

Deeper: The “I AM”s of Jesus - Part 2

In this second part of Jesus’ “I AM” series, we continue to dive deep into who Jesus says He is in the Bible - His “I AM” statements found in the gospel of John. We will learn from two of Jesus’ “I AM” statements that tell us not just of His identity and power, as the “I AM” in the Old Testament, but also how He is the only way to be with God and be saved from sin. Jesus is “I AM” who came as the Son to save us all from sin and death!

Series Aim: To introduce Jesus to kids as the only way to be saved from sin and be with God.

!! IMPT note for all Preachers: All preachers are to read the following series notes.

Series Notes: Jesus is One with God, Jesus is One with “I AM”

In [The Names of God](#) series in February, we learnt that God revealed His name as “I AM” (Exodus 3:14) when He was talking to Moses through the burning bush. The name “I AM” eventually became associated with Yahweh / Jehovah or LORD* and it tells us of God’s unchanging, eternal nature, having always existed and will always be. We know this to be true of Jesus too, since He is God and has always been there, creating everything and keeping all things alive (Colossians 1:15-17, 1 Corinthians 8:6).

**Please read [The Names of God](#) week 1 for more details on this.*

Last month in [The “I AM”s of Jesus \(Part 1\)](#) series, we also learnt of some statements Jesus declared starting with “I AM”. When Jesus declared his “I AM” statements, He was actually telling us more about His divine nature as God and being one and the same as Yahweh / Jehovah.

John 8:58 (NIRV) tells us, “What I’m about to tell you is true,” Jesus answered. “Before Abraham was born, I AM!”

The above verse tells us how Jesus is claiming to be the one who was alive before Abraham was, that is, more than 2,000 years earlier. Jesus does not simply say, “Before Abraham was, I was,” which would simply mean that he is more than 2,000 years old. Rather, he uses the present tense “I am” in speaking of existence more than 2,000 years earlier, thus claiming a kind of transcendence over time that could only be true of God and relates to Him being one as “I AM” who has always been and will never change. On top of that, the words “I am” in Greek use the same expression *egō eimi*, found in the Septuagint (Greek version of the Old Testament which is the version of scripture read by the Jews in Jesus’ time). This is similar to the first half of God’s self-identification in Exodus 3:14, “I AM WHO I AM.” Jesus is thus claiming not

only to be eternal but also to be the God who appeared to Moses at the burning bush.

His Jewish opponents understood his meaning immediately, that Jesus was alluding Himself to be the same and one with God. Jesus existed with God before the world began, which was why Jesus could say He is “I AM”, just as God said in the burning bush. The same powerful, unchanging, always-existing God who spoke to Moses from the burning bush was there in Jesus too! Jesus shares the name of “I AM” with God and is one with God.

Outline	Notes
<u>Week #1 - 6th Apr 2025</u> The Big Point: Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life God's Word: Jesus Raised Lazarus from the Dead (John 11:1-44) Memory Verse: Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even if they die. John 11:25 (NIRV) Application: I can trust in Jesus for eternal life. Possible Videos:  Jesus Raises Lazarus from the ...  Jesus Raised Lazarus from De...	Today’s lesson tells us that Jesus declared, ““I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even if they die. And whoever lives by believing in me will never die.” We see these words of Jesus in John 11:25-26 (NIRV). Jesus made this “I am” statement immediately before raising Lazarus from the dead, a story we will dive into through John 11:1-44. Jesus’ words were not just empty talk; when He made a claim, He substantiated it with action. Jesus started His statement with “I am”, indicating again that He is one with God and has the power of God. Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life - Link to the Gospel Jesus then said that he is the resurrection – <i>resurrection</i> means that something dead comes back to life. When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, not only is he showing that He has the power of God, He is also demonstrating His power over death and His power to give life. On top of that, in raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus showed how He can fulfill Yahweh’s promise to ancient Israel in Isaiah 26:19 – “LORD, your people who have died will live again. Their bodies will rise from the dead.” Jesus is the resurrection and the life – He brings something that is dead to come back to life and He gives life. While not all of us will experience physically coming back to life from the dead as Lazarus did, we can experience coming back to life spiritually. The Bible tells us how we all have sin in our lives (Romans 3:23), and sin separates us from God resulting in eternal death (Romans 6:23a) where our spiritual being is dead and when we physically die, we will be separated from God forever. And yet, God still loves us and sent Jesus to be born on earth. Jesus was born to save us by dying on the cross to pay

