

I AM THE CHRIST



When you know who Jesus is, You will discover who you were made to be.

Easter Series Devotional  
“The I AM” Part 1  
February 12<sup>th</sup> - March 10<sup>th</sup>

## INTROUCTION TO JOHN

If you wanted to study the life of Jesus, perhaps no other book of the Bible fully encapsulates Jesus as God *and* man than the book of John. It is different from the other three Gospels (called the Synoptic Gospels) for two reasons: It was written at a later time and the emphasis of John is totally on the deity of Jesus. Aside from the miracles He performed, Jesus (in John alone), claimed to be the I AM. He claimed to be God.

*“The Gospel of John is a masterpiece of storytelling. It is at once charming in its simplicity and challenging in its depth, a rare work of literature that fun-loving children and deep-thinking philosophers can share equally. John’s God-breathed account of Christ’s earthly ministry uses such elementary Greek, it reads like a child’s primer and is often one of the first books novice lerners of Koine (Greek) learn to translate. Yet philosophers and theologians spend lifetimes trying to fully comprehend the profound truths John presents.”* Chuck Swindoll

John’s purpose was clear: *“Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not recorded in this book. **But these are written that you may believe that Jesus the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.**”* (John 20:30 -31) May you be blessed this Easter season with a deeper understanding of Jesus, the I AM.

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### PART I

- Week 1 – February 12 – 18 – I AM the Bread of Life (John 6)
- Week 2 – February 19 – 25 – I AM the Light of the World (John 8, 9)
- Week 3 – February 26 – March 3 – I AM the Door (John 10)
- Week 4 – March 4 – 10 – I AM the Good Shepherd (John 10)

### PART II

(Part II will be passed out Feb. 25 and March 3)

- Week 5 – March 11 – 17 – I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14)
- Week 6 – March 18 – 24 – I AM the Vine (John 15)
- Week 7 – March 25 – 31 – I AM the Resurrection and the Life (John 11)



### February 12 – 18

Bill and Gloria Gaither penned the song, “There’s Something About That Name” in 1970. Since then, it has become a beloved classic, still sung in churches today:

*“Jesus, Jesus, Jesus; there’s just something about that name.  
Master, Savior, Jesus, like the fragrance after the rain;  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, let all Heaven and earth proclaim  
Kings and kingdoms will all pass away,  
But there’s something about that name...”*

Truly, there is something about *all* of God’s Names and Jesus’ Names, for it is in those names that we discover aspects of God’s character. It is in His Names that we find God is a Provider, a Healer, the Commander of the heavenlies and more.

The writer of the Gospel of John emphasized the deity of Jesus throughout His Gospel, but perhaps the most overlooked and less understood theme was the Name reserved for God in the Old Testament: *The I AM*. Our modern Bible translations and lack of Old Testament understanding do not do justice to this most Holy Name. Jesus was a “rebel” by Pharisee standards. How much more so when He would reveal His deity by proclaiming He was *The “I AM”*.

## DAY 1

To understand the Gospel of John and the controversial words of Jesus, we must first travel back to the Old Testament. *Please don't miss the importance of this study, as it lays the foundation for the rest of the guide!*

A terrible famine had forced Jacob, the father of the nation of Israel, to bring his clan of 70 family members to Egypt to get some grain. Settling in Goshen, (a fertile area east of the Nile delta), the Israelites grew to an estimated population of 1 – 2 million people! (You can get the background for this by reading Genesis 37 – 50).



This staggering population growth threatened the Pharaoh of Egypt. What do you find in Exodus 1:6 -10?

Pharaoh was so threatened by the Israelites, he ordered two edicts. What were they? Read Exodus 1:11 – 22.

An undetermined amount of time goes on and a baby is miraculously saved, due to the valiant and faithful efforts of Shiphrah and Puah, Hebrew midwives. We know the familiar story: This baby boy is pulled from the Nile and raised by Pharaoh's daughter in the palace courts. We read in Acts 7:22 that as this boy (named Moses) grew up, he was *“educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action.”*

When Moses was forty years old, an event occurred that would forever impact his life. Read Acts 7:23 – 29 and summarize:

What a life-altering event! Can you imagine 41-year-old Prince William, heir apparent to the British throne, committing murder, suddenly leaving his palace of privilege, slipping away into anonymity, only to become a shepherd in the hills of Scotland?! It would be stunning! Yet this is the very predicament Moses found himself in!

Moses settled down in Midian. (The Midianites were distant relatives of the Israelites, through Abraham). You can read about this in Genesis 25:1-6. He became a lowly shepherd, diametrically opposite of a respected Egyptian prince.

*When Moses was 80* (Acts 7:30), he experienced God in a way no one has. Read Exodus 3:1-6. What do you find in these verses?

Read through v. 7 -10. What did God tell Moses to do?

Think about this for a moment: There's a little humor in the story! The Israelites had been in captivity for around 400 years. Moses had been disconnected from his people, as well as Egypt, for 40 years (no social media to check up on the latest culture gig). He lived in a land that worshiped idols; his father-in-law, Jethro, was a priest of some kind. It is interesting that Jethro is also called "Reuel" in Ex. 2:18. Reuel means "friend of God," so perhaps he was even a priest of the Lord.

Moses' day would have been uneventful as he went about his shepherdly duties. And then, BOOM! Out of nowhere, this talking, burning bush began to have a conversation with Moses! After identifying Who is speaking from the bush, God instructed Moses to go back to Egypt and bring these 1 -2 million people out of Egypt! No warning. No lead up in the conversation. God just said, "This is Who I AM. Now Go!" How would you have responded?

How did Moses respond in Exodus 3:11?

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We will leave Moses with God and the burning bush for today. Here is the challenge for us:

God used Moses' training and understanding in the palace courts to equip him for a role he never dreamed of. God also equipped Moses through the humility of a shepherd. He needed both skill sets for the monumental task before him. Most of all, he would need to rely on the True Shepherd to lead this flock of stubborn Jews.

## DAY 2

When we left Moses on the mountain yesterday, he was in quite a conundrum, totally taken off guard by this interaction with God. And rightfully so! Wouldn't you be? God, Who had been silent (as far as we know) for the last 400 years, was now telling Moses, a wanted criminal in Egypt, that *he* had been chosen to lead his fellow Jews out from under the bondage of Egypt!

Paraphrasing Moses, his arguments against this idea were the following: "Who am I to go before Pharaoh?" "What if they don't believe me?" "What if they don't listen to me?" and finally, "I'm not a public speaker" (though Acts 7:22 tells us otherwise).

Never once did God say, "Ya know, Moses, you have a point there! Let's try another plan!" No, He continued to remind Moses that He was the I AM and that was sufficient. The I AM. The most holy name for God. The self-existent One. His existence is not dependent on anyone. He is unchangeable. He always was and always will be. Literally, it means, "*To be*". For the first time in the Bible, God is introducing the holiness of His name!

Think on this: It is interesting to note that the word *holy* is also used for the first time in Exodus 3:5. In other words, the ground Moses was on was holy because the *holy I AM* had met him there!

