

"I Am"

August 23rd, 2020

Activity: What Am I?

1. Distribute post-it notes with simple nouns written on each one. Stick them on each of your children's foreheads.
2. Tell your children that they will need to attempt to figure out the noun that is written on their post-it note. They will need to ask "yes" or "no" answers. (Do I have four legs? Am I an animal? Do I meow?) Offer help as needed.
3. See if they can figure out what they are. Play as many rounds as you like!

Say: Just like in this game, every person, place, or thing has a name. It could be the name of a teacher or president, a church or a baseball field, a giraffe or a book. Just like everything has a name that describes it, Jesus has names that describe Him. Some of the names that describe Him seem crazy, funny, and strange. But what's most important is what Jesus calls Himself.

Read Exodus 3:14-15

This may seem incredibly strange, but God tells Moses that His name is "I Am." As weird as it may be, God had a very good reason for this name. "I Am" means that God was and is and is to come. That means that He has always existed, even before any ocean or star or person, He still exists now, and He will always exist and be there, forever and ever and ever.

In **Hebrews 13:8**, it says that God is the same "yesterday and today and forever." That's what "I Am" means.

In the Old Testament, God called Himself "I Am." In the New Testament, over a thousand years later, He still calls Himself "I Am" through His Son, Jesus. Now, let's learn about what Jesus called Himself!

SUNDAY STUDIES
for Kids

Read through the following passages with your children, highlighting some of the different "I Am" statements of Jesus...

"I Am the Bread of Life" (John 6:48-51)

Our bodies need food to live (like cereal, apples, pop tarts), but food won't get us to heaven. Our hearts need Jesus. When we follow Jesus and choose to obey Him, we will live forever. Plus, He makes it so that we are fully satisfied!

"I Am the Light of the World" (John 8:12)

This world is dark, because of sin, but Jesus gives us light. He takes our sin away and shows us (like a flashlight) how to walk in the dark and where to go next.

"I Am the Gate for the Sheep" (John 10:7-9)

In the sheep pen, the shepherd was like a gate or a door, letting sheep in and protecting them. Jesus is the gate to God - the only way. We have to go through the gate (or door) to see God and be saved from our sins.

"I Am the Good Shepherd" (John 10:14-16)

Just like a shepherd takes care of sheep, Jesus takes care of us. He will do anything to save His sheep, even die for them. And that's what He had to do so that we may have life.

"I Am the Resurrection and the Life" (John 11:25-26)

When Jesus rose again, He defeated death. Death does not have to make us afraid anymore, as long as we have Jesus in our lives. Jesus is life!

"I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:6)

Jesus is the only way to God. He is everything that is true. He is life for those who follow Him!

"I Am the True Vine" (John 15:5)

Jesus tells us that He is the vine and we (His followers) are the branches. The branches need to have the vine to grow. If they don't, they're going to fall off and be of no good. We all need to stay connected to Jesus (through His word, the church, prayer) in order to grow.