the price for our sins (Romans 5:8). Yet, because Jesus is the resurrection and the life, Jesus came back to life on the third day showing how we can truly be saved. When we believe in Jesus, Jesus' resurrection power comes into our lives and resurrects our dead spiritual being back to life. We are also given the gift of eternal life (Romans 6:23b) where we can be with God and will live forever with God even after our physical death. Jesus is the resurrection the life – Jesus brings us back to life spiritually and also gives us eternal life. Apart from Jesus, there is neither resurrection nor eternal life.

Read John 11:1-44

V1-16 Lazarus Dies Jesus, learnt that Lazarus was sick through the word of his sisters, but purposely stayed where he was a few more days, resulting in the death of Lazarus before visiting the family. While it may seem counterintuitive, Jesus allowed his friends to go through the sorrow and hardship of the death and mourning of Lazarus because he loved them and wanted them to witness an amazing demonstration of Jesus' power over death. After all, God does not always answer prayers as expected. Jesus wanted to show the Glory of God through the raising of Lazarus from the dead. Jesus Himself also declared that this particular sickness that Lazarus went through will not end up with Lazarus' death, but result in God and himself receiving glory (V4).

V11 tells us how Jesus referred to Lazarus as having fallen asleep, making the disciples think that Lazarus has fallen into natural sleep. However, occasionally in the Bible, death is compared to a deep sleep from which people will one day be awakened. The later verses through V12 to 14 tells us how Lazarus is indeed dead with Jesus stating plainly that Lazarus has died. Jesus then declared how waking Lazarus up (V11) will result in deeper faith on the part of the disciples who will witness this miracle (V15).

V17-37 Jesus Comforts Lazarus' sisters and declared Himself as the Resurrection and the Life Jesus waited to arrive four days after Lazarus had been placed in the tomb because He knew the Jewish superstition of that day that said a soul stayed near the grave for three days, hoping to return to the body. Therefore, it was accepted that after four days there was absolutely no hope for Lazarus to come back to life. Jesus was trying to show His miracle without anyone being able to allude it to superstitious belief, so that He can demonstrate how He is truly the resurrection and the life - He is able to bring the dead to life and give life.

In V23, Jesus indeed declares how Lazarus will live again, to which Martha affirms her belief. Martha shows that she believes that all who believe in Him will live and rise again. However, in this story, Martha misunderstands Jesus, thinking he was merely speaking of the final resurrection where all who believe in Him will come alive again (Isaiah 26:19), while Jesus meant to resurrect Lazarus from physical death.

V25 tells us of Jesus' declaration as the resurrection and the life. Jesus does not merely say that he will bring about the resurrection or that he will be the cause of the resurrection (both of which are true), but something much stronger: He declared himself to be the resurrection and the life. With "I AM", He is once again, alluding Himself to be one with God. He then declared Himself to be the resurrection and the life. Resurrection from the dead and genuine eternal life in fellowship with God are so closely tied to Jesus that they are embodied in him and can be found only in relationship to him. Jesus also clearly states that anyone who "believes in me" showing the importance of personal trust in Christ. The preposition translated "in" (Gk. *eis*) is striking, for *eis* ordinarily means "into," giving the sense that genuine faith in Christ in a sense brings people "into" Christ, so that they rest in and become united with Christ. V26 tells us the those who believe in Him, shall live and have spiritual life and never die – even if they were to die physically, they will ultimately triumph over death by entering eternal life and live with God forever.