In the Hebrew, "I AM" was translated, *Yahweh*. Another translation is *Jehovah*. Because this particular name was so sacred to the Jews, they began to substitute *Adonay*, or *Lord* and would not speak it. Our translations today write the word *LORD* to refer to this very holy name. It is used most often in reference to God's relationship with Israel because it is also His Covenant Name. You will not find *LORD* in the New Testament, because the New Testament is about the New Covenant and the church!

Let's look at a passage for context. Read Deut. 6:4. What do you find?

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Before we move on to John, it is important for you to also know this: In the Old Testament, you will frequently see "the angel of the LORD". This is very different from "the angel of the Lord". The latter is simply an angel, sent to do God's bidding. The former, however, is believed to be Jesus Preincarnate and is always

designated by the capital letters in LORD. This is an entire study on its own! This may be a new concept for you, but Jesus was very active in the Old Testament!

Read the following verses and write what you discover. Note that there are many more references to the angel of the LORD in the Old Testament!

Genesis 16:7

Numbers 22:21 – 28

Judges 2:1-5

Now look closely at Exodus 3:1 -3. Whose Presence was in the Burning Bush?

What did the angel of the LORD call Himself in Exodus 3:14?

How did the angel of the LORD describe His name in Exodus 3:15-16?

Are you having an “aha” moment? Do you see the groundwork that is being laid throughout Exodus 3? ***Jesus, as part of the Godhead, is also the I AM!*** Jesus claimed to be deity through this Name! And it is *this* Name that will create a lot of problems for Jesus as His ministry expanded.

**Food for Thought:** One day, at the name of the I AM, every knee shall bow, and tongue confess that He is Lord!! (Philippians 2:11)

### DAY 3

Now that we have laid the groundwork for God's Most Holy Name, we will explore how Jesus claimed His deity through that very Name. You will find that as we move through John, the fervor and pitch of those wanting to kill Jesus escalates. Why? Jesus was controversial. He wasted little time chastising those who were full of their religious selves. He didn't shy away from claiming to be the Son. And so we find ourselves amid controversy in John 5. Not only did Jesus heal on the Sabbath, He made some "outrageous" claims! Look at John 5:16 – 18.

Why were the Jews upset with Jesus?

What did Jesus claim in v. 19 – 30?

Turn to John 5:43 – 47. What do you find in these verses?

*Yahweh* was revered by the Jews because it was the Name in which God first identified Himself to Moses. It was then Moses who led the people out of their Egyptian bondage. Moses was their superhero; they didn't grasp the concept that Moses was pointing to someone better than him, which was Jesus.

What did Moses tell the people in Deut. 18:15?

Who was Moses talking about?

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It was springtime, because the Jewish Passover Feast was near...

*"Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee and a great crowd of people followed Him because they saw the miraculous signs He had performed on the sick."* (John 6:1-4)

Look at the above verses and circle the word **because**. Why did the crowd follow Jesus?



How many people had followed Jesus, according to v. 11?  
(Note that this is just *the men*. Estimates of 10,000 – 15,000 people would not be considered off-base because women and children were not counted).

Now there is a problem. The other gospels tell us that this happened later in the day. No fast-food restaurants nearby. No DoorDash or Grubhub. The people are hungry, and some might even be a bit hangry. Not one to be fazed, Jesus asked His disciples a simple question. What was it? Read John 6:5:

Can you imagine the incredulous look they gave Jesus? You can almost hear the exasperation in Philip's voice in v. 7: "*Eight months wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!*"

Probably realizing this wasn't a trick question, Andrew stepped forward and spoke up. What did he tell Jesus in 6:8-9?

Obviously, someone's momma had packed her boy a healthy meal! However, this was a poor man's lunch. Barley loaves were the cheapest of all breads and considered the bread of the poor. The fish would have been no larger than sardines and probably pickled to preserve them.

The people were seated in an organized manner, Jesus prayed over the food and the people were \_\_\_\_\_ (John 6:10 -12a).

How many baskets were filled after the people were done eating? (v. 13)

Hmmm...one wonders if Jesus then gave the disciples a basket a piece, as an object lesson, a reminder, of sorts, as to Who He was...

What was the reaction of the crowd? Look at 6:14 -15.

How did Jesus respond?

**Food for Thought:** The Jews followed Jesus because of the miracles and the healings. Now Jesus had fed a huge crowd. He rebuked them in John 6:26: "*You are looking for Me...because you ate the loaves and had your fill.*"

We often do the same thing to God. **We look for Him, based on what He can do for us, not because He is The I AM.**

## DAY 4

There is a brief interlude of just a few verses that link the events of the 5,000 and the rest of Chapter 6. It is a private moment that John makes us privy to and it is well worth our time to look at it.

In John 6:15, we find that Jesus withdrew from the crowds to pray (Mark 6:46). In John 6:16, we find the disciples climbing into a boat to get to the other side of the lake. It was dark. As is common in the evenings on the Sea of Galilee, a sudden wind catches them in the open water. Mark 6:47 – 48 gives us a little more insight into this event:

Where was Jesus?

What was the wind causing the disciples to do?

What did Jesus see?

If we were to parallel John 6:16 -21 with Mark 6:46 -52, we would find that Jesus waited until the fourth watch of the night (which is between 3 – 6 a.m., Roman time) to make His move...

Turn to Mark 6: 48. What did Jesus do?

Why were the disciples terrified?

**FYI:** Jesus wasn't going to bypass the boat; the phrase, "*pass by*" indicates He came alongside them to reassure them. It is the same phrase used in 1 Kings 19:11 and Ex. 33:19 and speaks of God's appearance as a *theophany*. A theophany is a manifestation of God to man. "*It is a visible display to human beings that expresses the presence and character of God.*" (Crossway.org) The burning bush was an example of a theophany. An analogy might be to imagine going into your child's room because he or she cried out from seeing an imaginary monster. As you open the door, the child can only see your outline. You whisper, "It is me. I am here. You don't have to be afraid." That is your Savior. That is your Jesus. He calms the storms inside of us when we listen for His voice, reminding us that His Presence gives us courage and we don't have to be afraid.

**However, there is a little gold nugget tucked away in both the Mark and John passages.** The Greek translation for "I AM" is *ego eimi*. Oftentimes, *ego eimi* is

used to simply refer to self and not deity. It can have a very ordinary meaning. However, in Mark and John, when Jesus declared, “It is I”, He was declaring that *He* was the *ego eimi*. Jesus was declaring He is the I AM! **Don’t miss it!** Because Jesus is the I AM, **only He** can calm the raging sea. Only the I AM can control what He created! The text tells us that the disciples were “amazed”. In this private moment, Jesus declared to them Who He was, backing His claim with what He could do.

**Food for Thought:** Jesus, the I AM, desires to “get in your boat”. He desires to calm the storms in your life. Won’t you let Him in?

\*Please note: There are some Bible scholars who feel that rather than claiming to be the I AM (in Mark 6:50 and John 6:20), Jesus is simply referring to Himself. However, because these verses do not have a predicate nominative (the second part of a sentence), and the context of the verses lends itself to Jesus’ deity, Jesus is revealing His identity as God to His disciples.

