



SPRING SEMESTER | PART TWO

# SIMPLY JESUS



RIVERSIDE CHURCH

THIS SYLLABUS BELONGS TO

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# resources



Scan to access digital syllabus and the worship & prayer playlists available on platforms below.



# INTRODUCTION

## The Seven “I Am” Statements in the Gospel of John

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This semester we turn our focus to the words Jesus used to reveal who He truly is. In the Gospel of John, Jesus makes seven bold declarations beginning with the phrase “I Am”—echoing the divine name revealed to Moses and unveiling His identity as God in the flesh. These are not casual metaphors or poetic expressions; they are invitations into revelation. When Jesus says, “I am the Bread of Life,” “the Light of the World,” “the Door,” “the Good Shepherd,” “the Resurrection and the Life,” “the Way, the Truth, and the Life,” and “the True Vine,” He is not only describing His role—He is defining our source, our security, our direction, and our purpose.

Throughout this semester, we will explore how each statement meets a deep human need and calls us into deeper dependence on Him. We will see that He alone satisfies spiritual hunger, illuminates darkness, grants

access to the Father, shepherds our souls, conquers death, reveals ultimate truth, and empowers lasting fruitfulness. These declarations confront self-reliance and invite surrender. They dismantle false identities and anchor us in Christ alone.

The goal of this semester is not simply greater knowledge about Jesus, but deeper intimacy with Him. As we study these seven “I Am” statements, we will discover that Christianity is not built on principles alone, but on a Person. Everything we need is found in Him. As we abide in who He is, we will grow in confidence, clarity, and conviction—living not from striving, but from abiding; not from fear, but from faith; not from performance, but from relationship.



# THE BREAD OF LIFE

WEEK 01 (S)



# Where Spiritual Hunger Is Finally Satisfied

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Jesus declares, “I am the Bread of Life,” revealing Himself as the only true source of spiritual satisfaction and eternal sustenance. In a world that constantly leaves us hungry for more, more success, more security, more recognition, Jesus offers Himself as the One who truly satisfies. Just as bread was essential for daily survival in the ancient world, Christ is essential for spiritual life today. He does not simply give bread; He is the Bread. Through His body given on the cross and His resurrection life, He meets our deepest need, not temporarily, but eternally. To come to Him is to find fulfillment. To believe in Him is to never be spiritually empty again.



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\_\_\_\_\_ **“I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” John 6:35 (NLT)**

Family Discussion: What does it practically mean to “come to” and “believe in” Jesus as our daily bread?

Prayer Focus: Pray that our hearts would hunger more for Jesus than anything else.

\_\_\_\_\_ **“Yes, I am the bread of life... I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever; and this bread, which I will offer so the world may live, is my flesh.” John 6:48–51 (NLT)**

Family Discussion: How does remembering His sacrifice deepen our gratitude and dependence on Him?

Prayer Focus: Pray that we would never take His sacrifice for granted and that we would live each day aware of the life He purchased for us.

\_\_\_\_\_ **“People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” Matthew 4:4 (NLT)**

Family Discussion: What happens when we neglect time in Scripture? What are some practical ways we can prioritize feeding on God’s Word as a family?

Prayer Focus: Pray that we would develop a daily appetite for God’s Word and His presence.

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# I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

WEEK 02 (S)



# From Darkness Into the Presence of God

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Jesus declared this during the Feast of Tabernacles, when large lamps illuminated the temple courts to remember how God led Israel through the wilderness with a pillar of fire. In that powerful moment, Jesus revealed that He is the true light that guides humanity out of darkness.

Just as light exposes what cannot be seen and gives direction for the path ahead, Jesus illuminates truth, reveals God's character, and leads people into life. When we follow Him, we are no longer lost in spiritual darkness but walk confidently in the light of God's presence.



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I AM THE  
DOOR (GATE)  
OF THE  
SHEEP

WEEK 03



## The Shepherd Who Guards the Way

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In ancient sheepfolds, the shepherd would often lie across the entrance of the enclosure, becoming the gate that protected the sheep from danger. When Jesus said, “I am the door,” He was revealing that He alone is the entrance to salvation, safety, and belonging in God’s kingdom.

