DISCIPLESHIP

THE SEVEN I AMS OF THE MESSIAH

PASTOR JONATHAN BURNS
MESSAGE FROM SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026

KEY SCRIPTURE

Exodus 3:13-15 - God reveals Himself as "I AM"

John 8:58 - Jesus declares, "Before Abraham was born, I am"

Seven "I Am" Statements in John:

- I am the Bread of Life (John 6:35)
- I am the Light of the World (John 8:12)
- I am the Door (John 10:7-9)
- I am the Good Shepherd (John 10:11-15)
- I am the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)
- I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6)
- I am the True Vine (John 15:1)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Understanding the Message

1. **The Divine Name:** Why is it significant that Jesus used the phrase "I am" to describe Himself? What was He claiming about His identity?
2. **Complete Sufficiency:** The pastor mentioned that "Jesus and Jesus alone has the answer that you need, whatever that answer is." Which of the seven "I am" statements speaks most directly to a need in your life right now?
3. **The Void Within:** The sermon addressed the human tendency to fill the God-shaped void with distractions, relationships, careers, etc. What are some common things people use to try to fill this void? Have you experienced this in your own life?

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Going Deeper

1. **Bread of Life (John 6:35):** Jesus said those who come to Him will never hunger or thirst. What does spiritual hunger and thirst look like? How have you experienced Jesus satisfying those needs?
2. **Light of the World (John 8:12):** The pastor emphasized that this isn't just about illumination, but about *following*. What's the difference between having light available and actually following it? Where is Jesus asking you to follow Him right now?
3. **The Door & Good Shepherd (John 10):** Jesus described Himself as both the door and the shepherd who literally places His body in the doorway to protect the sheep. How does this image of Jesus' protective care impact your sense of security as a believer?
4. **Knowing and Being Known:** In John 10:14-15, Jesus says He knows His own just as the Father knows Him. How does it affect you to realize Jesus knows you as intimately as He knows the Father?

Personal Application

1. **Abiding in the Vine (John 15:1):** The sermon stressed that we produce fruit by abiding, not by striving. What does "abiding in Christ" look like practically in your daily life? What prevents you from abiding consistently?
2. **Being Unplugged:** The pastor mentioned the danger of "plugging in on Sunday and unplugging" throughout the week. How can you maintain a more consistent connection with Jesus between church gatherings?
3. **Prepared for Conversations:** The sermon suggested that abiding in Christ prepares us for unexpected opportunities to share the gospel. Can you share a time when you were (or weren't) prepared for such a moment? What was the outcome?

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KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. **Jesus is our complete sufficiency** - Every need we have is met in one of His "I am" declarations
2. **Following requires movement** - We're not saved to stay in one place; we're called to follow Jesus forward
3. **We belong to Him** - Jesus knows us intimately and watches over us as the Good Shepherd
4. **Abiding produces fruit** - Consistent connection with Christ, not striving, brings spiritual fruitfulness
5. **Now is the time** - In these uncertain times, we need to be firmly rooted in Christ and ready to share Him with others

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

This Week's Challenge
Choose one of the following to practice this week:
Option 1: Daily Abiding Set aside 15 minutes each morning to "abide" - simply be in God's presence through prayer, Scripture reading, or worship. Journal about what happens when you start your day this way.
Option 2: Identity Meditation Each day this week, meditate on one of the seven "I am" statements. Ask God to show you how that particular aspect of Jesus meets a need in your life.
Option 3: Share Your Story Be intentional about looking for one opportunity this week to share something God has done in your life with someone who needs encouragement.
Option 4: Shepherd Others Following Jesus' example as the Good Shepherd, reach out to someone in your life who may be struggling or feeling isolated. Show them the care that Jesus shows you.

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REFLECTIONS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

- Which of the seven "I am" statements do I need to understand more deeply right now?
- What areas of my life am I still trying to control instead of trusting Jesus as my Good Shepherd?
- Am I truly "abiding" in Christ, or am I just going through religious motions?
- Who in my life needs to hear about one of these aspects of Jesus this week?

PRAYER FOCUS

As a Group:

- Thank God for revealing Himself through Jesus and the seven "I am" statements
- Ask for deeper revelation of who Jesus is and what He has accomplished for us
- Pray for strength to abide in Christ consistently, especially in uncertain times
- Ask God to prepare divine appointments for sharing the gospel with those who are searching

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Scan QR code for Upcoming Events, News, Giving and more!
https://linktr.ee/cornerstonejc

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Celebrating Jesus in the Passover - March 25; Registration is open! We expect to sell out, so register early to guarantee your seat.
- Palm Sunday, Easter Communion, Easter Egg Hunt (Volunteers needed!) & Resurrection Sunday!
- If you’ve never been Water Baptized, sign up!
- Intro to Cornerstone Life registration is open!