



STUDY ONE

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

DISCUSSION STARTERS

What are your top 2 favourite meals?

Share a time with your group when you were really really hungry - how did that hunger come to an end?

What is one thing you would like to be remembered for?

BACKGROUND TO OUR PASSAGE

Read Exodus 16:1-18. (You can keep reading to verse 36 if you are keen!)

Why were the Israelites grumbling?

What could the LORD have done in response to this grumbling - but what did He do?

How does this point to the character of our God?

What are the various ways that the Israelites responded to God's gracious provision?

THE PHYSICAL MIRACLE

Read John 6:1-15

What stands out to you in this account?

What is it that the crowds want from Jesus?

What is the significance of this miracle happening at the time of the Jewish Passover Festival? (Verse 4).

.

What is the significance of everyone having eaten their fill, and then there were leftovers?

(Note: 5000 men were there - these were likely heads of families, and so the crowd is probably more like 15-20 thousand).

JESUS' EXPLANATION OF THE MIRACLE – PART ONE

Read John 6:22-40

Why were the crowds looking for Jesus? (14-15, 26, 28)

How does Jesus challenge their perspective once they find him?

What is the comparison Jesus makes with Moses in these verses?

What is the comfort provided in verses 35-40?

How can knowing these incredible promises make a difference to our lives right now?

JESUS' EXPLANATION OF THE MIRACLE – PART TWO

Read John 6:41-59

**Why do the Jews who had heard Jesus' explanation start grumbling?
(And what does this remind you of?!)**

How are we prone to this sort of behaviour?

What is the misunderstanding that is articulated in verse 52?

If Jesus is not being literal in verses 53-57, what does he mean?

TAKING JESUS THE BREAD OF LIFE WITH YOU

If someone asked you, 'What does Jesus mean when he says, "I am the Bread of Life", what would you say?

CLOSE IN PRAYER



STUDY TWO

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

DISCUSSION STARTERS

What is the darkest place you have ever been?

Have you ever been 'kept in the dark' about some really important news or truth? How did you finally find out what was going on?

What struck you from last Sunday's sermon?

BACKGROUND TO OUR PASSAGE

Read Exodus 13:21-22.

How was God the light of his people in the Exodus?

Read Isaiah 42:1-9

How was God going to provide 'a light for the Gentiles'?

Read Isaiah 42:1-9

How was God going to provide 'a light for the Gentiles'?

Read Zechariah 14:5b-7

What will happen when the LORD Himself comes on the final day?

JESUS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Read John 1:1-13

List all the things said about Jesus being the light of the world.

Read John 8:12

Given all of the background above, what does Jesus mean when he declares, “I am the light of the world”? How does this metaphorical language convey a deeper spiritual truth?

In what ways does darkness symbolise sin, ignorance, or separation from God in the Bible? How does Jesus being the light counteract these aspects?

What does it mean to follow Jesus according to John 8:12? How does following Jesus lead to a life free from spiritual darkness? (See also 1 John 5:5-7)

Reflect on the concept of light as a source of guidance and illumination. How does Jesus being the light of the world provide direction and clarity in our lives? (See Psalm 119:105)

Read John 9:1-41

How does Jesus demonstrate that He is the light of the world in his interaction with the blind man?

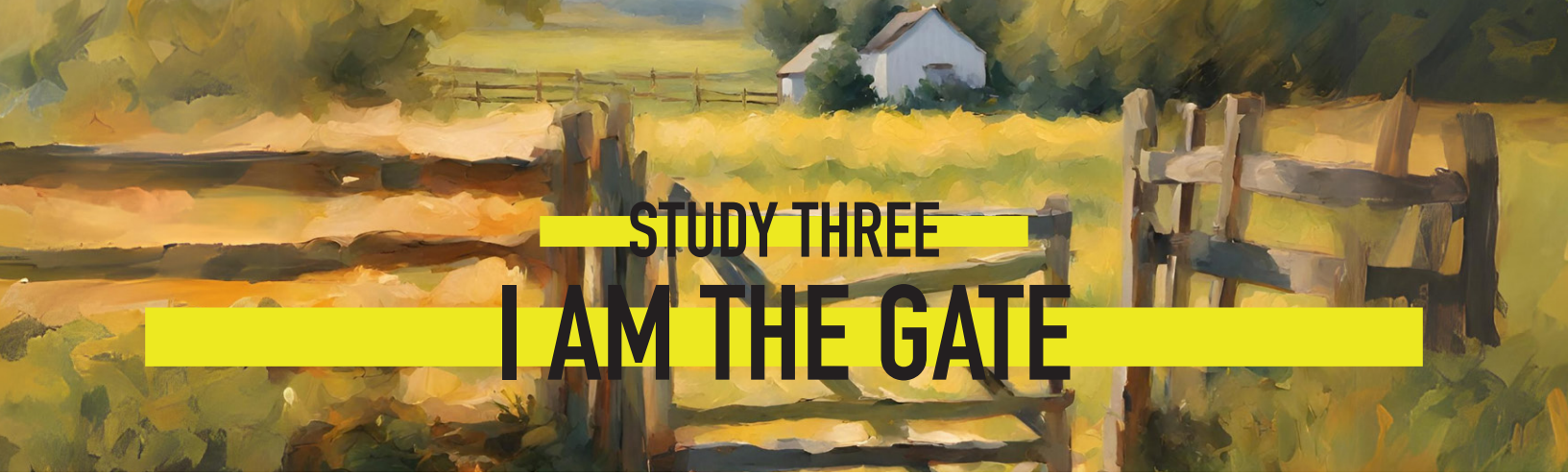
As this scene plays out, how do the Pharisees (who should have been the teachers of the light of God in the Scriptures) demonstrate that they are in the darkness?

