



(NAME)

GLORY DAYS

Ever dreamt of sitting down with a celebrity? Well, this week, you have the chance to hang out with the greatest and most influential leader ever – Jesus. What if he could introduce himself to you? In the book of John, he gives us seven special descriptions of himself, kind of like his personal name tag.

Most of us have seen people wearing name tags—store employees or servers at a restaurant, for example. Maybe you’ve even been given one of those “Hi, my name is ____” stickers to wear on your first day of school. Wearing a name tag is one way we can introduce ourselves to people who have never met us. Jesus didn’t wear a name tag, but He did introduce Himself to people who didn’t know who He was. In John’s gospel, the apostle records seven times that Jesus used the words “I am” to help His hearers understand who He was and why He came.

These “I Am statements” are a window into the character of Jesus, telling us more about who he is. During our upcoming sessions, you’ll get to hear Jesus revealing himself through these statements. It’s like getting to know someone by letting them share about themselves. In a world buzzing with opinions and questions about Jesus, these “I Am statements” cut through the noise. Was he just a good teacher or a servant? The best way to figure it out is to sit down with Jesus through these statements. It’s an amazing opportunity to let Jesus personally introduce himself to you. Get ready for an exciting journey!

WELCOME TO BASE CAMP!

Dear Camper, Welcome to T Bar M Base Camp's Bible Study, or what we like to call "Trail Guide" for 2024! This year, we will spend time studying the person of Jesus. Did you know that every book of the Bible tells us something about who God is? Every book reveals something we need to know about Him. In the book of John, Jesus gives us seven descriptions of himself. Each of these seven descriptions tells us more about the character of Jesus, about who He is. Each of these seven statements also starts with two words, "I AM." We hope that as you work and read through this study, you will begin to see and understand just how glorious Jesus is, be inspired to love, trust, and follow Him more, and live out your "glory days."

We've named it the "Trail Guide" because, much like you rely on a guide when exploring new places, the Bible serves as our guide for navigating life's journey. It's not just a book; it's like a trusty companion that points us in the right direction and helps us make wise choices. Each Bible study day will be divided into six parts: Pack up your Gear, Look at the Map, Hit the Trail, Unpack your Gear, and Hang up your Boots. Here's how it breaks down:

Pack Up Your Gear (Warm-Up): Each Bible study you will open in prayer and do a quick review of the "I AM" statement for the day before. This will help you see the connections more clearly. Like packing up everything you need before the hike, this will set the tone for learning about God.

Look at the Map (Storytelling): Next, you will read a Bible passage and get to observe the different events and descriptors of Jesus. Like a map, this will be the details that help bring to life the trail ahead for the day.

Hit the Trail (Discovery Questions): Following that, you will also have a chance to think about the scripture passage and dig deeper using both reason and imagination. Much like a real hike, this will lead to working hard, step by step to dig the truth out of the passage.

Unpack your Gear (Application): In the Unpack your Gear section, you will take the lessons found in the story and see how to apply them in your life by unpacking the gap between the character of Jesus and your own. Like after a hike, you will use this moment to pause and reflect.

Hang up your Boots (Wrap-Up): You will also get a chance to memorize scripture every day so that it becomes the overflow of their hearts. You will try to memorize the verse as a group and work on hanging up the truth of God inside their hearts. Before heading out for their next adventure at camp, campers will conclude the Bible study with a short prayer that thanks God for what they have learned and ask Him to help them grow and apply that day's lesson to their life.

DAY 1

JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

PACK UP YOUR GEAR (WARM-UP):

RECAP: What did you learn from the message last night?

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: Does anyone have any pets? Talk about what it takes to keep and look after a pet. If you want to take care of a pet you need to understand what it needs. Does it need regular food and water? Where does it sleep? Does it need to exercise? When we understand our pets and know their needs, then we can look after them better. Who knows us better than anyone else? God does! He knows our inner thoughts and he's with us every moment. He cares deeply for us and loves us for eternity.

TODAY, we will dive into the concept of how Jesus cares for us, much like an owner tends to their animal's needs. In a similar way, God takes care of us, leading and guiding us safely towards an eternal connection with Him in heaven.

