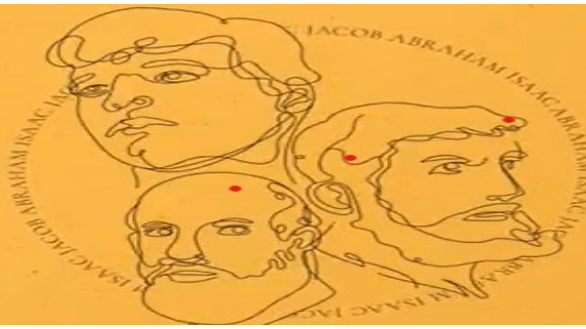


THE GOD of our FATHERS



Title: : **JESUS THE CHRIST IS THE GREAT I AM—Part 1**

Date: SEPT. 17, 2023

Leader's Notes:

1. Start and end the life group on time.
2. Facilitate discussions with your group and **give all attendees opportunities to share their thoughts**. Encourage participation.

Life Group Discussion Proper

WORSHIP: (15 mins)

Option 1: In person - Home gatherings

Suggestions: Assign someone to lead worship or play two praise & worship songs from You Tube.

Option 2: In person gatherings at a public place (at the park, school campus or café) or Online home gathering (via Zoom or other online meeting platform)

Suggestions: Ask three to four people to share testimonies of answered prayers or ask the question: Ask the group, "What are you thankful to God about this past week?"

Main Text: John 8:52-59 NLT

Intro: God didn't reveal His Name to Moses as I WAS WHO I WAS or I WILL BE WHO I WILL BE! But as I AM WHO I AM, the Eternally Present I AM! There is no past or future with God, but He is the Ever-present, Self-existent (no one created Him), Self-contained, Self-sufficient God! I AM WHO I WANT TO DECLARE MYSELF to be! The compound names of God are all extensions of His name, I AM. I AM the LORD (Yahweh), **I AM your source of Peace, I AM your Provider, I AM your Healer, I AM your ultimate Victory, I AM your Shepherd, I AM your Righteousness, I AM your Deliverer, I AM your Redeemer, I AM the Almighty, Most High God.**

WELCOME:(15 mins): IWC - Introduce yourself. Welcome guests/first-time visitors. Cheerfully call someone to do the same.

Ice-breaker: Ask the group and give time for participation.

- > *Is there anyone who would like to share a verse you have memorized this past week?*
- > *Is there anyone who would like to share something you received from your daily devotions this past week?*

WORD (30– 45 mins)

1. I Am the Bread of Life – Read John 6:35 NLT

Jesus declared that He alone can satisfy the longing of our souls. There are many things that people seek to help satisfy the emptiness in their hearts. Only Jesus is the One who can fill the infinite void we have on the inside. So many have not yet tasted not even a slice of the Bread of Life! We can try everything this world can offer, try everything the devil can offer, but at the end of the day, NOTHING ELSE, NO ONE IN THIS WORLD CAN SATISFY, BECAUSE JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE!

Discussion Question:

Q: Have you tasted the Bread of Life - Jesus? Do you know people we can pray to "taste" the life-giving Bread of Life? Psalm 34:8

Q: As a group, what practical ways do you think so we can we lead our friends to know the Bread of Life?

Q: Read Mark 8: 36. Knowing Christ is the only Bread of Life that can satisfy, how do we relate this verse to our lives?

We cannot keep it to ourselves! We are to share Jesus and tell people they too can find life once they tasted the Bread of Life!

Continuation:

2. I Am the Light of the World – Read John 8:12-14 - Jesus, the Light of the World

Jesus is revealing Himself as the One who lights our path towards the life and purpose He has designed for us to fulfill. Amidst the darkness and challenges in the world we are living, Jesus came so we can discover His light. It was prophesied that "*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone*" (Isaiah 9:2). Immanuel came to dwell with us.

Q: Would you briefly share or describe your first personal encounter with “the Light of the World.”

The Bible says, "*God is light and in him is no darkness at all*" (1 John 1:5). He is "the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows" (James 1:17). The Psalmist declares: "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?" (Psalm 27:1). God's first act of creation was to say, "Let there be light" (Genesis 1:3).

Q: Would you know someone who we can pray so that Christ can reveal His light to him/her?

After Jesus claimed to be the Light of the World, the Jewish leaders immediately challenged him because Jesus made the statement: "Very truly I tell you...before Abraham was born, ***I Am!***" making it clear that He is claiming to be who He is, ***God in the flesh***. We live in a dark and evil world, dark world of sin, rebellion against God! We need to reflect the Light of the World!

Q: Who else did Jesus is the Light of the World? Read Matt.5:14-16. How do you feel about the fact that we are called to be a reflection of Christ in our everyday lives?

Jesus told his followers: "You are the light of the world. By doing what is right and loving through grace-empowered good works, we are letting God's love shine through us.

3. I Am the Door – Read John 10:9-10 NKJV

"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." John 10:9-10 NLT

A door is a symbol of protection and security for those on the inside, but an image of a barrier for those on the outside. Jesus is the exclusive means by which people can enter into a right relationship with God, find salvation, and experience the abundant life He offers. The Bible says, our sins have separated us from God but Jesus opened the pathway to God again. It reminds us about the veil being torn from top to bottom during His crucifixion as a symbol of the barrier of sin holding us from the presence of God no more.

Q: What was your past understanding of God? Was God someone you can approach anytime or someone who's too far and beyond your reach?

Q: Do you still remember the person who led you to know and encounter “The Door?” What made you respond?

Jesus shed His blood on the cross and today we are 100% welcome to enter and be part of the family of God. If Jesus said, I AM the Door, then we are to lead people through that door! Biblical Christianity invites everyone, yet it is clear that Christ alone is the Door. He is a merciful Savior, Lover of the sheep and therefore welcomes everyone who wants to find pasture.

Only Jesus, the Good Shepherd laid down His life for His people. His sacrifice on the cross for our sins provides for an open gate for all to enter into eternal life. Salvation came with a price only the sinless Son of God could redeem but is offered freely to all who believe.

WORK: The Challenge & Closing prayer (15 mins.)

1. Memorize a verse from your devotions this week and be prepared to share it on our next gathering.
2. Please take time in your smaller groups to pray for one another. If there are specific needs, take time to lift them up to God in prayer as well. Ask each other, "***what can I pray for you?***"

Leader's Notes:

1. Please remind your group the schedule for the next gathering.
2. Please ask your group to invite people for the next gathering.
3. Please encourage the group to remember to pray for one another during the week.