

HomeWord¹ For Parents

The scribes and Pharisees were offended at what Jesus was doing and saying—especially at His claim that He came from God and was sent by God (John 8:42). The words He spoke stunned those who were listening to Him. He answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM” (John 8:58).

This enraged those arguing with Him, and they picked up stones to throw at Him (John 8:59). What exactly was Jesus saying by calling Himself I AM?

The scribes and Pharisees were very familiar with God’s words to Moses as He revealed Himself at the burning bush when God said, “I AM WHO I AM” (Exodus 3:14). This name denotes complete independence and self-existence. It could only describe the one true God! And this was Jesus’s testimony—I AM God. The religious leaders hated Him for claiming that truth.

John recorded seven more instances where Jesus made the claim, “I AM,” to confirm that He is God in human form and the promised Messiah who would save His people from their sins.

- “I am the bread of life” (John 6:35). He is essential to life—not physical life but eternal life.

- “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12). There is no other source of spiritual light.
- “I am the door” (John 10:7). Eternal life comes through Him alone—the only door.
- “I am the good shepherd” (John 10:11). There is only one good shepherd—it is Jesus.
- “I am the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25). There is no resurrection or life without Jesus.
- “I am the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). Jesus is the only way. He alone offers the only truth.
- “I am the true vine” (John 15:1, 15:5). Just as a branch cut off from the vine cannot continue to grow, we can do nothing apart from Jesus Christ (John 15:4–5).

Jesus is God. His claim to be “I AM” left no doubt in the minds of the Jews who would not accept or believe Him. Christ was crucified because of His rightful claim that He is the great I AM—God in human form, the King of the Jews (John 19:19). God’s perfect plan of redemption through Jesus was fulfilled.

Go to the Online Resource Page for more information.

OutWord² For Family Discussion

Suppose you heard someone say that Jesus was a good teacher or maybe a prophet, but He wasn’t God. **What could you say?**

The Bible is the one reliable place to find out the truth about Jesus. And the Bible records things Jesus said and did when He walked on this earth as a man. During that time Jesus said He was God in many different ways to many people. He wanted everyone to know that He was God in human flesh. In fact, that’s why the religious leaders wanted to kill Him and in the end; that is why He was killed. If He wasn’t God, it seems like He would have said so before they killed Him in such an awful way! But it was true. Jesus is much more than a good teacher or a prophet. Jesus is God! There is no question about it.

inWord³ For Family Study

“Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105). You want your children to walk in God’s way, on His path. Only His Word can direct them. Help them to know His Word. Study and memorize it together as a family.

Begin with the memory verse in the Learn the Word section inside this handout.



Jesus Is the Great I AM

KEY THEME

- God reveals His character in the Bible.

KEY PASSAGES

- Exodus 3:14
- John 6:35, 8:12, 8:56–59, 10:9, 10:11, 11:25, 14:6



What You HEARD⁴ in the Word

- When Jesus called Himself “I AM,” the religious leaders knew He was claiming to be God.
- When Jesus made the I AM statements calling Himself the door, the light of the world, etc., He was claiming to be God.

Ask your child these questions from today’s lesson.

- 1 God told Moses His name. What was it?
- 2 What did Jesus call Himself?
- 3 What did it mean when Jesus called Himself I AM?



(1) I AM. (2) I AM. (3) He was saying He was God.

Read the Word with Mom & Dad


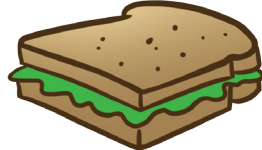
- Monday** (John 6:48)
What did Jesus call Himself?
- Tuesday** (John 6:47)
What happens to those who believe in Jesus?
- Wednesday** (John 8:59)
Jesus claimed to be God. How did the people react to His claim?
- Thursday** (John 8:12)
What does Jesus promise to those who follow Him?
- Friday** (John 10:11)
What does Jesus call Himself in this verse? What is He willing to give?
- Saturday** (John 14:6)
Do you know your memory verse? Recite it to someone in your family.


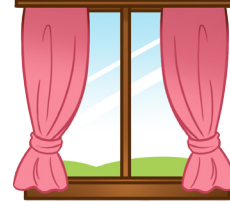
Learn the Word!


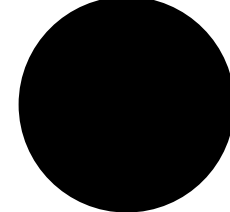
Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6



I Am . . .



Jesus wants us to know that He is God. He used the name I AM when He described Himself. Two things are pictured on each line below. Circle the one that Jesus used to tell us about who He is.

- 


Bread or Sandwich
- 


Door or Window
- 


Light or Dark
- 


Sheep or Shepherd
- 


Bird or Resurrection

LIVE the Word with Maria and Her Dad

Hey, Dad! I have a riddle for you.