## DAY 5

Though the feeding of the 5,000 is recorded in the other three gospels, it is only in John that we find a “sequel” of sorts. The miracle of the loaves and fishes laid the foundation for the controversial truth Jesus would teach the next day. As we continue our journey through John 6, we are reminded that this entire chapter occurred in less than a 24-hour period.

The disciples had witnessed the miraculous feeding of a mass of people, then had a little sidebar experience with the I AM that left them totally amazed. In the meantime, when the crowds realized that neither Jesus nor the disciples were any where around, *“they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus.”*

Notice the crowd’s response as we read through the rest of John 6. The tone morphs from enthusiastically seeking Jesus (v. 24) to complaining (v. 41) to quarreling (v. 52) and finally, to departing Jesus in disgust (v. 66).

Unfortunately, the crowds weren’t looking for Jesus because of spiritual reasons. Right away, Jesus exposed their true motive. What was it, according to John 6:26?

As Jesus continued in v. 27, He began to address the *true* need that every individual has. What is it?

Look at the word *life* in v. 27. The Greek lexicon states that this word for “*life*”, *zoe*, means *“the absolute fullness of life, both essential and ethical, which belongs to God.”* Jesus was telling the crowd that what He had to offer was much more than getting a full belly. Jesus offered a fulfilled life, an eternal life. They just had to believe in Him - not as a sugar daddy - but as Messiah.

Still not catching on to what Jesus was telling them, the crowd asked Him to do what?! (v. 30) Do you see the irony of their question? Their eyes and hearts were so blinded that they didn’t even connect Jesus had just performed a miraculous sign a few hours earlier.

**Challenge:** Perhaps we shake our head at their lack of understanding, but how often do we miss the blessings God gives us, only to expect something bigger and better?

***Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. The bread of God is He Who comes down from heaven and gives life (zoe) to the world. He who comes to me will never***

***go hungry and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. But as I have told you, you have seen me, and still you do not believe.***” (John 6:35 with v. 33 inserted)

These verses are pivotal to understanding the rest of Jesus’ discourse. Paraphrase the above verses:

Read through John 6:41-52.

What did Jesus say concerning the manna from heaven? (v. 49)

What did Jesus say concerning Himself? (v. 50 -51)

Now we come to perhaps some of the most controversial statements Jesus had made (up to this point). Read John 6:51 – 58. What is the essence of His words?

Remember the context of everything you have read from Days 3 and 4. Jesus had just fed the multitude the day before. When they sought Him the next day, He chastised the crowd because they were only seeking what they could get from Him. Then Jesus taught them that their *true need was spiritual* and that it was the spiritual bread the crowd should seek.

By contrasting Himself with the manna of Israel that nourished their forefathers, He told the group, that, unlike those who ate the manna and died, Jesus offered life that was eternal. He continued in John 6:63: *“The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you – they are full of the Spirit and life.”*

*“Those who misunderstood Jesus and were offended by His talk about eating His flesh and drinking His blood were stuck in a physical mindset, ignoring the things of the Spirit. They were concerned with getting another physical meal, so Jesus uses the realm of the physical to teach a vital spiritual truth. Those who couldn’t make the jump from the physical to the spiritual turned their backs on Jesus and walked away (v. 66)”* Got Questions

It would be another year before Jesus *“took bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it to them, and said, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”* Luke 22:19 (One wonders if the disciples had a flashback of this event).

**Food for Thought:** Jesus used an important, necessary staple of the Jewish meal to compare Himself with: Bread. Throughout His discourse with the crowd, He equated Himself with bread. In other words, He was necessary for an abundant,

eternal life. Not physical sustenance, but eternal life. By claiming to be the I AM, Jesus spoke of His deity, His eternality. By claiming to be the True Bread, He declared that He was the only One Who could offer eternal *zoe*, or life. It is only Jesus Who can satisfy (John 6:35). Why, then, are we content with “*food that perishes*”?

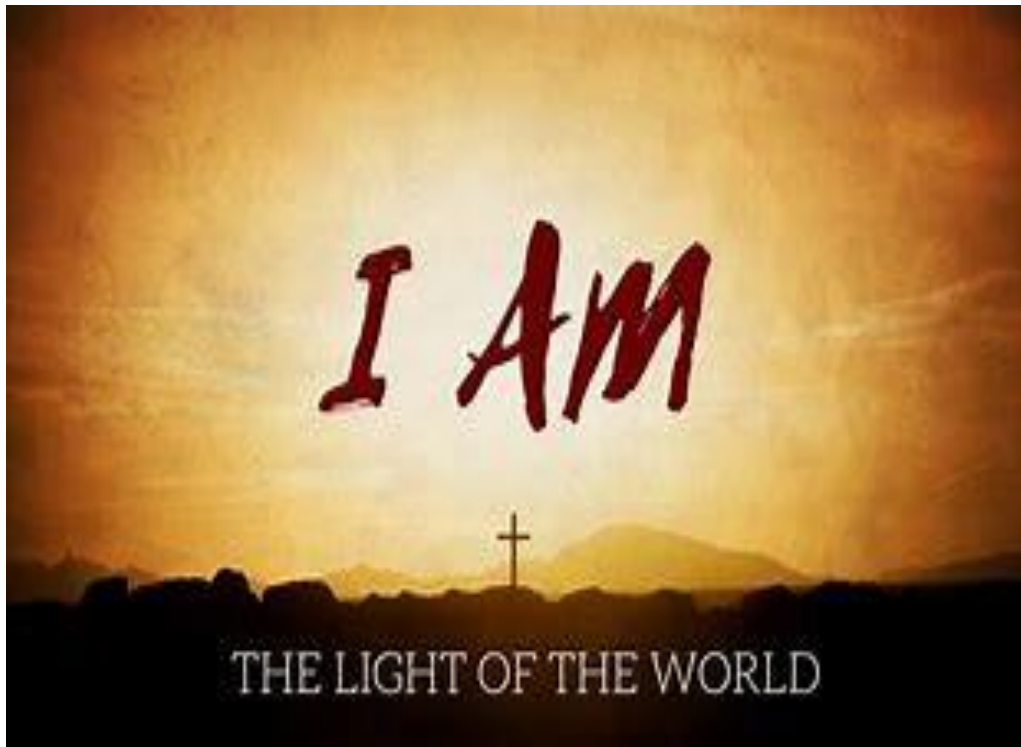
## **DAY 6**

Did you learn anything new?

What are you feasting on (other than the True Bread of Life) which brings no lasting fulfillment?

How can you be intentional to eat only from the Bread of Life?

Pray for the worship service tomorrow. Pray for your heart to hunger for more spiritual bread.



### **February 19 -25**

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were created through Him, and apart from Him not one thing was created that has been created. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. That light shines in the darkness, and yet the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify about the light, so that all might believe through Him. He was not the light, but He came to testify about the light. The True Light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. (John 1:1 -9)*

*Jesus spoke to them again: "I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)*



## DAY 1

Once again, to understand the impact of Jesus' I AM statement, "I am the light of the world", we must return to the Old Testament. Turn to Gen. 1.