V33 tells us how despite choosing to wait and allowing Lazarus to die so that God's glory would be revealed, Jesus still had feelings of utter grief and sadness at the passing of Lazarus, and He was not hard-hearted towards these things. Jesus was said to have "his spirit become very sad and he was troubled." The Greek word used to express this was *embrimaomai* (elsewhere in the NT only in V38; Matthew 9:30 ["sternly warned"]; Mark 1:43 ["sternly charged"]; and Mark 14:5 ["scolded"]), and it means to feel something deeply and strongly. Jesus was moved with profound sorrow at the death of his friend and at the grief that his other friends had suffered. In addition, this sorrow was intermixed with anger at the evil of death and also with a deep sense of awe at the power of God that was about to flow through him to triumph over death. Note that "his spirit" in this case does not refer to the Holy Spirit but to Jesus' own human spirit. We see that Jesus grieved together with Mary and Martha, Lazarus' sisters, whom He loved dearly as much as He loved Lazarus. And despite knowing what he was about to do (raise Lazarus from the dead and give him life, Jesus also, cried and grieved for

	Lazarus. Jesus' example shows that heartfelt mourning in the face of death does not indicate lack of faith but honest sorrow at the reality of suffering and death. V38-44 Jesus Raise Lazarus from the Dead Having arrived at the tomb, Jesus commanded that the stone be removed to reveal the dead body which had been resting there for four days. Hope against all hope, Jesus was there to perform a miracle in raising Lazarus from the dead. Jesus then called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" – the voice of the Great "I AM" and omnipotent creator (John 1:3, John 1:10) speaks and even Lazarus' dead body obeys, coming out alive while still wrapped in all the strips of linen that dead people were wrapped in. Lazarus' name also meant "who God helps". Through the miracle which was performed in front of the many Jews who were there mourning, many came to believe in Jesus, because of His power over life and death. Jesus is the resurrection and the life and He has power over death. Link to Gospel + Focus 2025: Deeper + Series / Big Point As mentioned earlier, Jesus being the resurrection and the life is a clear link to the Gospel. We all have sin in our lives resulting in eternal death. And yet, Jesus loves us and saved us by dying on the cross to pay the price for our sins. And because Jesus is the great "I AM" and the resurrection and the life, Jesus came back to life on the third day showing how He truly has power over death. When we believe in Jesus, Jesus' resurrection power comes into our lives and resurrects our dead spiritual being back to life and the gift of eternal life where we can be with God forever. Jesus is the resurrection and the life – Jesus has the power to raise the dead and bring us back to life spiritually and also gives us eternal life with Him. Jesus giving us spiritual life also means that we can grow deeper with Jesus and grow in our spiritual being. Jesus is the resurrection and the life, we can only grow and go deeper with God when we first come to believe in Him! Jesus is the resurrection and the life and He is the only one we can trust in order to have eternal life!
<u>Week #2 - 13th Apr 2025</u> The Big Point: Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life God's Word: Jesus Teaches About Heaven (John 14:1-14)	In this second lesson, we learn that Jesus declared, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." We see these words in John 14:6. This is a strong and powerful truth declared by Jesus. Like what we have learnt through this series on the "I AM"s of Jesus, everytime Jesus says "I AM", He is saying that He is God. God's name was revealed to us as "I AM" when He answered Moses what His name is when speaking to Moses through the burning bush.

Memory Verse: Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life.

Anyone who believes in me will live, even if they die. John 11:25 (NIRV)

Application: I can trust in Jesus for eternal life.

Jesus uses the same term, “I AM” to refer to Himself, which alludes to Him being the same and one with God. Each I AM statement also reveals to us something new or different about Jesus’ character, telling us a little more about who He is.

In today’s lesson, when Jesus declared. “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”, Jesus is saying that He is not just one way among many ways to God. He is making it clear that He is the only way to God, the only way to be saved. Echoing our lesson from last week when we learnt how He declared He is the resurrection and the life, Jesus once again declares that He is the Life – He alone is the source of life. He is the Creator and Sustainer of all life and the Giver of eternal life.

