

Exodus 3:1-14, John 8:53-58

“Jesus: The Great I AM”

Scripture: Exodus 3:1-14, John 8:53-58

Memory Verse: John 8:58 “*Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”*”

Lesson Focus: This lesson will introduce our theme for the next several weeks as we will teach the kids about Who Jesus is. Since we want to “*Show Them Jesus, and Know Them Like Jesus*” (as our new T-shirts say), we are going to look at who Jesus says He is as contained in the seven “I AM” statements. This first lesson will introduce the series by going back to the OT and uncovering the deep meaning behind Jesus’s words in our memory verse.

Activities and Crafts: Decode of God’s Name, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring It Home Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st & 2nd: I AM HIS bookmarks

Starter Activity: Who Am I Charades

We will provide you with a stack of index cards with various characters on them. Kids will take turns taking a card and silently acting out what is on the card. Consider starting out yourself to get the kids warmed up to it. Consider letting the kid who first guesses correctly then be the next one to play.

Afterwards, write I AM in big letters on the white board with an underline afterwards and then ask some volunteers how they would fill in the blank. They could finish with their name, something they do, something they like, something unique about them, etc.

Point out how all of these describe who you are! In our lesson today and for the next several weeks, we are going to look at who Jesus says He is! Refer to the T-shirt you are wearing and remind them of the logo. One important part of Kids church at RMC is **showing you Jesus**. Well, let’s see who He actually said He was!

Bible Study:

Transition into the lesson by reading **Matthew 16:13-15**. Jesus asks His disciples a very important question: *Who do YOU say that I am?*

Did you know that **this is the most important** question you will ever answer? Your answer reveals what it is you believe about Jesus Christ. * And what you believe about Jesus Christ determines what will happen to you after you die!

To make sure we know the right answer to this question we should see what Jesus actually said about Himself! Jesus made several “I AM” statements in the Bible that teach us very important things about Who He is. We are going to look at these the next several weeks. Let’s get started by going back to the second book of the Bible: **Exodus**.

Teachers: As you read **Exodus 3:1-7 and 10-14**, consider asking for a few volunteers to help act out the story. One student will be Moses and the other will be the angel of the Lord. We will provide you with some supplies to make it fun. Read slowly and ensure the children listen and act out their part.

Q: What did God say His Name was? A: I AM (**Teachers:** If you wrote this on the whiteboard, refer back to it here and again throughout the lesson)

God is the GREAT I AM. He does not change and is perfectly perfect. He has always been there and always will be there.

It is important to remember that “I AM” is a very special name of God. It is holy. It means He is set apart and there is NO ONE better than Him nor anyone like Him! *

Q: Did any of you catch where God was telling Moses to go? A: To Egypt to rescue His people!

And that is exactly what happens the next several chapters of Exodus. The Jewish people were slaves in Egypt and God was going to rescue them with amazing signs & wonders. One of the greatest accounts of the whole Bible is when God showed His divine, superhero power by splitting the Red Sea to rescue His people from Pharaoh’s army!

Teachers: Transition now into John 8 where we will see how this account in Exodus connects to who Jesus is.

Now hundreds of years later, we have Jesus talking with the Jewish religious leaders. These are the great, great, great, great grandchildren of these slaves in Egypt that God had rescued through Moses.

Jesus is telling these people they can be rescued from sin and death if they believe in Him and follow Him. But they don’t believe Him and instead are arguing with Him.

John 8:53: The crowd is mad at Jesus because He is making Himself out to be greater than Abraham and the prophets like Moses who we just read about.

Q: Does anyone know who Abraham was? * A: He was the great, great, great grandfather of the Jewish people that God made a promise to.

In **Genesis 12:3**, God said to Abraham, *“In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*

God made this promise ~2000 years before Jesus was born. These people that Jesus was arguing with had been waiting and waiting for God to fulfill this promise! The whole Old Testament is about God working things together to fulfill promises like this. And Jesus was the chief fulfillment of it, but the people did not believe Him!

John 8:54: Jesus responds by saying that He is not just honoring Himself, but God is the One who sent Him and honors Him!

Q: What does it mean to be honored? Is it something you do to yourself or is it something someone else does to you? Jesus says it is God the Father Who has sent Him and He has done signs and wonders to prove it! *

John 8:55-56: Here Jesus says that Abraham has rejoiced to see Jesus coming!

Why? Because it is the fulfillment of the promise that God made! * When someone makes special promises to you (i.e. birthday party) isn't it exciting when those promises are kept and finally fulfilled?

John 8:57: The crowd is kinda laughing at Jesus now. Remember Abraham lived 2000 years ago and Jesus is talking as if He knew Him! It would be like me talking about Abraham Lincoln as if I spent time with him!

John 8:58: But now Jesus says something NO ONE was expecting: Before Abraham was there, **I AM!** Not only was He there 2000 years before when Abraham walked the earth, but He has ALWAYS BEEN THERE! He is God the Son!

Q: What did God tell Moses His Name was back in Exodus? A: I AM! You see Jesus was making it VERY CLEAR that He is God!

Key Point: Let's go back to Jesus's Q at the beginning. *“Who do YOU say that I am?”*

Do you believe that He is God? Jesus said He was and proved it by working signs and wonders no one had ever done. Best of all, He died on the cross and rose from the grave so that when we believe in Him as God and Savior, we become His children. We can boldly say: I AM HIS!!! (**Teachers:** Consider finishing the lesson by writing this on the whiteboard and ask the kids if they believe that they are His!)

Bring It Home

(Devotional for the Family)

Download at: <https://rmcalvary.org/volunteering/childrens-ministry/family-resources/>

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Teachers/Parents: This is the first of eight lessons that we will be doing walking through the famous “I AM” statements of Jesus Christ. We started off our lesson by asking the kids how they would finish the statement, I AM _____. Have some discussion with your kids about how you would fill in the blank and then see how they would finish it!

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Read **Exodus 3:10-12** which is where God sends Moses to Egypt. How did Moses respond in v. 11 and how do you think Moses felt about this? What was God’s answer to Moses’s in v. 12?
- 2) Do you ever have doubts like Moses did about obeying God and doing what He wants? Read **Hebrews 13:5-6**. How does this encourage you? What is something you might be afraid to do this week that this will give you courage to do?
- 3) Read **Exodus 3:14**. In class we stressed the significance behind God referring to Himself as “I AM”. This might not sound like much to us, but throughout the OT it was a reserved title for the one and only God Who made all things. Can you think of any titles that are reserved only for special people?
- 4) In John 8, Jesus is in an argument with the Jewish people over Who He is. Read **John 8:51**. What would you think if someone walked up to you and said what Jesus said here?
- 5) We finally get to the grand finale of the argument in **John 8:58**, our memory verse. Why is what Jesus said here so radical?
- 6) Read **John 8:59**. This is really sad as Jesus just very clearly claimed to be God. Why do you think the people threw stones at Him to kill Him? Do you know anyone that has a hatred towards Jesus? Say a prayer for them together.