



7-WEEK STUDY

on the seven **I Am** statements of Jesus

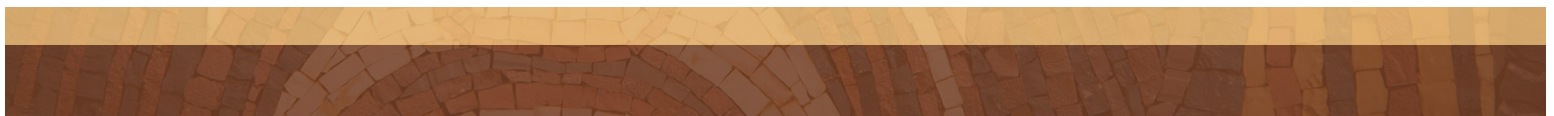
WEEK 5

Discussion Guide

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

John 11:25

To the dead man, I was life. **I still am.**





WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: John 11:25-26

Secondary texts from this week: John 11:1-44, Revelation 1:17-18, 1 Corinthians 15:1-58

GETTING STARTED

Goals for this session: To better understand Jesus' statement "I am the resurrection and the life."

Missed the sermon? Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

Break the Ice: Do you have any brothers or sisters? If so, how many of each?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. We all experience painful situations in our lives. What is the most painful thing you have experienced in your life? Did you have a relationship with Jesus during that situation? How do you feel he helped you get through your experience?
2. After reading the words of Martha in **John 11:21** and her sister Mary in **John 11:32**, it seems they both blamed Jesus for their brother's death. Have you ever blamed God for something or been angry with God? Do you think it's ok to get angry at God? Why or why not? *
3. In **John 11:35**, John tells us that "Jesus wept." The Greek word for "weep" there is *edarkrysen*, which means to shed tears in response to a strong emotion. If Jesus knew He was going to raise Lazarus, why do you think He wept? Is it surprising to think of Jesus feeling real emotions like sorrow and grief? Explain.
4. The resurrection was one of the central beliefs of the early church. Have someone in the group read **1 Corinthians 15:1-4**. Why do you think Paul considered Christ's death, burial, and resurrection to be so important to the Christian faith? Have someone read **1 Corinthians 15:12-19**. According to Paul, why is the resurrection so crucial?
5. Have someone in the group read **Revelation 1:17-18**. Why does it give you hope that Jesus is the resurrection and the life, and that He "holds the keys of death" in His hands?
6. How should the fact that Jesus is the resurrection and the life affect the way we live every day?

* For a helpful sermon series on grief, please direct group members to the sermon series "Good Grief" on the Ventura Missionary Church YouTube channel (from June 2021)



PRAYER

Pray for each other: Pray that each person in your group would be encouraged by the fact that Jesus has power over death.

Pray for yourself: Pray that God would remind you that Jesus has power over death.

Pray for your four: Identify four people who don't know Jesus (friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers/classmates), and commit to pray for them consistently. Pray that **(1)** God would reveal Jesus to them, **(2)** that God would turn their hearts towards Him, **(3)** that God would put Christians in their path to represent Christ, and **(4)** that God would give you an opportunity to share what Christ has done in your life.

ACTION STEPS

This week, read the account of the resurrection in the four Gospels (Matthew 28:1-10 , Mark 16:1-8, Luke 21:1-44, John 20:1-29) as a way to prepare your heart for Easter.

NOTES

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