In reading vv. 1 -5, what are God's first spoken words?

What did the light separate?

What is called "good"? (See v. 4)

This isn't the sun, as the heavenly bodies were not created until what day? (Read 1:14 -19)

Skim through vv. 6 – 13. What was created between Day 1 and Day 4?

Are you surprised to find that the plants and trees were created before the sun? Why do you think God arranged the days as He did?

R.A. Finlayson writes the following, *"The light was a harbinger of all life upon earth. Nothing could live where the earth was enveloped in darkness. But when light came, things began to happen on earth. Life came with light. Grass began to grow in the fields, the trees in the forest, fish were placed in the ocean, birds in the air, beasts in the field and eventually man came. **But the light was the prerequisite of life, and the harbinger of every blessing that God was to give the world.**"*

Turn to 2 Corinthians 4:4-6. What do you find in these verses?

Oh, the depth of God's mind! From the very beginning, God shows us (in Gen. 1:1-5) that **the supernatural power to become a new creation in Christ can only be compared to the supernatural power of God when He created the heavens and the earth!**

**Food for Thought:** *"Is it not true that while the darkness of nature shrouded our hearts, there was nothing there but desolation and death? As long as we are ignorant of God in Jesus Christ, we are spiritually dead; there can be no life at all as long as we are estranged from God and aliens to His life and love. But when that light shone into our hearts, then life came."* R.A. Finlayson

## DAY 2

Throughout scripture, there is often a spiritual contrast between light and darkness. Even in our secular world, light and darkness are often contrasted similarly:

- Light is associated with what is good, while darkness is often associated with what is not good.
- If you take a flashlight outside in the dark, the light reveals what you couldn't see before.
- It is light that sustains physical life. Most plants will die without light.
- Doctors will often recommend that you take vitamin D to help your immune system, because most people don't get enough sunshine.
- Light is vital to this life on earth. The True Light is vital to spiritual life on earth.

As you look up the following verses, describe the characteristics of light and darkness as it relates to man's spiritual condition:

John 3:19 -21

John 11:9 – 10

John 12:34 – 36; 46

Ephesians 5:8 – 10;13 -14

Ephesians 5:11 -12

Ephesians 6:10 – 12

1 Timothy 6:15 -16

**Food for Thought:** Are there any areas of your life where the darkness is comfortable? What steps do you need to take to come out of the darkness?

### DAY 3

*“From a distance it appeared the Temple was burning. Great fires could be seen leaping high into the night sky. Light from the flames swept the city with an intensity that seemed to brighten every courtyard in Jerusalem. Worshipers on their way to the nightlong service at the Temple passed strange, leafy little huts standing outside houses, in courtyards and even on rooftops. Light shone through them, projecting shadowy patterns against the buildings and on the flagstone streets.*

*The source of illumination was discovered just beyond the Beautiful Gate, inside the Court of Women. Four large candelabras, standing 75 feet high, each with four bowls atop it, stood in the court. Young priests joyfully scaled ladders with containers of oil to fill the candle receptacles, insert cloth wicks and ignite them. One could hear gasps of delight as the throng was dazzled by the sudden bursts of lights. The crowd moved back to make room for the entry of the ‘men of piety and good deeds’. These came into the court, every man holding a torch, and began dancing in circles around the candlesticks, singing songs of praise to Jehovah.*

*As the ceremony progressed, musicians holding instruments, harps, lutes, cymbals and trumpets lined the 15 semicircular steps that led up to the Nicanor Gate. There they played and sang hymns before Jewish pilgrims who had gathered from all sections of the inhabited world.*

*Tabernacles was upon them and it was a time of thanksgiving and rejoicing.”*  
The Outpouring by Elwood McQuaid

The time is Tishri, known as late Sept.-early October. The setting is one of the seven most important Feasts, the Feast of Tabernacles. The place is the Temple Courts. The focus of this whole Feast was quickly shifting to this man, Jesus: *“The Jews were looking for Him at the Festival and saying, “Where is He”?* (John 7:11)

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When the Feast was halfway over, Jesus began to preach. Unfortunately, what He taught was not popular and He began to stir up a hornet’s nest to the point that the crowd *“tried to seize Him. Yet no one laid a hand on Him because His hour had not yet come.”* (John 7:30)

However, some of what Jesus declared fell on fertile soil. What do you find in John 7:31?

How did the Pharisees respond? (John 7:32)

This is the backdrop for today's study. In John 7:37, we find it is "*the last and most important day of the festival.*"

Again, people were divided about Jesus; some believed in Him while others wanted to get their hands on Him. (Read John 7:40 – 52).

What do you find in John 8:12?

We don't know how this pronouncement went down but imagine the masses of people who had assembled. Perhaps the huge lights on the Temple Mount had just been lit. Jesus then spoke the words of John 8:12.

What was Jesus telling the people? Just as God had delivered the Jews from the bondage of Egyptian slavery, Jesus could deliver the people from the bondage of spiritual slavery to sin. He was reminding them that just as the light separated the darkness in creation, so, too, only He could bring light to their lives.

Jesus' conversation with the crowd quickly spiraled downward. Read through John 8:21 – 47. What did you discover?

How did Jesus describe the crowd in John 8:43 - 44?

Jesus called a spade a spade, didn't He? He knew Who He was and that it was truth! **Challenge:** Why, then, are we so often afraid to talk about Jesus, when we know it is truth?

There is another little nugget of gold in John 8:48 -59. Summarize what you discover, paying close attention to the argument about Abraham. What did Jesus tell them, in v. 56?

How did the crowd respond (v. 57)?

Keep in mind that Jesus had publicly declared Himself the I AM on two previous occasions: As the Bread of life and as the Light of the world (John 6:36 and John

8:12). And now, as He was debating the crowd, He made this statement: “*Before Abraham was, I AM.*”

How did the crowd respond to Jesus in v. 59?

Why?

Were they successful?

Why? Read 2 Cor. 4:4.

**Food for Thought:** Jesus still gives us difficult truths to follow as believers. Consider just two: In Luke 9:23, we are told to take up our cross daily. This means dying to selfish desires. In Matt. 7:1 - 8, we are told not to judge others. Is there ever a right time to do so? These are just two examples of what it means to live a holy life. Yet oftentimes, we treat the Lord’s very words as a buffet. We choose what we like and discard what we don’t. In many ways, we are no different than the crowds at the Feast. Will you take a moment and ask the Lord to shine *light on any areas of your life* that are keeping you stunted in your walk with Him?

## DAY 4

It is interesting that of the seven I AM statements, “I AM the light of the world” is the only one that also gives believers a challenge in their everyday lives. As you look at the following verses, summarize each and prayerfully think through the challenge that follows:

### **Matt. 5:14 -16**

What are some ways that you can let your light shine each day?

*“A light is meant to shine and give direction. A concealed lamp would be useless. Light-radiating people live so that others see their good deeds and give praise not to them but to their Father in heaven.”* The Bible Knowledge Commentary by Walvood and Zuck

### **Ephesians 5:8 -14**

How is the “fruit of light” described?

