

WEEK 1: Jesus Is God

Describe yourself in five words or less (I am _____). Lesson one is the most important lesson of this study. Twenty-three times Jesus makes the statement “I am” in the Greek text of the gospel of John. In seven of these He adds a metaphor, each one explaining His saving relationship to the world. We will look at those seven metaphors over the next seven lessons. However, in order to grasp the implications of these statements we must first understand that Jesus is God.

Read Exodus 3

The statement “I am” may not mean a lot to readers today. However, in the original language it translated to *Yahweh*, *Jehovah*, or *LORD*. In these two little words God declared that He is self-existent and eternal. He is not created as we are, He is unchanging, and is and always will be. He also declares that He is not some abstract nameless force, but is instead personable and Someone we may know.

Read John 8:48-59

Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” **John 8:58**

Jesus used this specific language, the same language used in **Exodus 3**, to proclaim to His audience that He is the God of the Old Testament. We know that His audience understood exactly what He meant because they immediately picked up stones to stone Him in order to obey **Leviticus 24:16**.

Reflections: What does it mean when Jesus says, *before Abraham was, I am*? Do you believe Jesus is the God of the Old Testament? Do you believe that He is self-existent, unchanging, and has existed for all eternity? Is there anything you believe that denies that Jesus is God?

WEEK 2: Jesus Is The Word

How would you summarize the Bible to someone who has never read it? NOTE: In this study, I will use the words *Scripture*, *the Bible*, *the Holy Bible*, and *God’s Word* interchangeably as they are the same. According to Scripture, the Bible is God’s inerrant (incapable of being wrong) word to His people. It is the story of His rule and reign throughout history and of His redemptive plan to save sinners through Jesus Christ. The entire Bible is the story of the Gospel and all of it points to Jesus.

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17, John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **John 1:1**

John’s statement in these verses is profound. By calling Jesus the Word (*Logos* in Greek), he is declaring that Jesus is the manifestation of the Word of God. John also starts these verses using the same words from **Genesis 1:1** to show that Jesus was with God and is God since the very beginning. He also proclaims that it was through Jesus that all things were made as God spoke them into existence. This confirms Jesus’ declaration from last week that He is God and adds that God The Father has revealed Himself to us through Jesus and through His spoken word, the Holy Bible.

Read John 1:14-18

No one has ever seen God; God the only Son, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known. **John 1:18**





Scripture points us to the fact that we can not know God apart from Jesus Christ. God the Father can not be separated from God the Son. The Old Testament can not be separated from the New Testament. All of it points to Jesus Christ.

Reflection: Do you believe the Holy Bible is the inerrant Word of God? Do you believe that all of Scripture points to Jesus? Is there any part of Scripture that you struggle to believe?

WEEK 3: Surrendering to Jesus' Authority

How would you define surrender? When we think about surrendering to Jesus we think about our initial point of salvation. However, this is just the starting point of a lifelong journey of surrendering by saying yes to God's will for our lives and saying no to the things that keeps us from His will.

Read Luke 14:25-33

"Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." **Luke 14:27**

"So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple." **Luke 14:33**

Since Jesus is God then He has ownership and authority over everything. This means that there is no part of our lives that He does not control. We can choose to ignore this truth, but that doesn't change His ownership and authority over our lives. However, when we choose to surrender to Jesus' authority then we choose to follow Jesus, not the world.

Reflection: Have you considered Jesus' ownership of your life, your time, your possessions, your body, your mind, your plans, your affections and your relationships? Is there any part of your life that you are not surrendering to God?

WEEK 4: Walking In His Ways

Describe what it looks like to follow Jesus. It is popular for people to claim they are following Jesus while doing things that are disobedient to God's Word. We've learned that Jesus is God and the manifestation of God's Word, so following Him requires following God's Word.

Read Romans 2:6-8

Following Jesus is walking in His ways, seeking His righteousness, and obeying His truth. To know His ways we must know His Word.

Read Deuteronomy 5:32-33, 10:12-13

You shall walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, that you may live, and that it may go well with you, and that you may live long in the land that you shall possess.

Deuteronomy 5:33

We were created to dwell with God - be in relationship with Him, experience His presence and His guidance in our lives. Sin destroyed our ability to do that, but Jesus has made it possible for us to dwell with God again. In order to experience the relationship we were designed to have with God, we must declare that Jesus is God, know His Word, surrender to His will and walk in His ways.

Reflection: Do you believe following Jesus requires following God's Word? Deuteronomy 5:33 suggests that God's ways are better than the world's ways. Do you believe that? How are you currently walking in God's ways and how are you not?