TAKING JESUS THE LIGHT WITH YOU

Discuss in you group ways in which you can, individually and together,

- **walk in the light of Jesus, and**
- **shine His light into a dark world**

CLOSE IN PRAYER



STUDY THREE

I AM THE GATE

DISCUSSION STARTERS

What struck you from last Sunday's sermon?

READING OUR PASSAGE

Read John 10:7-10

In John 10:7, Jesus declares, "I am the gate for the sheep." What does this metaphor suggest about the exclusivity of salvation through Jesus, and how does it relate to other passages in the Bible?

Reflect on the significance of Jesus stating, "If anyone enters by me, he will be saved" (John 10:9). How does this statement emphasize the centrality of Christ in the process of salvation? What does 'entering by Jesus' look like?

Explore the idea of salvation as entering into a safe and secure place. How does Jesus being the gate provide a sense of refuge and protection for believers?

In John 10:8, Jesus contrasts himself with those who came before Him, referring to them as thieves and robbers. Who might these “thieves and robbers” represent, and how does Jesus distinguish Himself from false leaders or ideologies?

According to John 10:10, Jesus came so that we may have life and have it abundantly. What does abundant life mean in a spiritual context, and how does it differ from worldly definitions of abundance?

Reflect on the contrast between the thief’s intentions (to steal, kill, and destroy) and Jesus’ purpose (to give life abundantly) in John 10:10. How does this distinction shape our understanding of God’s character and Satan’s influence?

TAKING JESUS THE GATE WITH YOU

How does Jesus being the ‘gate’ through which you enter and through which you are protected make a difference to how you approach life this week?

CLOSE IN PRAYER



STUDY FOUR

I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD

DISCUSSION STARTERS

What sort of qualities were present in the worst leader AND/OR the best leader you've ever had?

What struck you from last Sunday's sermon?

BACKGROUND

Read Ezekiel 34:1-16

For what does the Lord condemn the leaders of Israel?

What 2 things does the Lord promise to do in response to their behaviour?

READING OUR PASSAGE

Read John 10:1-18

What are the features by which the 'Good' Shepherd is identified?

How is the Good Shepherd contrasted to the hired hand/ false leaders?

What does the Good Shepherd promise to provide for his flock? (See also Psalm 23:2, John 6:10)

Who are the 'other sheep not of this sheep pen', and how is that good news for most of us at St Paul's?

What is the Good Shepherd's relationship with the Father? How will this be fulfilled in the rest of the book of John? How does this point to his utter trustworthiness?

TAKING JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD WITH YOU

What stops us from letting the Good Shepherd guide us through this life?

How (and when) will you let the Good Shepherd lead you with His voice in this coming week? What will that look like for you? Do you need to make a plan now for that to be able to happen?

How can you make listening to the Good Shepherd's voice a habit than a reaction? How can we help each other in this?

CLOSE IN PRAYER



STUDY FIVE

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

DISCUSSION STARTERS

How is death portrayed in the media?

What struck you from last Sunday's sermon?

BACKGROUND

Read Daniel 12:1-3.

What is the promise that is made about the end of time through the prophet Daniel here?

Read Ezekiel 37:1-14.

What is the promise that is made about the end of time through the prophet Ezekiel here? What role does the Spirit of God play?

READING OUR PASSAGE

Read John 11:1-16

What is Jesus' relationship with Lazarus?

What do you think Jesus meant by his statement in v4? How does it relate to v14?

What is the disciples reaction to Jesus throughout these verses (see John 10:31 for the climate in Judea)?

Read John 11:17-37

How does Martha's comment in verse 24 relate to our background verses?

How does Jesus' reaction to Lazarus' death and Mary and Martha's tears teach us about grief in the Christian life?