What is to be exposed when believers “walk as children of light”?

Are you exhibiting the fruit of the light? Does Christ “*shine on you*” on a day-to-day basis?

**1 John 1:5 – 6** – How do believers often deceive themselves?

What is the promise found in 1 John 1:7?

### **Romans 13:12 – 14**

What are we to put on each day as we fight the deeds of darkness?

What would this look like in your life?

**Food for Thought:** Do you reflect the light of Christ, or would people have trouble describing you as a believer?

## DAY 5

It is fascinating that everything in God's economy comes full circle. We see this in Revelation: Sin will be no more. There will be a perfect garden named Eden. The earth will no longer groan under sin. (You can read about this in Romans 8:20 -21). And there will be light. Lots of light.

Before that time, however, there will come a time of darkness, of which the pervasive evil is unimaginable. What do you discover in Rev. 9:20 -21?

Aside from the "deeds of darkness", there will be a judgement of darkness. What do you find in Joel 3:15 – 17 and Rev. 6:12?

At the end of the 7-year period, known as the Tribulation, there will be a new heaven and a new earth. The word *new* means that this heaven and earth is even better than before. You often hear of items that are "new and improved". It is the same item, but better. And so it will be when God ushers in a new heaven and earth. What will make it "new and improved"?

Rev. 21:22 – 24

Rev. 21: 25

Rev. 22:5

What a wonderful truth that believers must look forward to! Friend, will you experience this Light one day? If you don't know, make sure the answer is "yes"! If you have worked through the devotional up to this point, you know that you must believe in the I AM. Won't you take a moment and ask for His light to come into your heart?

**Thought for the Day:** *"Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts."* (Heb. 4:7) Make sure you know the Light of the World!

## DAY 6

Did you learn anything new this week?

Referring to Day 4, how are you/will you, reflect the true Light? If you just met someone and spent an hour with that person, would the light of Christ shine through? Would that person know you are a Christian by how you speak and/or act?

Pray for the worship service tomorrow. Pray for your heart to *desire* to let the Light expose any dark crevasses of your heart.





### **February 26 – March 3**

Over the course of the next two weeks, we will study two of Jesus' I AM statements: In John 10:7, Jesus will state that He is the Door, or the Gate. In John 10:11, 14, He will declare that He is the Good Shepherd. As you will discover, the two are intricately woven together and portray a Savior Who is loving and kind. A Savior Who will protect and lay down His life, a totally foreign concept to the nation of Israel at this time. They were expecting a warrior-king, who would free them from Roman bondage. Instead, the Man professing to be the Messiah equated Himself to the lowly station of Shepherd.

The Jewish society was basically an agrarian society – their livelihood revolved around farming, fishing, and livestock. Throughout the four gospels, Jesus repeatedly used parables and metaphors of those things the Jews would be familiar with to teach truths that were beyond their understanding. So it is with John 10. Using language that the Jews would immediately understand, some would be offended and angry enough to kill Him while others would believe His words.

Jesus was truly perplexing and polarizing. People were at once fascinated with Him, while being repulsed at the same time. Once again, people will try to kill Jesus, and once again, their efforts will fail. Why? Because He was the I AM.

## DAY 1

To lay a foundation for this week and next, we need some insight into what Jesus was saying in John 10.

Some background on a sheep pen: Sheep pens were vital to the safety of the sheep. A sheep pen, or sheep fold, would be constructed of rocks (if it was in the village or town). The shepherds would bring their flocks at night to this pen and the sheep would mingle together. A doorkeeper would be hired to watch over the sheep while the shepherds slept. Their job was to stay alert to robbers and wild animals. Often, they would literally serve as a “gate” or “door” by laying down at the entrance of the pen.



However, when a shepherd was in the countryside, he would create a sheep pen using branches and briars to keep his sheep safe at night. He might also find a cave to shelter the flock. And, of course, he would lay down at the entrance to the pen (at night).



Look at the following verses and summarize what you learn:

1 Samuel 17:20

1 Samuel 24:3

Numbers 32:24

Psalm 78:70 – 72

Micah 2:12 -13

(This is a Messianic passage; Jesus will one day lead His flock!)

The door, or gate, to the sheep pen, represented entering a place of protection and security. Only the shepherd(s) of the sheep were allowed entrance into the sheep pen.

**Food for Thought:** One day, there will be a different kind of door or gate. These gates will always be open not require a watchman. What do you discover in Rev. 21:12 -14; 22 – 27?

## DAY 2

The wonderful thing about the Lord is His ability (through His Word) to explain deep, theological concepts in a simple, practical way that we can understand. So it is with the *door*. Yes, you read correctly! A door! As you look up the following verses, don't look for anything outside of what you read. Write down what you discover about doors. We *will* pull it all together!

### **Genesis 6:14 -16**

How many doors were on the ark?

By entering through the door, what would Moses and his family find? (Gen. 7:7-16)

### **Exodus 12:6 -13**

What was to be applied to the doorposts of every household that believed God's instructions?

After the blood was applied, what did the people have to do to be protected? (implied in scripture)

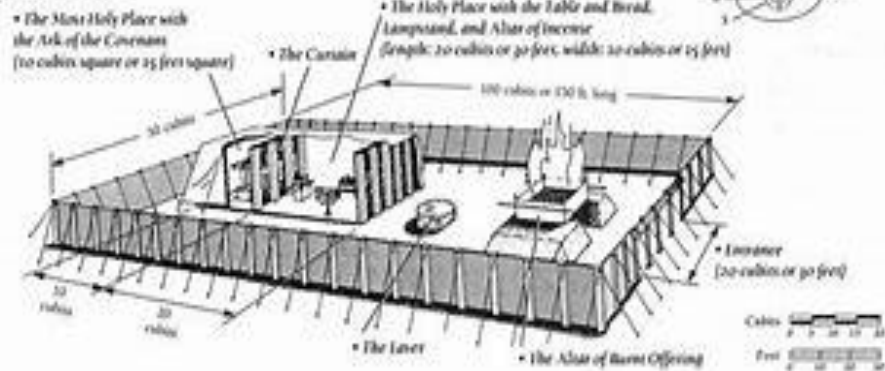
### **Exodus 27:16**

How many doors were made for the outer courtyard?

The entrance was also to be put on the side facing *east*. The direction *east* always represented moving away from God. This is the *only door* in which any Jew could enter. (Tuck this little tidbit away. We will explore it in depth as we get closer to Easter).

As you can see from the diagram on the next page, there were two more doors, or veils. Only the priests could enter the second door and only the High Priest could enter the third. Each of the gates, door, or veils, showed the Jewish nation how to approach a holy God. Walking toward the *west* always represented drawing closer to God.

## The Tabernacle



What do you think the doors of Genesis and Exodus symbolize?

Noah and his family had to intentionally go through the *one door* to be saved from the coming judgment of the world. The Hebrews had to apply the lamb's blood to the doorpost and then enter that *same door* to be saved from the coming judgment of Egypt. Every Jew had to enter the outer gate's *entrance* of the Tabernacle to receive forgiveness on the Brazen Altar.

