

“I AM”

Four hundred years after seventy descendants of Abraham came down to Egypt to escape a terrible famine (Exo 1:1-7), “there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph” (1:8). “Come, let us deal shrewdly with them,” Pharaoh said to his people, setting taskmasters over the children of Israel “to afflict them with heavy burdens” (1:9-11).

Years later, an old man named Moses heard a voice calling out to him from a burning bush (3:6):

“I am the God of your father, the God of _____, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.”

As God commissioned Moses to deliver Abraham’s descendants from their slavery in Egypt, Moses asked for the name of the God who was sending him (3:14):

“I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘ _____ has sent me to you.’”

But what does this have to do with our search for our King? Seven different times in John’s gospel, Jesus used the same words—“I am”—to describe himself in a variety of ways:

- 🕒 “I am the _____ of life” (6:35)
- 🕒 “I am the _____ of the world” (8:12)
- 🕒 “I am the _____” (10:9)
- 🕒 “I am the good _____” (10:11)
- 🕒 “I am the _____ and the life” (11:25)
- 🕒 “I am the _____, the truth, and the life” (14:6)
- 🕒 “I am the true _____” (15:1)

But listen especially to what he said in John 8:56-58:

“Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, _____ Abraham _____, _____.”



For Class & Family Discussion:

- Let’s think carefully about God’s response to Moses in Exodus 3:14. “I AM WHO I AM” (Yahweh or the LORD in our Bibles). What does he want us to understand about him from his name?
- Let’s also think carefully about Jesus’ various descriptions of himself. What did he mean by, “I am...”
 - The bread of life?
 - The light of the world?
 - The door?
 - The good shepherd?
 - The resurrection?
 - The way, truth, and life?
 - The true vine?
- Jesus’ words in John 8 are extremely important.
 - What’s the context? What had led up to this conflict?
 - What did Jesus mean by his reference to Abraham in John 8:56.
 - Why did the Jews react the way they did in John 8:59?