LOOK AT THE MAP (STORYTELLING):

READ: John 10:11-15

KEY WORDS:

- **Shepherd:** someone who leads and cares for his own flock of sheep. In the context of the story, Jesus is the beloved shepherd who leads, protects, restores, and ultimately sacrifices for the sheep of his pasture- all those who hear the Good Shepherds voice and follow him.

JOHN 10:11-15

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. ¹² A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don't belong to him and he isn't their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because he's working only for the money and doesn't really care about the sheep.

¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, ¹⁵ just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep.

HIT THE TRAIL (DISCOVERY QUESTIONS):

Jesus was comparing us to sheep in this story. Sheep are not very bright, and they need a shepherd to take care of them, to bring them to green grass and pure water to drink. On a farm, sheep are vulnerable – predators love them, thorns get stuck in their wool, and they're prone to accidents. Interestingly, sheep are mentioned a whopping 500 times in the Bible. A good shepherd makes sure the sheep are happy and safe. Then ask the following question:

- Why does Jesus compare us to sheep?
- What happens to a flock of sheep if there is no shepherd?
- How did Jesus lay down his life for the sheep?

UNPACK YOUR GEAR (APPLICATION):

- Read Psalm 23: Why do you think God leads us through difficult times or “valleys”?
- Have there been times where you followed other “shepherds” in your life (bad influences, friends, etc.)? What happened?
- Reflect on someone in your life who might feel lost. How can you be a guide, reflecting Jesus to them?

HANG UP YOUR BOOTS (WRAP-UP):

MEMORIZE: “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” John 10:11 NIV

JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

DAY 2

PACK UP YOUR GEAR (WARM-UP):

RECAP: What does it mean that Jesus is our “good shepherd”?

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: Have you ever been or are you currently afraid of the dark? Why or why not? Imagine being in a dark room, trying to find your way around. It’s not easy, right? But when you turn on a light, everything becomes clear – light pierces through the darkness, and suddenly, we can see!

TODAY, we are going to be talking about how Jesus is like that light in our lives. He helps us see what’s right and good, and He wants us to be honest and open with Him.

LOOK AT THE MAP (STORYTELLING):

READ: John 9:1-7

READ: Matthew 5:14-16

KEY WORDS:

- **Light:** Light helps us to see things clearly, and it’s essential to life. Light shows the way and exposes potential obstacles. In the context of this lesson, Jesus is the source of light as the creator of all living things, the one who shows the way and the giver of essential life.

JOHN 9:1-7

Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

¹ As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth.

² "Rabbi," his disciples asked him, "why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents' sins?"

³ "It was not because of his sins or his parents' sins," Jesus answered. "This happened so the power of God could be seen in him. ⁴ We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent us. The night is coming, and then no one can work. ⁵ But while I am here in the world, I am the light of the world."

⁶ Then he spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and spread the mud over the blind man's eyes. ⁷ He told him, "Go wash yourself in the pool of Siloam" (Siloam means "sent"). So the man went and washed and came back seeing!

MATTHEW 5:14-16

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.

¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

HIT THE TRAIL (DISCOVERY QUESTIONS):

When Jesus said, "I am the light of the world," He was telling us something super special. He wants us to live in the light with Him, and that means we don't have to hide anything!

As Christians, we are called to live in the light of Jesus. That means we don't have to hide our mistakes or pretend to be perfect. Jesus knows everything about us, and He loves us anyway. When we make mistakes, instead of hiding, we can come to Jesus and ask for forgiveness. His light shines on us, bringing love, joy, and forgiveness into our lives.

HIT THE TRAIL (DISCOVERY QUESTIONS):

- What do you think it means that Jesus is the "light of the world?"
- What does Jesus promise to those who follow him?
- What do you think it means to walk in darkness?