OK. Let's hear it

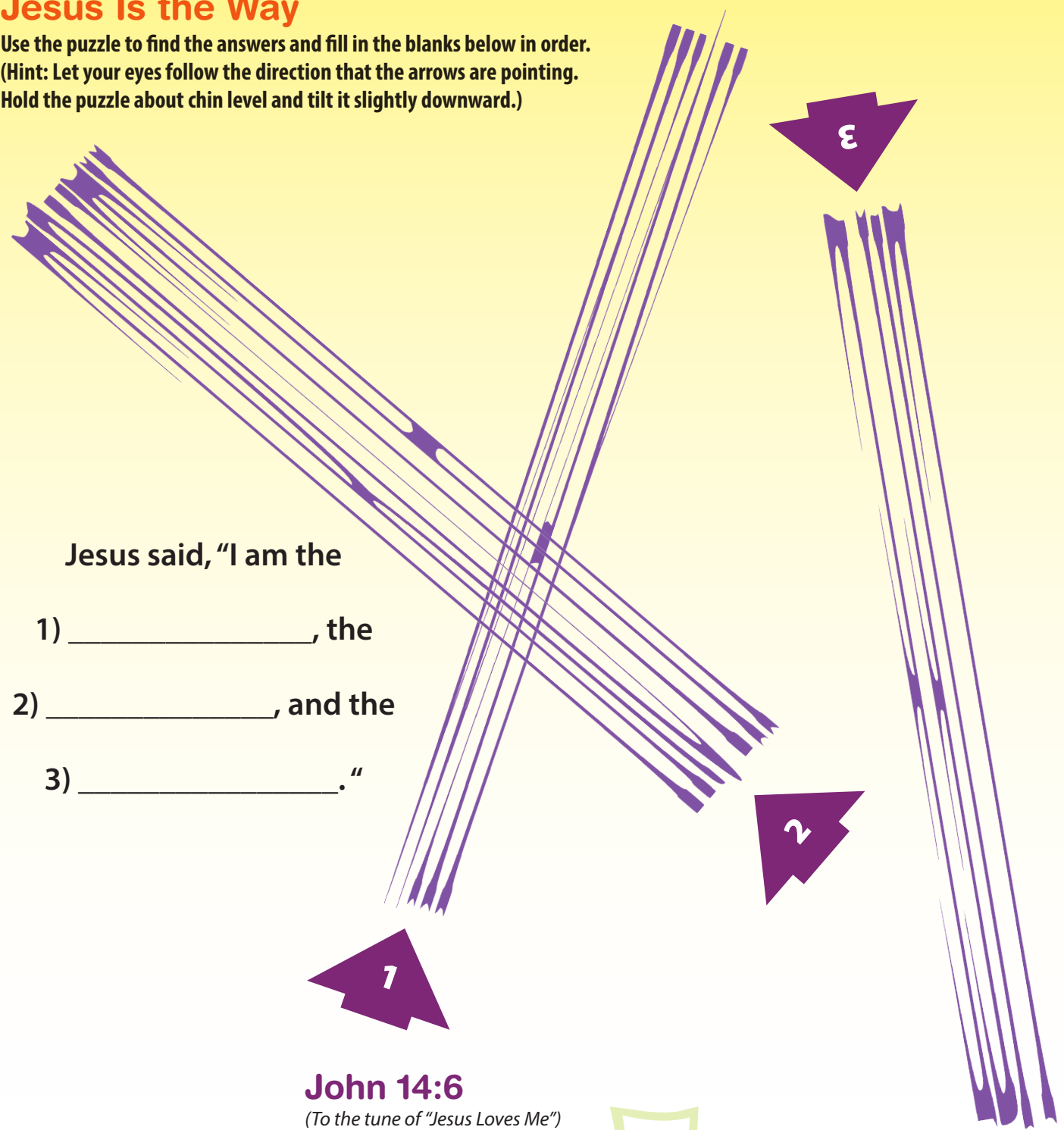
Who is bread, light, a door, and a shepherd all at the same time?

Hmmmm. Let me see. I think I've heard this before in the Bible.

That's right! It's Jesus! He is God the Savior!

Jesus Is the Way

Use the puzzle to find the answers and fill in the blanks below in order. (Hint: Let your eyes follow the direction that the arrows are pointing. Hold the puzzle about chin level and tilt it slightly downward.)



Jesus said, "I am the

- _____ , the
- _____ , and the
- _____ ."

John 14:6

(To the tune of "Jesus Loves Me")

Jesus said to him, "I am
(Jesus loves me, this I know.)

The way, the tru-uth, and the life.
(For the Bible tells me so.)

No one comes to the Fa-a-ther
(Little ones, to Him belong.)

Except through Me."
(They are weak,)

John fourteen six.
(But He is strong.)



SNEAK PEEK

Do you know what Jesus requires of those who follow Him? Come next week to find out.