

The “I am....” Statements of Jesus

Lesson 9

The Identity of Jesus

Jesus Christ is God

Learning Outcomes:

- Recognise that Jesus is God Himself, who always was, is, and will be.
- Understand that we can know God the Father only through Jesus Christ.
- Identify key characteristics of Jesus and, therefore, the Father.
- (Believers will) understand that Jesus’ followers are one. When we live as one, the world sees that the Father and the Son are One.
- Share personal testimonies of responding to Jesus; or respond to Him for the first time, making Jesus Christ *their* Lord and *their* God.

Session length: 2 hours

Stage One: Lead-in/language activities

Activity	Resources
Welcome the students and open in prayer.	
<p>(Re-)introduce yourself to the class by sharing three unknown facts about who you are, using the grammatical structure of ‘I am’.</p> <p>Put on the whiteboard the question: Who are you? Instruct the students to talk in pairs. Direct them to tell one another three things about themselves that not many people know.</p> <p>Elicit group feedback. Invite a few students to introduce their partner, e.g. “He is a good husband/a father of many children/brother/artist/drummer/singer/famous wrestler in his country.....”</p> <p>Ask the learners if anyone can explain the difference between knowing someone and knowing <i>about</i> them. Explain that we know someone when we spend time with them, talk to them, listen to them and share experiences together. This is relationship. I have this with my husband, best friend, sister, mum and dad.... I don’t have a relationship with the Queen, even though I know a lot of information <i>about</i> her.</p>	Whiteboard and pens
Divide the class into two teams. Instruct the students to take it in turns to come to you and get a name label. The person with the label must then describe (or mime) who they are to their team (without stating their name!). Encourage the use of the ‘I am’ structure. When the person’s identity has been correctly guessed, the next team member comes forward and describes who they are,	Name labels

<p>and so on. The winning team finishes first (without cheating!).</p> <p>Names to use might include: Students and team members present in the class George Bush David Cameron David Beckham Cristiano Ronaldo Arnold Schwarzenegger The Queen</p> <p>After the game, ask the learners: Who do you know and who do you know <i>about</i>? Hopefully, students will feel that they know one another. If not, encourage them to spend time together at break time and after class, talking to one another and sharing experiences together.</p> <p>Highlight the example of George Bush. Ask the students if anyone knows who George Bush’s father is. Explain that George Bush and his father are the same in many ways.</p> <p>George Bush</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - looks like his father. - sounds like his father when he speaks. - has the same political beliefs as his father. - did the same job as his father (the most important job on earth??) - has the same name as his father – George Bush. <p>If you want to really <i>know</i> George Bush Senior (the father), you need to meet George Bush Junior (the son)!</p> <p>Explain that we will probably never spend time with George Bush, so we will never know him or his father. But, there is someone <u>much, much</u> more important that we <i>can</i> know. His Son came to introduce Him to us.....</p>	
--	--

Stage Two: Bible Study

Activity	Resources
<p>Put on the whiteboard: Who is Jesus? Instruct the learners to move around the room and look at the numbered pictures. Direct Entry 1 students to number the ‘I am’ statements on their sheets. Direct Entry 2 learners to write ‘I am’ statements to match the numbered pictures, e.g. ‘I am the good shepherd.’ Direct Entry 3 learners to write any additional information that they can remember from the Bible about these statements, e.g. ‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep.’</p>	<p>‘I am’ statements for E1 learners Numbered pictures to illustrate the 7 ‘I am’ statements, Blu Tack</p>

