic of how God created Israel, and a wild vine is symbolic of Israel's rebellion against God (Isa 5:2; Jer 2:21).
- Sitting under your own vine and fig tree refers to times of peace (Mic 4:4; 1 Kgs 4:25; Zech 3:10).
- A withered vine is a symbol of divine judgment (Joel 1:12).
- A vine yielding its fruit represents hope (Zech 8:12).

Imagery.

VINES AND VITICULTURE Provides an overview of biblical references to vines and vineyards.

Grapevines were cultivated throughout the ancient Near East, and vineyards were common in the biblical world. In some areas, farmers planted vineyards close to their houses; in other areas, vineyards were located some distance from villages. Since valleys and level ground were reserved for wheat and barley crops, vines were normally planted on hillsides.

Domesticated vines were cultivated from shoots or cuttings from existing vines. By planting cuttings from the vines with the best fruit, farmers could renew and improve vineyards over time. Ancients selected varieties of grapevines with great care.

Vines can be trained to grow along the ground, on single stakes, on trees, poles, or trellises. Vineyards normally required four to five years to mature. Tending vines was a communal activity, particularly during harvest time. Entire families would gather the crops in the fields together.

Old Testament

The Old Testament mentions vines in a variety of contexts.

Because vines were such a familiar part of life for the people of the biblical world, Old Testament authors often referred to vines metaphorically. For example:

- Vines often represent Israel (Hos 10:1; Psa 80:8-11; Isa

New Testament

Vines are used in a variety of metaphorical ways in the New Testament. Most prominently, in John 15 Jesus portrays Himself as "the vine"—an extended metaphor representing His connection with His followers (John 15:1-8). This reference is best understood against the Old Testament background of Israel as a vine, with Jesus as the fulfillment and completion of Israel (Keener, John, 988-93). Vineyards also serve as settings for some of Jesus' parables.

Perhaps the most striking of all NT uses of the image occurs in association with Jesus. Speaking to the disciples, Jesus proclaims, "I am the vine; you are the branches" (Jn 15:5 NIV). By identifying himself as the vine he claims that participation in the kingdom is possible only for those who "remain in" him. Those disciples who do will bear much fruit.

In the light of this passage, how fitting it is that the ritual of the supper that Jesus institutes on the eve of his death involves drinking the "fruit of the vine" (Mt 26:29; cf. Mk 14:25; Lk 22:18).

What did you learn about physical vines and ancient viticulture that helped you understand how Jesus is the Vine?

▲ *What did you learn about metaphorical uses of "vine, vines" that helped you understand how Jesus is the vine?*

RESPOND

How does drinking the "cup" in the Lord's Supper connect you with Jesus as the Vine?

What could you change in your life so that you more remain in the Vine, and thus bear more fruit and experience more joy?

DAY 20 | WORSHIP TOGETHER

WORSHIP

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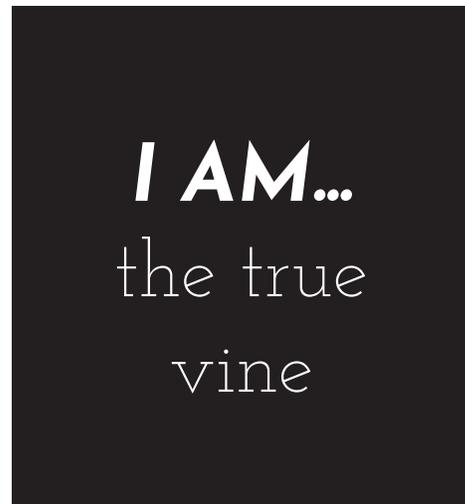


READ THE WORD

This morning in the Engage God Daily, you read about vines and vineyards and how that imagery is used in the Bible.

One of the articles states:

Vines can be trained to grow along the ground, on single stakes, on trees, poles, or trellises. Vineyards normally require four to five years to mature. Tending vines was a communal activity, particularly during harvest time. Entire families would gather the crops in the fields together.



HAVE A MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION

Select as many questions as work for your gathering. Adapt the questions as needed.

- Google a picture of a vineyard. Notice how the vines are growing. How are they being “trained” in the picture you are looking at?
- Vines need to be “trained.” If they are left to grow wild, they will not produce as much fruit. Discuss how that is also true of us. Why do we need God to “train” us so we can bear fruit? How has he done this in your life?
- What’s one prayer request you’d like to share with those gathered?

PRAY TOGETHER

Select as many prayer prompts as work for your gathering. Adapt as needed.

- Pray that you would know Jesus as the True Vine—that you would remain in him, grow much fruit, and glorify the Father with your life.
- Praise God for the ways he is “training” you and the fruit he is producing in you. Ask him what you need to “prune” from your life so he can produce more fruit in you.
- Praise God for what he has done during these 21 Days! Thank him for something specific you have experienced.
- Pray for each person’s prayer request.

DAY 21 | ENGAGE GOD DAILY | WORSHIP THE I AM OUR FINAL DAY!

PRAY

Pray that the Holy Spirit will enable you to know Jesus.
Pray that you will know Jesus in his 7 I AMs, and more deeply to know Jesus Christ as The I AM.

REVIEW THE 7 I AMs

The Bread of Life
The Light of the World
The Gate
The Good Shepherd
The Resurrection and the Life
The Way, the Truth, and the Life
The True Vine

STUDY GOD'S WORD

Review the 7 I AMs.
Re-read the eight
main verses.

Exodus 3:14

¹⁴ God said to Moses,
"I am who I am. This is
what you are to say to

the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.' "

John 8:58

⁵⁸ "Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"

John 6:35

³⁵ Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

John 8:12

¹² When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 10:7

⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the

gate for the sheep."