Read John 14:1-14

To have a clearer context, this conversation between Jesus and His disciples was happening at the last supper just before He would be taken away to give his life at the cross to save us all.

V1-4 Jesus first starts by encouraging His disciples to trust God and to believe in Him. In the Greek language, Jesus’ words to his disciples can be an imperative command to believe.. However, it could also be a statement that affirms that He knows that the disciples believe in Him. Even so, Jesus also knows how the things that are going to happen in the next few days will be hard, including his departure, which is why He encouraged the disciples to “not let your hearts be troubled” as He knows that all they need to do is trust God.

Keep in mind that Jesus is God, but God exists as One in Three Persons. Jesus is God the Son who came from Heaven, sent by God the Father. Thus, Jesus declared that in His Father’s house, there are many rooms and He is going to prepare a place for each of His disciples. It is best to understand that when Jesus was referring to His Father’s house, He was actually referring to heaven or to God’s dwelling place – where God is present. In keeping with this image, the many rooms (or “dwelling places,” Gk. *monē*) are places to live within that large house. The translation “rooms” is not meant to convey the idea of small spaces, but only to keep consistency in the metaphor of heaven as God’s “house.” However, while it sounds like God lives in a giant mansion and that Jesus was going to prepare the house for His disciples to come and live in, Jesus does not mean that heaven would look

like such. Instead, Jesus was saying that by going away, which we eventually come to know, to be Him to dying on the cross and then coming back to life and by returning to God in heaven, all that Jesus had done – was Him making the way for people to be with God and to live with God in the dwelling place where God’s presence is – Heaven. In a similar passage, Jesus speaks of his followers being received into the “eternal dwellings” – to be with God forever and ever. This is also in line with our lesson from last week, when we learn that Jesus is the life – He is the one who gives us eternal life to live and be with God forever and ever.

Jesus also declared how He will come back and take the disciples to be where He will be – this is Jesus promising that He would return one day and take His followers to be and to live with God forever as well. In V4, Jesus then told the disciples that they know the way to God’s dwelling place since they know Him.

V5-14

However, the disciples did not really understand Jesus and was confused. One of the disciples, Thomas asked how can they know their way if they did not know where Jesus was going. Here is where Jesus declared His “I AM” statement in V6. Later on, Philip apparently asks for some sort of appearance by God. In the OT, Moses asked for and was given a limited vision of God’s glory (Exodus 33:18, Exodus 24:10). Isaiah, too, received a vision of God (Isaiah 6:1, John 12:4). Jesus is the greater fulfillment of these limited OT events. In keeping with OT teaching, Jesus denied the possibility of a direct vision of God (John 5:37, 6:46, 1:18), yet he makes the stunning assertion that those who have seen him have seen the Father—a clear claim to deity. Philip’s request shows that he has not yet understood the point of Jesus’ coming, namely, to reveal the Father (1:14, 18).

Jesus is the Way - Jesus first declared Himself as the one way to the Father. This echoes what we learnt a few weeks ago on Jesus being the gate to the sheep pen and the good shepherd. Jesus made a way, and it is the only way for all to come back to God the Father – by laying his life down on the cross as how a good shepherd does, and being the only way to enter into safety. Just like how each sheep has to go through the gate to safety or to the places with food and water, Jesus is the only way

by which one can become part of the people of God and be part of Jesus' flock. We need to know that Jesus laying down His life to save us pays the price we have to pay for our sins. Believing in and knowing Jesus is the only way for all to be saved from sin and brought back to be with God. Jesus is the only way to God.

Jesus being the only way also fulfills the Old Testament. In the past, God's people used to come to meet with God in the tabernacle. Yet, because of God's holiness, there is a curtain that bars access to God's presence from all except the Levitical high priest. On top of that, the high priest, too, needs to prepare himself to be holy in order to enter God's presence in the Holy of Holies, the innermost room of the tabernacle. However, what Jesus has done on the cross pays the price for our sins and makes a way for us and all to be brought back to God. Indeed, Jesus is the only "way" to God (Acts 4:12), and he alone can provide access to God. **Jesus is the Way** to God the Father.