**Food for Thought:** Do you see the beauty of the door? The doors foreshadowed God's eternal relationship with man: Outside the door was judgment. **It is only when an individual opens the door and enters through it that he will find protection.** Everyone has the choice to open the door that Jesus spoke about. He won't push you through. Have you truly opened the door of your heart to the I AM?

### DAY 3

Doors can be of a spiritual and personal nature. However, *doors always reflect personal choices as well*. Every individual has the choice to open the door that leads to an abundant life. What does John 10:9 tell us?

(The phrase, to “come in and go out” would have been very recognizable to the Jewish audience. It was a description of safety and security).

Turn to **Gen. 4:1 -7**. Summarize what had happened in this passage?

How did God respond?

What do you think God was saying in this passage?

(Our sin nature desires to rule over us, to set our own standards above God’s.)

#### **What happens when we open the door to sin?**

Romans 6:12 -14

Ephesians 4:27

Unfortunately, though the power of sin has been destroyed through Jesus’ death (Colossians 2:14- 15), we still grapple with this sin nature.

What does **Galatians 5:16 -18** tell us?

Do you ever get tired of yourself? Your sin nature? Paul, who seemed to be the standard for all things Christian, drove himself to despair as he wrestled with his sin nature. What do you find in Romans 7:14 -24a?

Yet he found hope and grace in Romans 7:24b-25:

Don’t gloss over the word *through* in v. 25. Compare it with John 10:9. What do you find?

Paul rejoiced that *through* Jesus, the Door, he could have victory over sin. Because he had walked through the Door, “*he will come in and go out, and find pasture.*” Paul experienced “*life to the full.*” (John 10:9, 10)

**Food for Thought:** Throughout any given day, we are given choices as to which door we will open. One door leads to further sin and appeals to the flesh. The other door leads to an abundant and full life, even when circumstances may be difficult.

## DAY 4

Doors were not always pictured in a good light in that once shut, there is no longer an opportunity to go through them again.

Today's cultural climate embraces the idea that all religious roads will get a person to heaven if that person is genuine in his or her belief. Rationally, that doesn't work for a couple of reasons:

1. Some religions believe there isn't a heaven, or that you are reincarnated. Another religion believes you go to another planet, populate it, and become gods. Different interpretations for heaven.
2. Religions also have different criteria for the afterlife. All are based on some kind of "works" done on earth.

Obviously, we are looking at different kinds of afterlife and how to achieve that afterlife. The argument fails because they are not in agreement. Someone is right and someone is wrong, wouldn't you agree? Jesus spoke to this mindset in Matt. 7:13 -14. What did He say?

How many will go through this narrow gate, according to v. 14?

Turn to **Luke 13:22 – 30**.

What is the question in v. 23?

Interesting question, isn't it? However, Jesus didn't directly answer the question. Look at v. 24.

Jesus told the crowd that the number of those saved wasn't the question of the day. They weren't to worry about numbers, but themselves. What challenge did He throw to the people in v. 24, 25?

Summarize v. 26, 27.

How do these verses apply to the church today? We can play at this thing called Christianity. On the outside, we look the part: regular church attender, tither, does his quiet time, sits on committees, and can even recite the Bible! The problem,



however, is that the person never entered the True Door.. He or she never made the choice to go through. Everything on earth was a sham that fooled everyone but Jesus. How sad.

**Food for Thought:** Jesus said, "*I AM the door.*" It is a narrow door. It is not enough to open the door. **You must enter the Door.** Don't play church. That path is broad and leads to hell. The Hebrew writer very plainly said, "*TODAY is the day of salvation.*" Heb. 4:7b

## DAY 5

Doors often present themselves as opportunities, of choices. Have you ever heard an expression that was like, “You better take the opportunity. That door may never open again?” To take advantage of the opportunity, one had to figuratively “open the door”.

It is no different in our Christian lives. We pray for God’s will (the opportunity), but oftentimes don’t recognize it or don’t desire what has been revealed.

Let’s look at some *doors* that opened for Paul as he shared the gospel:

### **Acts 14:21 – 28**

If you were to read the previous verses in Chapter 14, you would find that Paul had been stoned to the point of death and thrown out of town. Not one to be deterred, Paul and Barnabas continued to other towns, even returning to Lystra, where Paul had been stoned! In v. 21, we find that there was a fruitful harvest. Returning to Antioch, what did Paul and Barnabas do? (Read v. 26 – 28)

### **1 Cor. 16:5 -9**

What was Paul’s dilemma?

What *door* had opened?

Whose will was Paul submitting to in v. 7?

Despite a door opening for Paul to do his work, he was met with what (in v. 9)?

There are two things we can glean from these verses:

- God’s opportunities, or doors, must be opened only with a submissive heart to His will.
- God’s door of opportunity doesn’t mean the choice to enter will be easy. Sometimes you are met with opposition.

### **2 Cor. 2:12 -13**

A little background: Paul had sent the first letter to the Corinthian church through Titus (2 Cor. 2:4). Paul was to meet up with Titus in Troas and then proceed from there. However, when Paul got to Troas, he found an “open door” (people who

wanted to hear about Paul's message), but his spirit was not at peace because Titus was not there as planned.

What was the open *door* in this case?

**Food for Thought:** Have you ever prayed for God to open the “door of opportunity” so that you could share the Gospel with someone? Even though stoned to the brink of death, Paul never waived in his mission to tell others that Jesus was *The Door*. Ask God to give you those opportunities and to have the kind of boldness and courage Paul had to follow through on those opportunities.