<p>Elicit group feedback. (Explain that George Bush is very like his father, but they are not 100% the same.) <u>Jesus is exactly (100%) the same as God the Father and shows us what He is like – how good He is.</u> Everything about Jesus is the same as the Father. If we know Jesus, the Son, we know God the Father. If we don't know Jesus, we don't know the Father.</p> <p>Explain that Jesus and the Father are One. Show two different coloured cups that fit together perfectly to make <i>one</i> cup (e.g. a blue cup and a pink cup). Put the blue cup in the pink cup, and then put the pink cup in the blue cup. The Father is <i>in</i> the Son, and the Son is <i>in</i> the Father (John 17 v.21). God is <i>three</i> in One: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They are three but they are also completely One.</p>	<p>Three different coloured cups that fit exactly into each other</p>
<p>Tea/coffee break</p>	
<p>Introduce the Bible passages by setting the context: OT and NT.</p> <p>Show the class where the passages are in the Bible.</p>	<p>Bible</p>
<p>Read the passages, with the learners following on their sheet, marking any new words.</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>As appropriate, elicit the syllable and stress pattern of key words and drill them chorally and individually.</p> <p>The passages can then be read again by the students.</p> <p>Elicit what the Name of God is: I AM WHO I AM. Ensure that the students understand the meaning: the God who always lives and is always with His people; the One who was, is, and will be forever.</p>	<p>Bible passages: Exodus 3 v.13-14, John 4 v.25-26, John 8 v.58, Rev 1 v.8, Mark 8 v.27-31, John 18 v. 1-8</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"> 1. Who is Jesus? 2. How do you know that? 3. Look at Mark 8. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) What questions did Jesus ask His followers? (b) What was the answer? (c) What does 'Christ' mean? What did the Christ come to do? Read also Isaiah 53 v.5. (d) What is <i>your</i> answer to Jesus' question? <p>Elicit whole-group feedback.</p>	<p>Whiteboard and pens</p>

<p>Explain that we know that Jesus Christ is God because He <i>told</i> people. Many times he used the words 'I am' to talk about Himself. Jesus asked His followers, "Who do you say that I am?" 'I AM WHO I AM' is God's name for Himself (which God told Moses). God's Name means He always lives with His people. Jesus is Immanuel, God with us. He was there before the world was made, He is alive now and He will be with His people forever.</p> <p>Jesus also <i>showed</i> people that He was God by doing miracles that only God could do. 'Christ', the Anointed One, means that all of the Holy Spirit's power was on Jesus to do miracles. The same Holy Spirit shows us the truth about who Jesus is. Who Jesus is and what He did are connected. He died to save us: only God could save us. God came as a man to die in our place.</p> <p>Elicit testimonies from any students who have responded to Jesus' question, recognising Jesus as God.</p>	
<p>Read John 20 v.30-31: Jesus did many, many miracles. The miracles in John's book show who Jesus is, so that we can believe in Him. When we believe, we receive LIFE in His Name. Life forever is knowing God (John 17 v.3).</p> <p>Ask the group (and put the question on the whiteboard): How can you know God? Establish that it is through Jesus only.</p> <p>Divide the class into two or three smaller groups. Instruct them to write down what they know about Jesus Christ. Tell them to think about what He <i>did</i> (e.g. His miracles) and what He <i>said</i>. Ideas might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jesus took our sin. He forgave us. (The Father forgave us.) - Jesus made people free from fear and free from the control of satan. (The Father made us free.) - Jesus healed everyone who came to Him. Jesus took our sicknesses (Isaiah 53). (The Father has healed us.) - Jesus met needs, e.g. need for food – feeding 5000+ people. (The Father gives us what we need.) - Jesus led people and asked people to leave everything to follow Him. (The Father leads us and asks us to give Him 100% of our lives.) - Jesus hated religion. He was happy when people had faith in Him. (The Father hates religion. He is happy when we trust Him 100%.) - Jesus hated sin. He loved people so much that He died for every person. (The Father hates sin. He loves people so much that He gave His Son to die for them.) - Jesus brought peace, e.g. calming the storm. (The Father gives us peace when we come to Him. We can have peace with the Father through Jesus Christ.) - Jesus spoke to His followers before He went back to 	<p>Bible</p> <p>Whiteboard and pens</p> <p>Paper and pens</p>

heaven. He **promised, “I am with you always...”** (Matthew 28 v.20) (The Father sent the gift He promised: the Holy Spirit - the Spirit of Jesus - to be with us always.) Note that in *some* translations, Jesus’ words here are “*I am*”...