Through Him we find protection, provision, and eternal life. Just as sheep depend on the shepherd for safety, believers depend on Jesus as the only way into the abundant life God promises.



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\_\_\_\_\_ **“Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved.”  
John 10:9 (NLT)**

Family Discussion: Why does Jesus describe Himself as a gate?

Prayer Focus: Pray that we would trust Jesus as the only way to salvation and the foundation of our family’s faith.

\_\_\_\_\_ **“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.” John 14:6 (NLT)**

Family Discussion: Why is it important to understand that Jesus is the only way to God?

Prayer Focus: For faith and confidence in Jesus as the true path to life with God.

\_\_\_\_\_ **“The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.” Psalm 23:1 (NLT)**

Family Discussion: How does trusting Jesus as our shepherd bring peace and security to our lives?

Prayer Focus: Pray for our family to rest in the protection and care of our Good Shepherd.

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# I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

WEEK 04



## When Faith Meets the Power of Life

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Lazarus had already died, and his family had accepted his fate. Martha met Jesus with faith that He could have saved him, but her faith had limitations. Jesus reminded her who He was. Then He asked the most important question He asks all of us: “Do you believe?” She proclaimed her faith and trust in the Son of God, and then everyone witnessed the resurrection and the life firsthand. Jesus claimed power over life itself, and death had no part in Him. Jesus is life.



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\_\_\_\_\_ **“Having been buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him [to a new life] through [your] faith in the working of God, [as displayed] when He raised Christ from the dead.” Colossians 2:12 (AMP)**

Family Discussion: What does baptism represent? What does it mean to be buried with Christ?

Prayer Focus: Pray for God to help us leave our old ways of living and learn to live a new life in Christ.

\_\_\_\_\_ **“For if we have become one with Him [permanently united] in the likeness of His death, we will also certainly be [one with Him and share fully] in the likeness of His resurrection.” Romans 6:5 (AMP)**

Family Discussion: How can our lives change by becoming one with Christ?

Prayer Focus: Pray for us to be like Jesus, to live the way He did, and to be in unity with Him in everything we do.

\_\_\_\_\_ **“Now I say this, believers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit nor be part of the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable (mortal) inherit the imperishable (immortal).” 1 Corinthians 15:50 (AMP)**

Family Discussion: What are some things we need to let go of in our lives? What do we need to focus on?

Prayer Focus: To help us focus on what is eternal, not the temporary world around us.

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# THE GOOD SHEPHERD

WEEK 05 (S)



## The Shepherd Who Calls Us by Name

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Jesus revealed Himself as the Good Shepherd who lovingly cares for, protects, and leads His people. Unlike hired hands who abandon the sheep when danger comes, Jesus willingly laid down His life for His sheep. His leadership is personal. He knows His sheep, calls them by name, and they know His voice. Through His sacrifice, Jesus proved the depth of His love and commitment. As our Good Shepherd today, He continues to guide, provide, and protect those who follow Him.



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THE WAY,  
THE TRUTH,  
AND THE LIFE

WEEK 06



# The Only Way to the Father

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During the Upper Room conversation with His disciples, Jesus made one of the clearest declarations about His identity and mission. He said that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, the only way to the Father. Jesus is not merely a teacher showing a path; He is the path to God Himself. In Him we find the truth about God and the life that comes from a restored relationship with the Father. Through faith in Jesus, we are welcomed into God's presence and given eternal life.



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# I AM THE TRUE VINE

WEEK 07



## We are the Branches

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In John, Jesus calls Himself the True Vine, emphasizing that He is the source of life and spiritual nourishment. Just as branches cannot bear fruit apart from the vine, we cannot live spiritually fruitful lives apart from Him.

By staying connected to Him through faith and obedience, believers receive strength, guidance, and the ability to glorify God. Jesus warns that apart from Him, we are like branches that wither and cannot produce lasting fruit, highlighting our dependence on Him for eternal life.



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