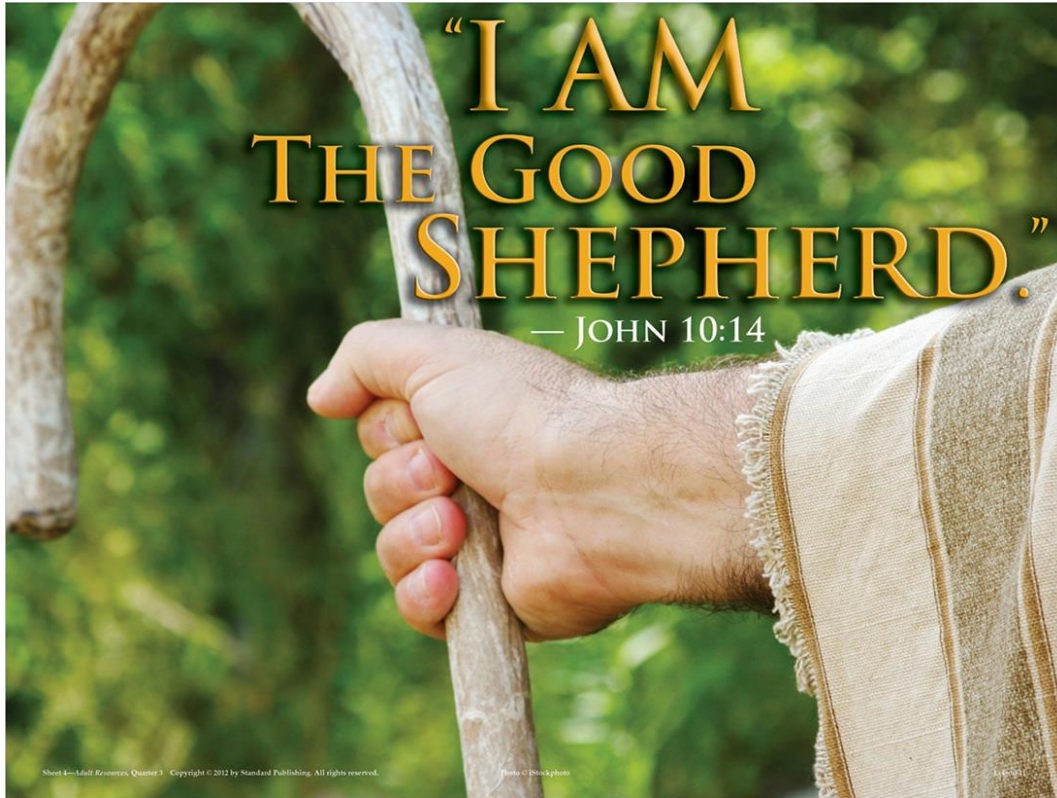
## DAY 6

Did you learn anything new this week?

Examine your heart and ask the Lord to show you if you have entered through The Door or if you are still just *standing at* the door. There is a big difference! There is an eternal difference!

Ask the Lord to give you one or two “doors of opportunity” this week. Ask Him to give you discernment and wisdom as you interact with the people you encounter this week!

Pray for tomorrow’s worship service. Pray for your heart to hear what God wants you to hear and to act on what you have heard!



### **March 4 – 10**

Last week, Jesus declared He was The Door to God. This was such a new concept to the Jewish audience! Their religious system was a combination of faith and keeping the Law. Over time, and as the religious leaders grew in power, they added “shackles to the Law”, holding the people in the prison of legalism. The leaders didn’t care about the people. Instead, they milked the people for their own financial gain and were hypocrites of the worst kind. Jesus would confront the scribes and Pharisees for exploiting the people. We will discover that the scene in John 10 is one of those times not only by declaring He is the only way to God, but that, as God, *He* is the real Shepherd of Israel.

## DAY 1

Once again, we need a little background to understand the depth of these five words, “*I AM the Good Shepherd*”.

The Shepherd’s Arsenal:

- **Scrip or bag** – this was made of dried animal skins; it would hold the shepherd’s food; a typical meal was along the lines of bread, cheese, dried fruit and olives. (David put his stones in this bag when he battled Goliath).
- **Sling** – a shepherd would be so adept with his sling, he could accurately land a stone in front of the nose of a sheep bent on straying (in order to get it back into the fold). What do you find in these verses?

Judges 20:16

1 Samuel 17:48 -49

- **Staff** – a wooden club, with a knob at the end; often embedded with nails; this was used when facing off predators.
- **Rod** – what we would call a shepherd’s hook. It was used to guide the sheep. Oftentimes the shepherd would also use the crook to catch the sheep.



What do you think David was thinking when he penned the words, *“I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me”*? (Psalm 23:4)

As the sheep were brought into the sheep pen, the shepherd would stop each one with his rod to inspect them for any injuries or insects and to count them. By rubbing the rod over the wool, he could easily tell if there was anything wrong with each one.

It is also interesting to note that the rod would sometimes be dipped into some kind of colored fluid that would identify every tenth sheep that passed through the door. Every tenth sheep, then would be set aside for sacrifices.

Lev. 27:32 - 33

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Shepherds could not afford to be timid or fearful. They knew many enemies. The shepherd had to be willing to sacrifice his life for the lives of these dumb, oftentimes, wayward, sheep. What do you discover about the courage of a shepherd in the following verses?

1 Samuel 17:34 - 36

How is the LORD Almighty compared in Isaiah 31:4?

**Food for Thought:** Jesus came as a humble Shepherd. However, there will come a time when He comes as a mighty warrior!

*“I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice He judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on His head are many crowns. He has a name written on Him that no one but He Himself knows. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and His Name is the Word of God...On His robe and on His thigh He has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS”* (Rev. 19:11 -16)

## DAY 2

The shepherd would be taught to be loyal to his flock. For the Bible times shepherd, the sheep were used primarily for the wool and sacrifice. Shepherding was often lonely, and so the sheep would become his companions and friends, much like a pet. **The shepherd would, in fact, spend so much time with his sheep, that he knew every little detail about his flock:**

H.V. Morton writes the following: *“The shepherd calls sharply from time to time, to remind them of his presence. They know his voice, and follow on: but if a stranger call, they stop short, lift up their heads in alarm, and if it is repeated, they turn and flee, for they know not the voice of a stranger...Sometimes he talks to them in a loud sing-song voice, using a weird language unlike anything I have ever heard in my life.”*

Morton then relays a scene he witnessed: *“Two shepherds had sheltered their flocks in the cave during the night. How were the flocks to be sorted out? One of the shepherds stood some distance away and gave his peculiar call which only his own sheep knew, and soon the whole flock had run to him, because they knew his voice.”*

**Another characteristic of a good shepherd was that he would be willing to die in protecting his sheep.**

W. M. Thomson in *The Land and the Book*, writes the following: *“I have known more than one case where he (the shepherd) had literally to lay it (his life) in the contest. A poor faithful fellow last spring, between Tiberias and Tabor, instead of fleeing, actually fought three Bedouin robbers until he was hacked to pieces with their khanjars, and died among the sheep he was defending.”*

Herein lies the difference between the true and false shepherds:

- The True Shepherd had a loving, caring relationship with his sheep; he knew that he had to be willing to lay down his life for the flock (whenever they were attacked).
- The hireling often took the job of watching sheep solely for the money and held no vested interest in the sheep; therefore, laying down his life for the sheep would not have been high on his priority list.



As you open John 10, you will discover Jesus discussing a sheep pen or fold. **This is Israel. Keep this in mind as we work our way through the chapter!**

Using the background information from the last two days and the information found on pages 27 - 28, look up the following verses:

Read John 10:1 – 3, 10, 14. Who is the shepherd?

v. 3 - 5 – Who are the sheep?

v. 7 – 10 – What will the Good Shepherd do for His sheep?

What did Jesus reiterate to the Jews in v. 14 -18?

Let's think about this for a moment: Jesus was talking to a primarily Jewish audience. Because He is the I AM, **Jesus was letting the Jews know Israel was *His flock!*** Let's look at a couple of verses that support this:

How did God describe Israel in Psalm 95:6 -7?

Jer. 23:1 - 3

Ezekiel 34:11 -12

How did the crowd take Jesus' words? John 10:19 -21.

**Food for Thought:** Have you ever thought about the nation of Israel as God's flock? Have you ever thought about Israel as Jesus' flock as well?

### DAY 3

In reading John 10 yesterday, there was perhaps an obscure verse that you may or may not have caught. Read v. 16. What did Jesus tell the people?

