

I AM

The Identity of Jesus

Sample



I AM

 Precept®

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LESSON TWO

The Origin of I AM // *Exodus 3*

Before we dive into the I AM statements of Jesus, let's explore the first I AM used in Scripture. Throughout Genesis, God taught His people many names for Himself. *Elohim* is the most common, but we also see *Adonai* and *El Shaddai*, to name a few. But when Moses asked God for His name, God did not provide any of these. His response was unexpected, and God's answer is key to this study. Let's dig into Scripture.

Context

Moses was born a Hebrew soon after Pharaoh ordered the death of all Hebrew baby boys. Through his mother's trust in God's provision, Moses was spared and raised in Pharaoh's household. When he grew up, Moses killed an Egyptian while trying to protect an enslaved Hebrew man. Fearing for his life, he fled into the wilderness, where he settled into a quiet life as a shepherd. Decades later, Moses encountered the Lord. Let's read their conversation and discover what God called Moses to do.

Read Exodus 3.

In the Appendix, you will find an Observation Sheet with the text of Exodus 3.

As you read, mark each of the following:

- 1 //** references to *Moses* (including pronouns such as *his, he, him, I, your, you, and me*) with a circle
- 2 //** references to *God* (including the name *Lord* and pronouns such as *he, I, my, me, and his*) with a purple triangle
- 3 //** the phrase *I am* (when spoken by God) with a purple box

It may help to read through the passage multiple times, marking each reference or word one at a time. Or, if you prefer, you can mark them all during a single readthrough. Do what works best for you.



Let's take a closer look.

1. Why did God appear to Moses?

2. What did God call Moses to do in verse 10?

3. How did Moses respond to God? What questions did he ask?

4. Based on Moses' responses, how did he likely feel about God's calling?

5. When Moses asked, "Who am I . . . ?" in verse 11, what was God's response to his question? What is interesting or unexpected about God's answer?

Week One

6. What does this reveal about God's character?



Let's take a closer look at God's identity in this passage.

7. Looking at where you marked the phrase *I am*, list what God declared about His identity.

I AM WHO I AM. What does this mean? A word study suggests it may come from the verb “to be” and is related to the Hebrew name of God, Yahweh (*YHWH-LORD*). Biblical scholars do not agree on the exact meaning of this Hebrew phrase for God's identity, but here are a few possible definitions:

Self-existent: God is independent. He needs nothing to sustain Himself.

Creator and Sustainer: Everything begins with God and is sustained through Him.

Immutable: God never changes, grows, or develops because He is perfect.

Eternal: God has always existed and will never fade with time.



The Significance of I AM

Scan the QR code to learn more about this name for God.

8. How does the statement, “I AM WHO I AM,” relate to God’s identity as “the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob”?

9. Reflect on the possible meanings of “I AM” in the box to the left. How might God’s response have encouraged Moses in his calling? How might it have encouraged the children of Israel?



Let’s read a passage in Hebrews to see how this applies to us today.

Read Hebrews 13:5–6.

As you read, mark references to *God* (including the name *Lord* and pronouns such as *he* and *I*) with a purple triangle.

Note: The first “he” refers to God.

Hebrews 13

- 5 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”
- 6 So we can confidently say,
“The Lord is my helper;
I will not fear;
what can man do to me?”

Week One

10. What is God's promise?

11. How can we respond to the truth that God never leaves us or forsakes us?

12. Has God ever led you to do something that seemed beyond your capabilities or outside your comfort zone? Describe your experience.

13. Looking back on this experience, how do you see God by your side?

14. In Hebrews 13, God restates His promise to Moses to us today—*"I will be with you."* How will remembering this promise strengthen your obedience to the Lord?

15. Review the possible meanings of “I AM WHO I AM” and God’s promise in Hebrews 13. How do these truths impact any fear or anxiety you might be experiencing?

Pray

Thank God for who He is. Praise Him for never forgetting nor forsaking His people. With a thankful heart, express to God how He has been there for you as I AM. Close your prayer with a commitment—share with your Heavenly Father how you plan to live in light of I AM.



When Jesus says, **I AM** . . .

A Christian's entire life—our freedom from sin, our daily walk with God, our eternal hope of a glorious future—is because of one man: Jesus. And so it's right for us to hunger to know Him more.

In this study, you'll discover treasures of truth about Jesus found in the "I AM" statements of John's Gospel. Your Savior's own declarations about Himself will give you deep insight into who He is, leading you to know Him more fully . . . and love Him more deeply.

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