



The God We Can Know

A Small Group Study based on the book, *The God We Can Know* by Rob Fuquay

Week 1 – Knowing the Great I Am

Scripture: Exodus 3: 1-14

Description: The “I AM” statements in the Gospel of John offers powerful insight into the heart of God and God’s desire to known and be known.

Opening Prayer:

God of all nations, we invite you into this place. Jesus, we light this candle as a sign of your presence. Spirit of wisdom and understanding, enlighten us. We pray that we keep our hearts and minds open to new ideas and that we may grow in our understanding of your ways. Amen.

“Remember we are not just made by God, but made out of God” Rob Fuquay

Breaking the Ice:

- Is there a story behind your name?
- Do you know the meaning of your name?

Wrestling with the Word:

Read Exodus 3: 1-14

- Why was knowing God’s name so important to Moses?
- How does knowing God’s name change things for Moses?
- Jesus uses the statement “I am” also. List attributes of Jesus, then create “I am” statements.

Next Steps:

- Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. People receive ashes as a sign of the temporary nature of things in this world. What do you have that cannot be reduced to ashes?
- How does this story help us when faced with tough assignments from God?
- Take a few minutes to consider how God has empowered you, how do the I am statements direct you path. (“I am the good shepherd” How are we called to shepherd?)

Prayer for the Week:

Amazing God, we come before you and long to know you better. Help us to see the ways you call us and live into being the person you have created us to be. Imprint your message of love on our hearts, so that all we do in your name is a witness to your grace. Amen.



Week 2 – I Am the Bread of Life/ Knowing God’s Satisfaction

Scripture: John 6:27-59

Description: The world is driven by a need for fullness. We can only be satisfied if we learn to accept what God puts in front of us each day.

Opening Prayer:

God of all nations, we invite you into this place. Jesus, we light this candle as a sign of your presence. Spirit of wisdom and understanding, enlighten us. We pray that we keep our hearts and minds open to new ideas and that we may grow in our understanding of your ways. Amen.

“I sometimes wonder if all pleasures are not substitutes for joy.” C.S. Lewis

Breaking the Ice:

- If you needed to part with most of your possessions, what items do you think you might not be able to let go?

Wrestling with the Word:

Read Exodus 3: 1-14

- Even when Jesus performed miracles, the people were still looking for more. How does this happen today?
- How does Jesus as “the Bread of life” satisfy us?
- Have you ever fasted?
- How might we need to make room for other things in our lives?

Next Steps:

- How do we move from seeking more to finding joy?
- How might serving others and in turn lead to ourselves feed?
- How might you set your expectations of being fully satisfied by God’s goodness?

Prayer for the Week:

Lord, thank you for what you set before me today. Help me to recognize and enjoy the special blessings you will offer me. Today I am going to choose to be thankful. Amen.



Week 3 – I Am the Light of the World/Knowing God’s Guidance

Scripture: John 7:2, 14; 8:12

Description: The bible is a story of moving from darkness to light. The light of God is not merely present but guides us on our journeys.

Opening Prayer:

God of all nations, we invite you into this place. Jesus, we light this candle as a sign of your presence. Spirit of wisdom and understanding, enlighten us. We pray that we keep our hearts and minds open to new ideas and that we may grow in our understanding of your ways. Amen.

“Arrival is a myth, we never fully arrive in this world” Rob Fuquay

Breaking the Ice:

- Do you mind traveling at night?
- What is the difference between a traveling during the day versus at night?

Wrestling with the Word:

Read John 7:2, 14; 8:12

- What might be the significance of Jesus speaking the words, “I am the light of the world” for the first time at the Festival of the Booths?
- The Jewish people continue to observe this festival to be reminded that life is a journey. Why is it important to be reminded that this is not our final destination?
- How are the themes of light and dark evident in the Holy Week scriptures?

Next Steps:

- How are we called to reflect the light of Jesus into the world?
- A flashlight pierces the darkness but does not fully illuminate the surroundings. How might this flashlight illustration describe your faith journey?

Prayer for the Week:

Lord, your great light shines brightly in the darkness of this world. Help us to go forth from this place not only following your light but being a reflection of your light in this world. Amen.



Week 4 – I Am the Good Shepherd/Knowing God’s Care

Scripture: John 10:1-10

Description: Like sheep, all of us are shifting between familiar routines and seeking adventure. Jesus cares for us in our coming and goings like a good shepherd.

Opening Prayer:

God of all nations, we invite you into this place. Jesus, we light this candle as a sign of your presence. Spirit of wisdom and understanding, enlighten us. We pray that we keep our hearts and minds open to new ideas and that we may grow in our understanding of your ways. Amen.

