

# The “I am....” Statements of Jesus

## Lesson 1

### “I AM WHO I AM.”

#### The Name and character of God

Learning Outcomes:

- Form simple oral and written ‘I am’ sentences describing personal characteristics
- Read and listen to descriptions in order to identify individuals
- Identify God’s Name and understand that it reveals God’s eternal nature
- Recognise different aspects of God’s character
- Understand that Jesus is God Himself, who always was, is, and will be

Session length: 2 hours

#### Stage One: Lead-in/language activities

Activity	Resources
Welcome the students and open in prayer.	
<p>Introduce yourself to two or three students in front of the whole group by saying: “I am ..... Who are you?”</p> <p>Direct the students to move around the room, introducing themselves to at least five people, using the same statement and question.</p> <p>Ask the students if they met anyone new.</p> <p><i>If you know who is going to be present during this session, give out two labels to each student and ask them to write their first names on both labels. Collect the labels and make two sets of students’ names.</i></p> <p>Divide the class into two smaller groups and give out the names to each group. Give out slips of paper with meanings of the students’ names on, and direct them to match the names and the meanings. Alternatively, give out a selection of familiar names and meanings for the groups to match, and then ask the students to discuss the meanings of their own names.</p> <p>Ask the students to discuss whether or not the names and meanings suit the person or show anything about that person’s life or <i>character</i> (explain and illustrate this word), e.g. Abraham means ‘father of many nations’, a name which God gave him as a promise for the future.</p>	<p>Labels for students’ names</p> <p>Name meanings for students in the group, scissors/book of names and meanings</p>
Elicit from the students adjectives and other character-related vocabulary that could be used to complete the sentence ‘I am...’,	Whiteboard and pens

<p>e.g. a teacher/a student/a mother/ a son/quiet/noisy/friendly/shy/clever/sporty/funny.... Put the learners' words and phrases in a list on the whiteboard.</p> <p>Put the students into two mixed-level teams and line them up at the whiteboard, giving each team a different coloured pen.</p> <p>Explain/illustrate the meaning of each word as the students listen. Direct the learners, one at a time in each team, to compete against one another to circle the word. Give a point to the first team to circle the correct word each time.</p> <p>Congratulate the team which has the most circles on the whiteboard.</p> <p>Drill the pronunciation of key vocabulary.</p>	
<p>Direct the students to write three simple sentences to describe themselves. Ask them not to write their names on their paper. Tell the learners to use the phrase "I am" and words from the whiteboard.</p> <p>Collect the students' sentences and give each student a different set to read.</p> <p>Ask each student to read out the sentences, one at a time. Tell the other students to listen and write down the names of those being described in each case.</p> <p>Elicit feedback, briefly recapping the descriptions. Congratulate the person who correctly identified most of the writers.</p> <p>Elicit anything new that the students have learnt about the characters of people in the group.</p> <p>Highlight the use of "I am" in the above activity to make sentences which describe personal <i>characteristics</i>.</p>	<p>Whiteboard and pens Paper and pens</p>
<p>Divide the class into small groups. Direct them to discuss what they know about God's Name and His character.</p> <p>Elicit group feedback, writing key ideas on the whiteboard.</p>	<p>Whiteboard and pens</p>
<p>Tea/coffee break</p>	