Who are these sheep?

#### **Acts 10:22 – 48**

Continue reading Acts 11:1. What earth-shattering word had the Jewish believers received?

What was the response to the news about the Gentiles (vv. 2 -3)?

How did Peter finish the telling of what had happened to him? Look at Acts 11:15-17.

The Jews were astonished that salvation through Jesus was also available to the Gentiles! How did they respond in v. 18?

An explosion of Gentile believers began to fan a flame that would take the world by storm. What do you find in Acts 11:19 – 26?

**Important to know!** There is a false teaching spun in some circles called *Replacement Theology*. At its most basic level, replacement theology states that the Church has replaced Israel in God's redemptive plan. It also teaches that the promises for Israel are now for the church.

Turn to Romans 11:11-12. How did Paul refute this idea that was already being planted 2,000 years ago?

Let's see what God has to say on this matter! Turn to Jeremiah 31:35 – 37. What did God have to say about His covenant with Israel?

**Food for Thought:** God's Redemptive Plan is for everyone! A relationship with Jesus is for everyone! Jew and Gentile alike! "*This mystery (of Christ) is that through the Gospel, the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus*". (Eph. 3:6)

## DAY 4

God placed the priests in a position of shepherding His flock. They were to perform their priestly duties for the people, teach them and guide them. The prophets were also considered shepherds, and finally, the kings were called shepherds as well. Joshua, was, in fact, likened to a shepherd in Numbers 27:15 – 23. On paper, this looked great. Realistically, it didn't take long for most of them to lead the people astray, both from negligence and outright disobedience. It didn't go unnoticed by God. What do you find in the following verses?

### **Ezekiel 34:2-6**

- In vv. 2 – 3, how were the shepherds filling their own coffers?
- In vv. 4 -6, the neglect of the shepherds caused the sheep to do what?

God would hold the shepherds accountable. What do you find in Ez. 7 - 10?

The indictment against the shepherds of Israel was serious and a dominant theme in Jeremiah and Ezekiel. Jeremiah was written before Israel's Babylonian captivity and served as a warning to turn back to God. Ezekiel was written during the captivity. The sheep had gone astray for many reasons, but one reason was due to the unfaithful leadership of the shepherds.

Unfortunately, the spiritual shepherds of Jesus' day were not any better. As mentioned before, their additional rules to The Law of Moses kept the people in spiritual bondage. In the New Testament, these spiritual leaders were often called "wolves". Jesus called them "thieves and robbers". Read John 10:1 – 13.

How are these spiritual wolves described?

Matt. 7:15

Acts 20:28 – 30

*"The Greek word for "thief" used in John 10:10 means "one who steals"; figuratively, the same word is used to refer to false teachers. Anyone who claimed a way of salvation other than Jesus was "robbing" the people of truth. Just as a thief clambers over the wall of the sheepcote, bypassing the gate, false teachers*

*attempt to bypass Jesus. Those who, like the Pharisees, put manmade requirements on people for salvation are false teachers who "steal" people's ability to see the true means of salvation."* Got Questions

Since we live in the Church age, we are not bound by the rules and regulations of the Law. However, that doesn't keep us from the wolves, thieves, and robbers. There is a plethora of false doctrines which are taught in the name of Jesus. That is why we need to know what the **Bible** says. Not a book. Not a teacher. Not a movie. The problem is that all too often, we want the easy doctrine; we are always ready to listen to the latest "flavor of the month", never checking the teaching against scripture. We want someone else to spoon-feed us.

Read 2 Peter 2:1 – 3. Do you see the same similarities today?

**Food for Thought:** It behooves us to know scripture. It behooves us to be discerning. Why? We find the answer in Matt. 24:10 -11, 22 – 24: Deception and false teaching intertwined with great signs and wonders will lead many to hell. Ultimately, it will be the Antichrist and his cohort, the False Prophet, who will deceive the world. It is imperative that we *"be ready in season and out of season, correct, rebuke, and encourage with great patience and teaching. For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine..."* 2 Timothy 4:3

## DAY 5

We find great comfort when we read about The Good Shepherd. As you read through John 10:1 – 21 one last time, list the ways in which Jesus is The Good Shepherd:

vv. 3, 14

v. 9a

vv. 9b, 10

vv. 15,17

v. 18

How are believers to respond to the Good Shepherd's words? (John 10:3,4)

We cannot know someone's voice if we don't spend time with that person, right? Think about the early days of courtship: Both parties can't wait to be with the other. Conversations last for hours. Because they want to please each other, they look for ways to do so. It is the "seeking" phase – seeking what is best for the other. It is about being mindful and attentive to the relationship. Jesus is our Bridegroom. How much more should we seek Him? How do the following verses guide us in the *first steps* of knowing His voice?

Deut. 4:29

Proverbs 8:17

Jer. 29:13

James 4:8

God most often speaks to us in the quietness of our hearts as we seek Him. The problem is that we never allow "the quiet". We don't take the time to *be* quiet. When God spoke the words, "*Be still and know that I am God*" (Psalm 46:10), He meant to cease from striving. We cannot hear His voice if we are caught up in busyness and the cares of this life. We cannot hear His voice if we aren't

intentionally seeking Him. Instead, and all too often, we will hear the voice of the thieves and the robbers.

**Food for Thought:** Seeking God is the first step in hearing His voice. When Elijah was having his “broom tree moment”, God’s voice wasn’t in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire. It was in His voice, which was like a soft whisper (1 Kings 19:9-13). What a beautiful picture of our Shepherd Who loves His sheep. Not only does the Shepherd desire you to enter the Door He has provided, He desires a relationship with you, a relationship that knows the sweetness of a soft whisper.

## **DAY 6**

Did you learn anything new this week?

Do you know your Shepherd's voice? Like the sheep who would run to their shepherd as they heard his voice, so, too, must every believer. How can you be more intentional in your walk with the Lord?

Pray for tomorrow's worship service. Pray for your heart to hear what God wants you to hear and to act on what you have heard!

## EPILOGUE

There had been many false “Messiahs” who had come to the nation of Israel. Though they had followers, they were simply flawed men who would eventually die. Jesus, however, was different. He was a Man of contrasts: He taught with authority and knowledge. He honored women and ate with sinners, like tax collectors. He healed the sick and cast out demons. He showed grace to a lost nation of sick sheep... Except for the religious zealots. It was to these men Jesus would relentlessly expose their pride and hypocrisy. Not a way to endear yourself.

By the second and third year of His ministry, the atmosphere wherever Jesus went was electric. People were clamoring to Him and believing His Words. The religious leaders were beside themselves. And on that note, we close Part 1 with John 10.

Part 2 will encompass the final days of Jesus. While the first four I AM statements were taught in public, two of the three remaining I AM statements were intended only for Jesus’ disciples. They would be a reminder of Who He is as they saw their world being turned upside down.

Perhaps you feel your world is upside down at the moment. Cling to the I AM. He is the only One Who can give you an abundant life amid difficulty. He is the only One Who can satisfy the emptiness in your heart. He has laid down His life for you. Cling to the I AM.