UNPACK YOUR GEAR (APPLICATION):

- Read Matthew 5:14-16: Jesus extends this idea to his followers, saying, "You are the light of the world.." While we don't literally glow like light bulbs, this metaphor means we reflect Jesus' light by sharing love and truth with our family, friends, and neighbors. When you're at school or home, why is it sometimes hard to be a "light"?
- Read Psalm 119:105: God's word is referred to as a "light"? Why is it important to know and study God's word?
- Why do you think some people bully or attack others? What is their motivation? How can you bring the light of Jesus to those situations?

HANG UP YOUR BOOTS (WRAP-UP):

MEMORIZE: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." John 8:12

JESUS IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE.

DAY 3

PACK UP YOUR GEAR (WARM-UP):

RECAP: What does it mean that Jesus is the “light of the world”?

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: Has there ever been a time in your life where you have been lost?

TODAY, we are going to talk about important instructions that Jesus gave concerning Himself. He shared that he has given us the “right directions” for life when we feel lost. In these verses, we will learn the way to Heaven.

LOOK AT THE MAP (STORYTELLING):

READ: John 14:1-14

KEY WORDS:

- **Way:** Just like a GPS guides you on the road, Jesus guides us to make good choices, be kind, and follow God’s plan. He shows us the way to a life that matters.
- **Truth:** Imagine Jesus as the rulebook for life. Everything He says is true and trustworthy. Following His teachings helps us live in a way that makes God happy.
- **Life:** Life is an adventure with Jesus! He invites us to live a life full of excitement, love, and purpose. Following Him is like a treasure hunt, discovering joy and meaning every day.

JOHN 14:1-14

Jesus, the Way to the Father

¹ “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. ² There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? ³ When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going.”

⁵ “No, we don’t know, Lord,” Thomas said. “We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

⁶ Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!”

⁸ Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.”

⁹ Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you? ¹⁰ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me. ¹¹ Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do.

¹² “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. ¹³ You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴ Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!

HIT THE TRAIL (DISCOVERY QUESTIONS):

In John 14, Jesus tells His disciples that He’s the one and only way to God, as He’s about to go to the cross. Despite our mistakes, Jesus offers everyone this invitation. While some may suggest different ways to reach Heaven, Jesus makes it clear — He is the only route. He brings us life, truth, and salvation, things we can’t achieve on our own. Think of Jesus as our guide, map, and key to eternal life. We trust Him because He loves us deeply and sacrificed everything for us. Excitingly, He’s even getting a special place ready for us in Heaven!

HIT THE TRAIL (DISCOVERY QUESTIONS):

- The disciples were sad that Jesus was going away. Ask your children, 'why do you think the disciples were sad that Jesus was going away?'
- What are the disciples troubled about? How does Jesus address their concern?
- What does it mean that Jesus is preparing a place for us in His Father's house?
- Why is it important to know that Jesus is the only way to the Father?

UNPACK YOUR GEAR (APPLICATION):

- Read Romans 5:8: Jesus provided the “way” for us to know him by dying for us even while we were still sinners. Why was it necessary for him to do this?
- Read Romans 10:9-10: Jesus gave us the “truth” that anyone can experience a relationship with him. How can one enter into a relationship with Jesus?
- Read Romans 8:31-39: Jesus promises to be the “life,” implying that he will always be with us. Have you ever experienced feelings of loneliness?

HANG UP YOUR BOOTS (WRAP-UP):

MEMORIZE: “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6

JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE

DAY 4

PACK UP YOUR GEAR (WARM-UP):

RECAP: What does it mean that Jesus is the “the way, the truth, and the life”?

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: What is your favorite food? Where do you typically order it from? Discuss why food and water are necessary for life (i.e. food and water help us grow, help us stay healthy and keep us alive).

TODAY, we are going to talk about bread. Bread is an optional part of the meal. But in Jesus day, bread was the most significant part of the meal and the primary way people satisfied their hunger.

LOOK AT THE MAP (STORYTELLING):

READ: John 6:1-14

KEY WORDS:

- **Bread:** In the context of this lesson, bread means food, and represents nourishment and life. The bread that Jesus gives us is eternal.