John 3:16-18 On top of that, John 3:16 also tells us how He is the only way for all to have eternal life – simply by believing in Jesus and what He did on the cross. The verse tells us that God so loved the world, which in itself is an astounding statement in that context because the OT and other Jewish writings had spoken only of God's love for his people Israel. God's love for "the world" made it possible for "whoever" believes in Christ, not Jews alone, to have eternal life. God's love for the world was not mere sentiment but led to a specific action: he gave his only Son. The purpose of giving his Son was to make God's great gift of eternal life available to anyone—to whoever believes in him, that is, whoever personally trusts in him. When they do so, they will not perish in eternal judgment (the result of sin), but instead have eternal life, the life of abundant joy and immeasurable blessing in the presence of God forever. Those who do not believe and trust in Christ have neither a positive nor a neutral standing before God. They stand condemned already before God for their sins because they have not trusted God's solution for guilt, the only Son of God. Those who "believe in" Christ have that "eternal life" and already experience its blessings in this present time, though not yet fully, but in some significant measure by being able to know Jesus and go deeper with Him. **Jesus is the Way** to God the Father.

Jesus is the Truth

Jesus as the truth fulfills the teaching of the OT (John 1:17) and reveals the true God (John :14, 17;

5:33; 18:37; also 8:40, 45–46; 14:9).

Jesus is the Life

Like what we have learnt last week, Jesus is the life – He is the one who is the creator of life and sustains life. He is the one who gives us life, and He is also the resurrection – He is able to make what was dead come alive again. Sin makes us spiritually dead, but when we believe in Jesus, His resurrection power brings us from spiritually dead to spiritually come alive again. Jesus being the life fulfills the OT promises of “life” given by God (11:25–26). Having life in himself (1:4, 5:26), and he is thus able to confer eternal life to all those who believe in him.

This “I am” saying of God is definitely one that makes a claim to him being from God and one with God. Jesus told them in that verse that He is the way to live with God. He is the way to know God. He is the way to have a relationship with God. He is the way to have real life. The only way to have life with God.

Link to Gospel + Focus 2025: Deeper + Series / Big Point

Jesus is the way, the truth and the life, and this declaration is a clear link to the Gospel. We all have sin in our lives resulting in eternal death. And yet, Jesus loves us and saved us by dying on the cross to pay the price for our sins. And because Jesus is the great “I AM” and the resurrection and the life, Jesus came back to life on the third day showing how He truly has power over death and able to make a way for all people to come back to life and be God again. Sin makes our heart spiritually dead. But when we believe in Jesus, Jesus’ resurrection power comes into our lives and resurrects our dead spiritual being back to life, giving us the way to be with God that Father. This is the truth. And lastly, Jesus is the life, when we believe in Him, He makes us come alive again spiritually and He also gives us the gift of eternal life where we can be with God forever. **Jesus is the way, the truth and the life** – Jesus has the power to raise the dead and bring us back to life spiritually and also gives us eternal life with Him. Jesus giving us the only way to God and giving us spiritual life also means that we can grow deeper with Jesus and grow in our spiritual being. **Jesus is the way, the truth and the life**, we can only grow and go deeper with God when we first come to believe in Him! **Jesus is the way, the truth and the life** – the only way to God and the only way to eternal life and this is the truth He promises us!

Resources	Stortz, Diane (2017). <i>I AM Devotional</i>. Tommy Nelson, HarperCollins Christian Publishing Inc. Purchased Curriculum: https://bigtruthbiblelessonsforkids.com/products/i-am-6-week-curriculum-on-the-person-of-christ-download Websites: https://www.esv.org/ https://www.gotquestions.org/seven-I-AM-statements.html https://www.gotquestions.org/I-AM.html https://ministry-to-children.com/the-seven-i-am-statements-of-jesus-lesson-6/
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