## Stage Two: Bible Study

Activity	Resources
<p>Introduce the first Bible passage by setting the (Old Testament) context: God's people, the Israelites, were slaves in Egypt, having a very difficult time. The Egyptians wanted to kill all the Israelite baby boys. Moses was an Israelite and his mother hid him. The King of Egypt's daughter found baby Moses and took him as her son, so Moses' life was saved. Moses became a man. One day he saw an Egyptian beating an Israelite, so Moses killed the Egyptian. Moses was afraid when someone said they knew what he had done, so he ran to Midian.</p> <p>Show the class where the passage is in the Bible.</p>	<p>Bible</p>
<p>Read the passage, with the learners following on their sheet, marking any new words.</p> <p>Ask the students what the passage is about.</p> <p>Elicit new/difficult words from the students and put them on the whiteboard. Ask if anyone can explain the words, one at a time. If not, provide an explanation with examples/pictures/mime/ sound effects.</p> <p>When all the new words have been put on the board and the meanings are clear, elicit the syllable and stress pattern of each word and drill it chorally and individually as appropriate.</p> <p>Show where John 8 v.58 is in the Bible and set the (New Testament) context: Jesus is talking to some Jewish people who do not understand who He is (His identity).</p> <p>Write the verse on the whiteboard and read it as a group.</p> <p>The Exodus passage and the verse from John's Gospel can then be read again by the students.</p>	<p>Bible passage: Exodus 3 v.1-17</p> <p>Whiteboard and pens</p> <p>Bible verse: John 8 v.58</p> <p>Whiteboard and pens</p>
<p>Divide the class into two groups, each led by a support assistant. Direct the small two groups to discuss some or all of the following questions (written on the board):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. (a) What are the names of the people who worshipped God before Moses? (b) What do you know about these people?</li> <li>2. (a) What is God's Name? (b) What does His Name mean?</li> <li>3. Which of God's characteristics do we see in Exodus 3 v.1-17? Write words next to the verses on the worksheet. <i>(With Entry 1 students, elicit adjectives to describe God. Then help them to form simple oral and written sentences, e.g. <b>He is good.</b>)</i></li> </ol>	<p>Whiteboard and pens</p> <p>Worksheet</p>

4. Read John 8 v.58. What did Jesus mean?

Elicit whole-group feedback and clarify any issues.

**The notes below are to help you explain the Gospel to the learners, but they are not a script that you must stick to. You know your own learners' needs and levels. Ensure that one way or another, the Gospel is clearly communicated.**

God's Name shows His character: He is the LORD. He was, is and will be forever (*Use hand gestures to illustrate the past, present and future*). He has always been with His people and He has helped them. He has always led His people. God has given His people promises and He has given them a place in His great plan, for example: Abraham.

Because God will be forever, we can be sure that these same good things are for us too if we know Him. We can know God, not just know *about* Him. We can know Him as the powerful, caring, holy, wonderful Father who has great plans for our lives. We can know Him because He sent His Son Jesus to show us what God the Father is like. Jesus is exactly (100%) the same as God the Father. Jesus is healing, forgiving, loving, strong, powerful, always the same and always with us..... (*Elicit further characteristics from the students.*) Jesus is God. If we know Jesus, we know the Father. Jesus came to be the way to God the Father. The next sessions will tell us more about that.

Jesus is not just a man. **He is God:** He was there before the world was made, He is alive now and He will be with His people forever. The Bible tells us in the book of Hebrews in the New Testament that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." (Hebrews 13 v.8) We can know God, the One who always lives and is always with His people, only through Jesus Christ.

**(Read also John 8 v.23-30. Notice Jesus' repeated use of 'I am' in reference to His identity and mission.)**

Pray to close.

Introduce the topic of the next 8 sessions: Jesus as God, and the characteristics of God that He shows us.

**Read Exodus 3 v.1-17.**

**Write down what you learn about God's character.**

For example:

v.2 He does amazing things.

v.4 -----

v.5 -----

v.6 -----

v.7 and v.9 -----

v.8 -----

v.10 -----

v.11-12 and v.13-14 -----

v.12 -----

v.14 -----

v.15 -----

v.17 -----

## **Exodus 3 v.1-17 Aspects of God's character revealed:**

v.2 He does amazing things.

v.4 He calls to us.

v.5 He is holy. He speaks to His people.

v.6 He does not change. He is always there.

v.7 and v.9 He hears the prayers of His people. He sees our troubles and cares about us.

v.8 He has the power to save. He wants to save His people. He has a good plan for His people. He makes promises to them.

v.10 He fulfils His plan through ordinary people. He sends people. He trusts people with an important job. We must obey Him.

v.11-12 and v.13-14 He listens to people and He answers our questions.

v.12 He is with us. He helps us and gives us power to do what He tells us to do. He encourages us. People must worship Him.

v.14 He has a Name. He always was with His people, He lives with His people now and He will always be with His people.

v.15 He is LORD. People can know Him.

v.17 He takes us out of our troubles. He leads His people to freedom and safety.