



THE SEVEN “I AM” STATEMENTS OF JESUS LEADERS GUIDE



vineyard youth curriculum

WEEK 1:

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

Leader Soul Care:

Take a moment to read John 6:35. Jesus says those who come to Him will never be hungry or thirsty again. While Jesus is talking about fulfilling our spiritual needs, take a moment to think of the ways that He is fulfilling your physical needs as well. Remember that Jesus is the one who will provide for your needs. If there is something that you need provision for, pray over that need. Spend time in prayer to thank Him for the ways that He has already provided for you.

Main Passage:

John 6:26-35

Big Idea:

Jesus Provides all we Need

Description:

Jesus is the one who provides for all our needs. We often try to fulfill our desires or needs in the wrong way. In this first lesson we talk about how when we bring those things to Jesus we find that He is more than able to provide for us and to satisfy the longings of our heart.

Main Points:

- 1) We can trust that Jesus is who He says He is
- 2) God provides what we need (not always what we want)
God satisfies the longings of our heart

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Do you believe that we can trust what Jesus tells us about Himself?
Why or why not?
- 2) What is a way that you have tried to satisfy a want, but in the wrong way?
- 3) How do you think that God would want you to fill that What?

WEEK 2:

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Leader Soul Care:

In this week as we focus on Jesus as the Light of the World, we talk about how we are called to be lights as well. Read Matthew 5:14-16. Reflect on the places and people that Jesus is calling you to be a light. Remember that Christ hasn't only called you to your youth group and students. Christ has given us the honor of being the light of the world along with Him. Pray for opportunities to share the light and love of Jesus with others.

Main Passage:

John 8:12-20, Matthew 5:14-16

Big Idea:

Jesus is Our Guide

Description:

Do you ever feel like you don't know where to go or what to do? In this life we are going to face troubles. We will face battles. In week 2 we look at how in every battle, hardship or trouble that Jesus calls us into, we know that Jesus will be our guide and our protector.

Main Points:

- 1) Jesus shows us the way.
- 2) Jesus is our protector.
Jesus calls us the light of the world too!

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Do you ever feel like you need a guide for your life? Why?
- 2) What are some areas where you need Jesus to guide you right now?
- 3) How can we be the light of the world like Jesus asks us?

WEEK 3:

I AM THE GATE/GOOD SHEPHERD

Leader Soul Care:

Jesus describes Himself as the Gate and the Good Shepherd and in John 10:4 He says, “he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.” Jesus tells us that He goes ahead of us and calls to us. Reflect on the truth that wherever Jesus is calling you, He is already there. There are times in ministry and in life where it can feel like God is absent in the chaos of uncertain situations. Take time to thank God in prayer that He has such care for you that He is always present in the unknowns of ministry and life.

Main Passage:

John 10:1-18

Big Idea:

Jesus is not like other leaders

Description:

Jesus is different from any other leader that we have seen. In week 3 we discuss that Jesus has total authority over all things and at all times, but what He did with that authority is voluntarily sacrifice Himself for our benefit. We also discuss that Jesus is our way into family of God.

Main Points:

- 1) Jesus is not excluding anyone, He is the way in to the family of God.
- 2) Jesus lays down His life for His followers.
Wherever Jesus calls us to go, He is already there working.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) When thinking about Jesus as “the gate,” do you think that Jesus excludes people or includes people into the family of God? Why?
- 2) How is Jesus different from other leaders that you have seen?
- 3) Does Jesus laying down His life for His “sheep” seem like something most leaders would do? Why or why not?

WEEK 4:

I AM THE RESURRECTION & LIFE

Leader Soul Care:

In this week we look at a passage with a remarkable declaration of faith, even before a miracle happens. In John 11:27, Martha says that she believes Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.” It’s important to remember that Jesus hasn’t raised her brother from the dead at the point in which she makes this statement. It’s likely she did not know that Jesus was about to raise her brother from the dead. She believed in Jesus even if He did not perform the miracle she hoped to see. Reflect on the situations in your life that have gone from an “even if” to a testimony of what God has done. Reflect also on those “even if” situations that you are trusting God with right now.

Main Passage:

John 11:17-27, 1 Corinthians 15:17-20

Big Idea:

Jesus is our source of Life

Description:

The world that we’re in doesn’t have a lot of hope, but Jesus comes and offers us His hope and shows that it’s real by raising Lazarus. And later in raising Himself. In this week we learn that Christ’s Resurrection is a guarantee that everything He said is true.

Main Points:

- 1) Christ’s Resurrection is the center of our faith.
- 2) We can live boldly for Christ, knowing there is hope even beyond our lifetime.

Discussion Questions

- 1) According to 1 Corinthians 15:17-19, what are the problems of not believing that Christ was raised from the dead?
- 2) Does knowing that Jesus has conquered death help you feel like you can live boldly for God? Why or why not?

WEEK 5:

I AM THE WAY, TRUTH & LIFE

Leader Soul Care:

Read John 14:4-5. In this passage Thomas tells Jesus that they don't understand what He's telling them and asks Him a question. Thomas often has a bad reputation as "doubting Thomas." Yet in this passage Jesus does not chastise Thomas, He simply answers his question. Sometimes as a leader you feel like you should have all the answers, when in fact Jesus welcomes questions. Reflect on what questions you have for Jesus. Is there a trusted person who can help you navigate some of these questions? If you don't, pray that God would lead you to a trustworthy spiritual mentor. Additionally, pray for God to give you grace for the students who have a lot of questions.

Main Passage: John 14:1-11

Big Idea: Jesus reveals what God has for us

Description: It was so important to Jesus that we know that He is the way into the family of God that He talks about it more than once. In this week we talk about how God making a way to live with Him through Jesus is not excluding anyone, but rather including anyone. The life God invites us to is greater than any we could know without Him.

Main Points:

- 1) Jesus is the way to God.
Jesus is the full revelation of God the Father.
- 3) Jesus invites us to live in a deeper way than we ever could without Him.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) How does it feel to think of yourself as a member of God's family?
- 2) If Jesus is the perfect revelation of God the Father, what do you feel that we learn about God the Father from looking at Jesus' life?
- 3) In talking about how Jesus is "the Life," how is your life different from before you knew Jesus?

WEEK 6:

I AM THE VINE

Leader Soul Care:

This week we look at Jesus as the True Vine. Read John 15:5-8. Jesus tells us that apart from Him we can do nothing. One of the difficult things about ministry is that often at the beginning we rely on Christ for everything; but as we gain more experience there is a strong temptation to rely on our own skills and knowledge. Reflect on ways that you have relied on yourself, rather than seeking God for your ministry. Jesus tells us that if we remain in Him that we will “bear much fruit.” Reflect on the fruit that you want to see in your ministry and pray that God will make a way to see these things develop.

Main Passage:

John 15:5-15

Big Idea:

Staying Connected to Jesus is the only way to be like Jesus

Description: When we disconnect from God, our spiritual life starts to decay. Sometimes we blame God for being distant from us, when in reality we were the ones who withdrew from God. In this week we are encouraged to reconnect with God in order that we produce the “fruit” He wants growing in our life.

Main Points:

- 1) When we disconnect from Jesus, we start to die spiritually.
- 2) When we “produce fruit” it’s because we’re connected to Jesus.
We remain in Jesus’ love by loving one another.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Have ever felt disconnected from God? What can you do in the future to help you to reconnect with Him?
- 2) In what ways are you producing “much fruit”? What are obstacles in your way in producing “fruit”?
- 3) Why do you think it’s so important to Jesus that we love one another?