John 10:11

¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

John 11:25

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die"

John 14:6

⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 15:1

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

- ▲ How does each "I AM" in context relate to the theme of life?
- ▲ What connections do you see among the I AMs?
- ▲ What connection do you see between the first and last I AMs (Bread of Life and True Vine), and the Lord's Supper?

RESPOND

Summarize the most important insights you are taking away from your study of the I AMs in the Gospel of John.

Summarize the most important things that God has spoken to you through these 21 Days of prayer and fasting to begin 2024.

Praise the Lord Jesus Christ for who he is. And thank God for what he has done in your life this month.

DAY 21 | WORSHIP TOGETHER

WORSHIP

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit to lead your time together. Worship in song. Sing together, or simply listen. You can choose from our playlist provided here, or select music that is meaningful to you.



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READ THE WORD

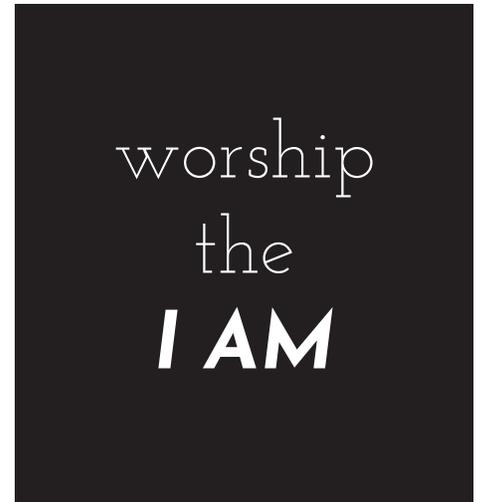
Let's review our key verses for the week.

John 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 15:1

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.



HAVE A MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION

Select as many questions as work for your gathering. Adapt the questions as needed.

- We've now discussed all seven I AM statements. Say them out loud together. Which one has been the most meaningful to you? Why?
- What have you learned this week about Jesus as the Way, Truth, and Life?
- What have you learned this week about Jesus as the True Vine?
- Share what you've experienced during the 21 Days. How have you experienced God through fasting, Bible study, individual prayer, prayer with one another, and worship?
- What's one prayer request you'd like to share with those gathered?

PRAY TOGETHER

Select as many prayer prompts as work for your gathering. Adapt as needed.

- Pray that you would know Jesus the I AM.
- Praise God for what he has done through the 21 Days!
- Ask God to show you your next steps, based on what he's revealed to you through 21 Days.
- Pray for each person's prayer request.



21 DAYS | FOR KIDS

It's important for our kids to build a habit of connecting with God every day, too. Since the Engage God Daily may be a little robust for most kids, we've compiled a list of key verses for children to read and pray over each day for the full 21 Days.

Tear out this page, and pin it up in their bedroom, bathroom, or somewhere they spend quiet time, and encourage them to read the verse of the day each morning. We've even included a fun tracker they can fill in with stickers or crayons each day as they complete their verse!

We've also included flash cards to color and cut out, to help them memorize the 7 I AMs right alongside their parents.

DAILY VERSES

Day 1: *John 6:35: 35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."*

Day 2: *Exodus 16:11-12: 11 The Lord said to Moses, 12 "I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.'"*

Day 3: *John 13:25-26: Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.*

Day 4: *John 8:12: When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

Day 5: *John 9:4-5: As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."*

Day 6: *John 1:4-5: In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

Day 7: *John 6:35: Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."*

John 8:12: When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Day 8: *John 10:7: Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep."*

Day 9: *John 10:11: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."*

Day 10: *1 Peter 2:24-25: "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*

Day 11: *Ephesians 4:11-13: So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

Day 12: *John 11:25: Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die..."*

Day 13: *John 3:16: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

Day 14: *John 10:7: Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep."*

John 10:11: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

John 11:25: Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die."

Day 15: *John 14:6: Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

Day 16: *John 5:24: "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life."*

Day 17: *John 8:31-32: To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

Day 18: *John 15:1: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener."*

Day 19: *Matthew 26:26-29: While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."*

Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

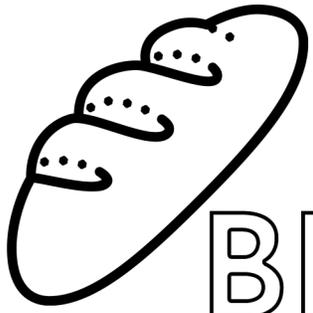
Day 20: *John 15:5: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."*

Day 21: *John 14:6: Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

John 15:1: I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

TRACK YOUR PROGRESS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21



**I AM
THE
BREAD
OF LIFE**

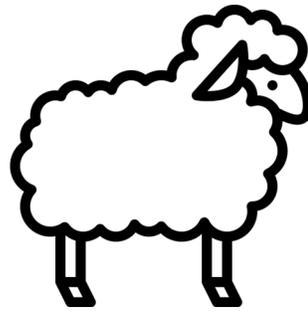


**I AM THE
LIGHT
OF THE
WORLD**

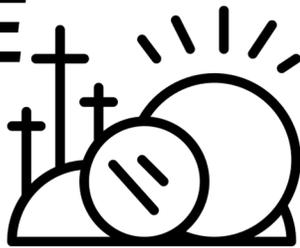
**I
AM
THE
GATE**



**I AM
THE
SHEPHERD**



**I AM THE
RESURRECTION
AND THE
LIFE**



**I AM THE
WAY,
TRUTH,
LIFE**



**I AM
THE
TRUE
VINE**



**JESUS
IS THE
I AM**