- Jesus was **perfect** – 100% good. He was **right with God and holy**. (The Father is right and holy.)
- Jesus **gave everything for us**. He suffered great pain and died for us on the cross. (The Father gave everything for us – His only Son. He suffered pain for us when His only Son died on the cross).
- Jesus is the King who obeyed the Father completely. Jesus **is alive and sitting on His throne in heaven**, next to God the Father. **Jesus made His Father Number 1. The Father has made His Son, Jesus, Number 1.** When all people worship the Son, the Father gets the glory/praise. (Philippians 2 v.6-11)

Invite the learners to present their ideas to the whole group. Remind the students that we can know God the Father through Jesus only. **He is exactly (100%) the same as God the Father and shows us what He is like.** Everything about Jesus is the same as the Father, e.g. Jesus forgave. The Father forgave. Jesus loves all people. The Father loves all people. Jesus healed people. The Father healed people. Jesus and the Father are One (John 14 v.7-11). Jesus came to show us the Father so that we could **know** Him. Jesus is God and He is alive today. If we know Jesus, we know the Father.

Ask the learners to discuss with a friend for a couple of minutes: Do you know God well, know Him a little, or know *about* Him?

Ask the group: If you already know God, what could you do to get to know Him better? Elicit that we need to spend time with Him: read His Word (His love letter to us), talk to Him and listen to Him. This is the same as you would with a friend: connecting heart-to-heart. We do not study with our heads so that we just know more *about* Him. Jesus came to be the way for us to come close to God the Father. I can know God as *my* Father, not just know *about* Him. Explain to those who don’t know God yet that they need to meet Him through Jesus Christ.

For the believers in your group: Read John 17 v.20-21 (when Jesus prayed for all people who believe in Him). Ask the learners: How can other people meet/be introduced to God? Many people have never read the Bible or heard about Jesus before. Establish that people can know God through Jesus’ followers. God’s character is in us. When Jesus was a man living on earth, the Holy Spirit was in Him only. Now that Jesus is in heaven, the Holy Spirit is in all believers everywhere. Ask the learners: What is God’s most important (number 1) characteristic? Establish that God *is* love, and

Bible

<p>God’s Spirit lives in every believer. Being one means loving other followers of Jesus.</p> <p>Remind the learners that Jesus, the Father and the Holy Spirit are One. Show the three different coloured cups fitted together completely to make ‘one cup’. Give each believer a cup and ask them to put their cup in the other cups until you have a multi-coloured mega cup! Explain (and show with the cups) that believers are <i>in</i> Jesus, and Jesus is <i>in</i> the Father, so we are <i>one</i> with God. We are also one with each other (God does not see ‘Pentecostals’, ‘Baptists’...). When people see that we are one, they understand that Jesus and the Father are One.</p> <p>If time allows, the believers could discuss practical ways in which they could love one another – God’s love is the most practical love ever.</p> <p>Other learners could do matching task at this point. Give out a selection of compound words. Direct the learners to put pairs of words together to make one word, e.g. sun + shine = sunshine, tea + pot = teapot.....</p> <p>Summarise as a whole group (putting these points on the whiteboard):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jesus Christ is God Himself. - Jesus is the only way for us to know God the Father. - Jesus lives in believers. - Jesus makes all believers one, just as He and the Father are One. 	<p>5-10 different coloured cups that fit together</p> <p>Individual word cards</p> <p>Whiteboard and pens</p>
<p>(Read 1 John 5 v.9-12.)</p> <p>Refer back to the testimonies of those students who have responded to Jesus, recognizing Him as God. Read John 20 v.27-29. Thomas saw Jesus after He came alive again (after Jesus had completed what He came to do). Thomas believed and said: “My Lord and My God!”</p> <p>Invite those who want to make Jesus Christ their Lord and their God to respond. Ensure that, after the class, you talk and pray with any student who has responded.</p> <p>Pray to close.</p>	<p>Bible</p>

‘The Covenant Names of God’ lessons provide further insight into the character of God, as revealed in the OT and in the NT through Jesus Christ.

'I am'

(Entry 1)

Number

___ I am the bread that gives life.

___ I am the light of the world.

___ I am the door for the sheep.

___ I am the good shepherd.

___ I am the resurrection and the life.

___ I am the way, the truth, and the life.

___ I am the true vine.

Word cards for matching activity

sun shine

tea pot

hand bag

up stairs

home work

white board

bath room

super market

an other

every thing

some times

for ever