



I AM
7-WEEK DEVOTION



**Thank you to the following team for investing
their time and talents creating this resource for
our church family.**

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A LETTER FROM PASTOR MIKE



The Gospel of John paints a compelling picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. At times, it is the simplest Gospel, perfect for both the new believer and the one who has an interest in knowing more about Jesus. At other times, it is an ocean where no believer can fully plumb the depths of its riches. Its author, John the Apostle, organized the book around seven signs, written so that “you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His Name (John 20:31).” Jesus wants you to experience the abundant life and the Gospel of John tells us how.

In addition to the seven miracles, John recorded seven “I AM” statements, spoken by Jesus, in order to give us a fascinating picture of our Lord. Incidentally, the number seven in Scripture often represents *completion*. When you contemplate Jesus’ revelation about Himself in John, you will gain a clear picture of our Lord and Savior.

The seven “I AM” statements are the focus of our new sermon series: *Knowing Jesus*. Your church staff believes that these uncertain days are the perfect time and opportunity for you to grow together as a family. As a result, we have compiled these devotions, prayers, and questions for the purpose of helping you achieve a deeper understanding of some of Jesus’ most famous statements in the New Testament. Our hope is that you will gather as a family or small group around the Word of God and explore the majesty and glory of Jesus Christ.

During this time, we are available to be contacted for questions, and we encourage you to do so as often as you need! May God bless your family as you pursue a deeper and more intimate knowledge of Jesus. I love being your pastor!

Mike Phillips
Senior Pastor

OUR HOPE

This guide is written to help you apply the Bible to your own life. It is not meant to replace or summarize scripture. Rather, we hope you will use it to accompany your Bible study.

As you read through the Gospel of John and consider the points and questions included here, we believe the Holy spirit will help you discover deeper truths, and perhaps understand familiar truths in a new light.

God's Word is alive. As you engage it, He will speak to you through it.

OUR APPROACH

This guide uses a Bible study structure based on the "SOAP" acronym: Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer. This is not the only method, just the one we happen to use here.

We have divided the guide into seven sections with the goal to accomplish one "I AM" statement a week. Each section is further divided into several parts. These do not correspond to days, so go through them at a pace that works for you.

This guide is primarily intended for personal study. Many of the questions prompt you to consider things from your own perspective, and some of your thoughts may naturally be private. After all, our hope is God uses this resource alongside His Word to speak to YOU.

Of course, you may find certain sections helpful for discussion with others, such as with your family or your small group. We encourage you to use this guide as you feel led.



Scripture

First, read the Scripture passage. Then read it again, using different translations, if possible. Resources like the **Bible App** and **biblegateway.com** allow you to access other translations for free and even read different translations side-by-side. It can also be helpful to break the passage down into a reading plan of smaller sections to study throughout the week.



Observation

Spend some time considering what you just read. It is important to carve out some intentional time for this study, so you are not tempted to rush. Write your thoughts in the spaces provided and have a notebook handy if you find yourself writing more. There are no right or wrong thoughts, only your own observations. We have included some additional thoughts on the passage to help. Study Bibles like the **English Standard Version (ESV) Study Bible** are also great resources for helpful notes, context, and explanations.



Application

Work through the questions that follow and be honest with yourself. This guide is a resource for you alone, which is why we recommend it for personal study. Writing out your answers can help you further process what you read. Don't limit yourself to these questions. God may prompt you to consider deeper questions.



Prayer

Spend some time talking and listening to God. Pray for God to help you better understand what He is trying to tell you in the passage and how he wants you to apply it. You will find some initial written prayers to help. We encourage you to even write out your own prayers, perhaps in a prayer journal.

READING PLAN

Reading the Bible is the best way to get to know God. After all, the Bible is His Word to us. The Holy Spirit will guide you and teach you as you read and pray. One great way to approach every section is to read the entire portion of the scripture each day of the workday week (Monday through Friday.) But each day, read a different translation or paraphrase of that same section. For example, you might consider a weekly plan that looks like this:

Monday: **English Standard Version (ESV)**
Tuesday: **New International Version (NIV)**
Wednesday: **Christian Standard Bible (CSB)**
Thursday: **New Living Translation (NLT)**
Friday: **New American Standard Bible (NASB)**

All of these translations are available in the **Bible App** by **YouVersion**. By reading each translation or paraphrase, you will notice details or nuances you might miss otherwise.

Another way to approach each section is to read bite-sized passages. By doing this you are afforded a great opportunity for deeper “meditation”. For example, a reading of Section 2 might look something like this:

Monday: **6:35-38**
Tuesday: **6:39-40**
Wednesday: **6:41-44**
Thursday: **6:45-47**
Friday: **6:48-51**

What is MEDITATION?

Quiet time to focus on a verse or small section of scripture and ask and listen for the Holy Spirit to reveal something new about it.

We have included a plan just like this for each section to help guide your study of scripture and meditation each week.

Remember, the goal is always life transformation; not simply more head knowledge.

Your knowledge will increase, but increased knowledge is not enough. The goal is to grow in your relationship with God as you learn more about Him. If you miss a day (or two, or three...) don't give up! Read again. Don't make the mistake of thinking your relationship with God depends on your perfection. Jesus achieved perfection for you. Spouses, siblings, and friends don't achieve perfection in their relationship. All they (and we) can do is keep relating. The same is true for a walk with God.

“Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.”

James 4:8