“Deep inside every human heart is a desire to be loved” Rob Fuquay

Breaking the Ice:

- Are you naturally more comfortable with your familiar routine or are you happier seeking new adventures in greener pastures?

Wrestling with the Word:

Read John 10: 1-10

- Jesus describes himself as the shepherd and the gate and the door. What are the characteristics of each of these?
- Like the shepherd that rents space to protect the flock, how does Jesus invest in your care and protection?

Next Steps:

- How do you focus on Jesus the Good Shepherd in times of restlessness or crisis?
- If Jesus is the most influential person in your life, what practical ways might this impact you?

Prayer for the Week:

Jesus, thank you for your loving care. Teach us to hear your voice and follow your lead, to lean on you and not our own understanding. Help us to care for others as you care for us. Amen.



Week 5 – I Am the True Vine/Knowing God’s Power

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Description: We need to remain connected to God’s power by being connected to Jesus. Abiding in Christ is key to spiritual power.

Opening Prayer:

God of all nations, we invite you into this place. Jesus, we light this candle as a sign of your presence. Spirit of wisdom and understanding, enlighten us. We pray that we keep our hearts and minds open to new ideas and that we may grow in our understanding of your ways. Amen.

“Our job is to be a branch and let God’s power flow through us.” Rob Fuquay

Breaking the Ice:

- If you needed to part with most of your possessions, what items do you think you might not be able to let go?

Wrestling with the Word:

Read John 15:1-8

- What is the significance of the vine to the people of Israel? How is it important to us today?
- Look at the word abide in John 15, how do we abide in Jesus?
- Pruning is essential to the health of the vine, what does that mean for us to being pruned?

Next Steps:

- Suckers drain the energy from the vine. What things are draining you of productive energy?
- What does it mean to “cling to the vine”? How do we balance being faithful and fruitful?

Prayer for the Week:

Jesus, we come to you in our weakness for you are our strength. Teach us to abide in you. Prune the things that distract us. Help us be fruitful for your glory. Amen.



Week 6 – I Am the Truth and the Life/Knowing God’s Way

Scripture: John 14:1-7

Description: Jesus reassures those closest to him that they will always have a connection to God, no matter the circumstances. Following the Way still connects us today.

Opening Prayer:

God of all nations, we invite you into this place. Jesus, we light this candle as a sign of your presence. Spirit of wisdom and understanding, enlighten us. We pray that we keep our hearts and minds open to new ideas and that we may grow in our understanding of your ways. Amen.

“We are invited to make Jesus Christ our way. He is our pattern for living.” Rob Fuquay

Breaking the Ice:

- The disciples followed the way through spiritual practices. How has engaging in prayer, scripture reading and study over Lent helped you follow God’s way?

Wrestling with the Word:

Read John 14:1-7

- How does the context of “I am the way, truth and life” shape your understanding of this statement?
- How do we relate to the idea that “the way” refers to right living and not right belief?
- What do you think it meant for the disciples to make Jesus the way of life?

Next Steps:

- How do we as a church focus on leading people to Jesus?
- The writer challenges us to wake up every day asking, “Jesus what would you have me do today?” How will you commit each day to living for Jesus?

Prayer for the Week:

Lord, we struggle with doubt and fear. Help us to remember that you are present with us, to guide us, to show us the way. Help us to live our lives committed to you. Amen.



Week 7 – I Am the Resurrection and the Life / Knowing God’s Possibilities

Scripture: John 11: 17-26

Opening Prayer:

God of all nations, we invite you into this place. Jesus, we light this candle as a sign of your presence. Spirit of wisdom and understanding, enlighten us. We pray that we keep our hearts and minds open to new ideas and that we may grow in our understanding of your ways. Amen.

Quote: “The one who is the Resurrection and Life works on both sides of the grave.” Rob Fuquay

Wrestling with the Word:

Read John 11:17-26

- What stirred the religious establishment to the point that they wanted to kill both Jesus and Lazarus?
- How does death impact our beliefs about God?

Next Steps:

- There are times in life when we wonder where God is in our crisis “Lord if you had been there.” How do we place our trust in the promise of Jesus being both Resurrection and Life in hard times?
- When have you experienced death so that God could offer you new life?
- What “I Am” statement has been the most eye-opening for you?
- How will this study impact your Easter celebration?

Prayer for the Week:

Lord, we place our trust in you and the promises you have offered us. Help us to live our life in new ways to reflect the power of your love. Amen.