JOHN 6:1-14

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

¹Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), ²and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. ³Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. ⁴The Jewish Passover Festival was near. ⁵When 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?" ⁶He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages[a] to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" ⁸Another 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?" ¹⁰Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). ¹¹Jesus 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. ¹²When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." ¹³So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. ¹⁴After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." ¹⁵Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

HIT THE TRAIL (DISCOVERY QUESTIONS):

One day, Jesus miraculously fed 5000 people with just a few loaves and fish, leaving everyone in awe. It was the first ever fast-food experience in history, and the people loved it. Afterward, Jesus and his disciples crossed the Sea of Galilee, and the crowds, eager for more free food, followed them to Capernaum.

Jesus, discerning their motives were wrong, challenged them to seek something deeper than physical nourishment. In response, he declared, "I am the bread of life!" Basically, he was telling them that there's way more to life than just filling your belly with food. Emphasizing that Jesus is the only one who sustains our deepest hungers and needs. Jesus invited them to believe in Him for more than just earthly needs.

- What did Jesus use to feed 5,000 people?
- Why do you think Jesus compared Himself to bread? What makes bread a good symbol for Him?
- What did Jesus tell the people they needed to do to get the bread?

UNPACK YOUR GEAR (APPLICATION):

- Read Matthew 4:4: How do we grow in our faith?
- Read Exodus 16:21-23: Why did God provide them with only enough bread ("manna") for their needs on that specific day? Why would that have caused the Israelites to trust God more?
- Read Psalm 34:10: Many of us may be tempted to satisfy our hunger for God with the wrong things such as popularity, athleticism, clothes, academic success, etc. What are you tempted to "fill yourself" with, other than God?

HANG UP YOUR BOOTS (WRAP-UP):

MEMORIZE: "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

DAY 5

JESUS IS THE VINE

PACK UP YOUR GEAR (WARM-UP):

RECAP: What does it mean that Jesus is “the bread of life”?

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: If you could meet any celebrity who would it be?

TODAY, we’re going to chat about how spending time with Jesus can make us better. He’s going to encourage us to stick close to Him, and He’ll be there to help us and make us grow.

LOOK AT THE MAP (STORYTELLING):

KEY WORDS:

- **Vine:** A vine is a plant with a lot of branches growing out from it. The branches have fruit on them. So grapevines have grapes on them.

HIT THE TRAIL (DISCOVERY QUESTIONS):

Jesus speaks to His disciples using gardening, vines and branches as a metaphor. "I am the vine and You are the branches," He says. "If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit." He says that just like in gardening, if a branch doesn't produce fruit, it is of no use!

We are like the branches that grow out of the vine. When we're connected to Jesus, we'll produce fruit, too. Now, we won't grow actual fruit, but we'll grow the fruits of the Spirit like love, joy, and patience. However, if we disconnect from Jesus, we won't be able to produce fruit and we'll eventually be like a dead branch.

If you are a gardener and you want to produce a crop, then you need to care for it. You need to cut off the bad parts and prune the good parts. This is how you can produce an abundant crop. No branch can grow unless it's connected to the vine, the source of life. What Jesus is saying is that he is the vine, and we are the branches. If we want to grow, then we must remain connected to him. But not just that, he's also saying God is the gardener and he will do what every good gardener does, prune and cut off. Why? So that we can produce much fruit.

- Who is the vine? Who are the branches?
- What happens if the branches are not attached to the vine?
- What does it mean to be "pruned" (or "cleaned," as in the Greek)?
- What might a "dead branch" look like today?

UNPACK YOUR GEAR (APPLICATION):

- When we stay close to Jesus, we are like branches that stay connected to the vine. How can we stay close to Jesus?
- What role models in your life reflect Jesus?
- Read Galatians 5:22-23 What are all the fruits of the Spirit? Which one is the hardest to obey?

HANG UP YOUR BOOTS (WRAP-UP):

MEMORIZE: "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 15:5

NOTES

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The paper has a slightly textured appearance and some minor creases or folds, particularly along the top edge where it appears to have been torn from a notebook. There are no markings, text, or drawings on the page.

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**"NOT TO US, O LORD, NOT TO US,
BUT TO YOUR NAME GOES **ALL THE GLORY**
FOR YOUR UNFAILING LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS."**

