

Happy new week, everyone!

A Question to Ponder

As the youth leaders have been thinking through what to teach this term and next term, we had the idea to teach the “I AMs” of Jesus. The men’s homegroup have just finished a study on this, and by all accounts, it was a powerful time of revelation and “glowing” in the Lord. Here are the seven I AMs.

“I am the Bread of Life” (John 6:35, 48, 51).

Jesus sustains spiritual life, just as bread sustains physical life.

“I am the Light of the World” (John 8:12; 9:5).

Jesus brings truth and guidance, shining into spiritual darkness.

“I am the Door (Gate) of the Sheep” (John 10:7, 9).

Jesus is the way into God’s family and provides safety and salvation.

“I am the Good Shepherd” (John 10:11, 14).

Jesus cares for, protects, and lays down His life for His people.

“I am the Resurrection and the Life” (John 11:25)

Jesus has power over death and offers eternal life.

“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life” (John 14:6)

Jesus is the only way to the Father, the embodiment of truth, and the source of real life.

“I am the True Vine” (John 15:1, 5).

Jesus is the source of spiritual health; believers must remain connected to Him to bear fruit.

But as we have dug further, we have discovered that most of our young people do not really understand who Jesus is. To most, he is a good person.

If I were to ask you today, 'Who is Jesus?', what would you say?

So we thought that before the I AMs, it is probably better to ask a more basic, even rudimentary question.

Who is Jesus, and why do we believe in him?

In 1st Peter 3:15, Peter says this:

15 But make sure that in your hearts you honour Christ as Lord. Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you about the hope you have. Be ready to give the reason for it. But do it gently and with respect. 16 Live so that you don't have to feel you've done anything wrong. Some people may say evil things about your good conduct as believers in Christ. If they do, they will be put to shame for speaking like this about you.

1st Peter 3:15

In essence, if we do not know who Jesus is, then we cannot provide a reason for our faith.

For the next few weeks, even before we start talking about the I AMs, we are going to be investigating Jesus at youth group. Who is he? What did he say? Why was he killed? Why is the resurrection the basis of our faith? How can we believe in Jesus? But I have a sense that many of us would be in the same boat as the youth group. We probably know who Jesus is, but we do not have full confidence in our belief in him. So how do we gain that?

So who would you say Jesus is, and how does that help you defend your faith?

Have a Jesus-filled week.

Martin