Do you think verse 37 is a fair enough reaction to Jesus?

Read John 11:38-43

What is the concern in verses 38-39? How do these verses reinforce Lazarus' state?

How does Jesus' raising of Lazarus demonstrate the glory of God (v40)?

How is Lazarus' being brought back to life similar and different to Jesus' resurrection?

TAKING JESUS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE WITH YOU

Having read through John 11, how would you state in your own words what it means for Jesus to say 'I am the Resurrection and the Life - whoever believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me, will never die?'

How does this affect your outlook on life, and on the lives of others around you?



STUDY SIX

I AM THE WAY THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE

DISCUSSION STARTERS

What is something you hold to be true and certain in your life? What makes you think that?

What struck you from last Sunday's sermon?

BACKGROUND

Read Daniel 12:1-3.

What is the promise that is made about the end of time through the prophet Daniel here?

READING OUR PASSAGE

Read John 14:1-14

What does Jesus mean when he says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me" (John 14:1)?

How does Jesus describe the place he is going to prepare for his disciples in verse 2?

Why does Thomas ask, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” (John 14:5)?

What does Jesus mean when he says: ”I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”?

What does Jesus mean by saying, “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9)?

How do the works that Jesus does relate to the statement, “Whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these” (John 14:12)?

What is the significance of Jesus promising to do whatever his disciples ask in his name, in verse 13-14?

TAKING JESUS THE WAY THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE WITH YOU

How does this ‘I am’ statement speak to the claim that ‘all religions are the same, they are just different cultural expressions of the same thing’?

How does this ‘I am’ statement speak to the urgency of evangelism?



STUDY SEVEN

I AM THE VINE

DISCUSSION STARTERS

What struck you from last Sunday's sermon?

BACKGROUND

READ: John 15:1

NOTE: As Jesus calls himself “the true vine” he is not introducing a new metaphor, he is drawing on His audiences knowledge of the scriptures, Psalm 80 in particular. Psalm 80, as it was first sung by Israel, covers 3 points in salvation history; past, present and future.

Considering God's work through the history of Israel, what is being communicated about each point in history through the image of a vine?

The Past: Read Psalm 80:8-11

The Present: Read Psalm 80:12-13 / Isaiah 5:4

The future: Read Psalm 80:14-19

How does what we have read in Psalm 80 change how we understand Jesus' intended meaning as he spoke John 15:1?

JESUS THE VINE

With Psalm 80 in mind, how does John 15:2 make you feel?

There are two types of branches and corresponding actions from the Father. Who do you think the types of branches represent and what do the actions of the Father mean?

Passages like this can often produce a fear in us, we may ask "am I a branch that bears no fruit?" In fear of coming judgment from the father.

What do you think is meant by "fruit" in this passage?

How can v3, v9-12 and v16 help us if we worry about being a branch that is to be cut off?

In v4 Jesus says “Remain in me”, what do you think it means practically for us to remain in Jesus?

TAKING JESUS THE VINE WITH YOU

In what parts of your life do you feel you are consistent in remaining in Christ and in what parts do you feel you find what you need elsewhere?

What can be learnt about growing as Christian’s from this passage? In verses 9-17 Jesus speaks to many aspects of how we might experience or live out remaining in him, are each of these reflected in your life? Why / Why not?

Pick one of these areas and consider it in your prayers

CLOSE IN PRAYER



STUDY EIGHT

I AM

DISCUSSION STARTERS

When you have had conversations with those who don't go to church, what do they think of Jesus?

What struck you from Sunday's sermon?

BACKGROUND

Read Exodus 3:1-14

What do we learn about God's character and power from this interaction with Moses?

What is the name that God gives to Moses to understand who He is?

READING OUR PASSAGE

Read John 8:12-20

What is Jesus saying about his identity in these verses?

Read John 8: 21-30

What does Jesus say will happen to those who do not have a remedy for sin? What does this imply about the audience he is speaking to?

**What is Jesus speaking about in verses 28-29 (see John 3:10-15)?
How will this please the Father?**

Read John 8: 31-47

What is the truth that Jesus is speaking about, and how will it set some hearers free? Why won't it see everyone free (see verse 47)?

Who are the 3 fathers being mentioned in the argument, and what is being said about them? Where does the argument end up?

Read John 8:48-59

How do Jesus' final remarks echo Exodus 3:13-14? What is he saying about himself? What are the implications of this (make a long list!)?

How does the fact that the Jews pick up stones to stone Jesus confirm what he has said in verse 58?

TAKING JESUS THE "I AM" WITH YOU

How does Jesus being the 'I am' make a difference to how you approach life this week?

How this passage make a difference to how you view and interact with the Word of God this week and beyond?

CLOSE IN PRAYER