



Sermon Discussion Guide

I AM series #1 - Christian Lindbeck

October 4, 2020

Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key questions by bolding them.**
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!

Tip of the week

At the beginning of the year delegate different roles to people in your group as much as possible. Even if they are small roles (the person who sets up the Zoom call or emails reminders out to people). This is a great way to help people feel more connected and develop leadership in the group.



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Hook - Getting to know one another

- How is everyone doing this week? This could also be an icebreaker question related to the topic for discussion.
1. Share one thing that has been hard and one thing that has been encouraging for you in the last week.

Book - Scripture

- Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.
2. Reread the entire passage surrounding today's verse (John 8:48-59). Identify the claims Jesus makes about himself before claiming I AM.
 3. What were the responses to Jesus' claims? We know they were varied, but notice the different types of responses here, the different attitudes.

Look - Connections to our world today

- This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.
4. John emphasizes the deity of Jesus again here. Read John 1:1-18 and talk about who John wants us to know Jesus is. Why is this important?
 5. Are there claims either here or in other passages that we still have to reckon with? Either the church as a whole or us as individuals?

Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.
6. Think about the Exodus, the persecution of the early church, the times of trouble for Christendom, and now our present time. What should the knowledge of I AM do for our outlook and perspective on the world and the Church.



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Time of Prayer