Exodus 3:14 (NLT) God replied to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. Say this to the people of Israel: I AM has sent me to you."

When God sent Moses to deliver the nation of Israel, he asked the question, "Who will I tell them sent me?" It seems a reasonable question considering the fact he was talking to a bush at the time. God chose to reveal himself as "I AM". Literally, He was stating, "I exist, have existed, and will continue to exist simply because I choose to and for no other reason."

The purpose of John's Gospel is to bring the reality of God into a real, even practical light. So John shares several declarations of Jesus that each connect to this revelation of God. In doing so, He revealed the significance of Himself as God's Answer for mankind.

The Answer for WHAT WE NEED!!

John 6:35 (NLT) Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

We're Hungry. I AM... The Bread. One Day Jesus fed 5,000 people, the next, those people scrambled to find him. But they were not looking for Jesus, they were looking for breakfast. They had no desire for Him, they wanted Him to ease their difficulty, to make their life easier. They were hungry people, but their hunger was merely a desire for more food. Jesus satisfies a much deeper hunger.

John 8:12 (NLT) Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

We're Lost. I AM... The Light of the World. Those in darkness are lost. Since, they have no other reference than that of darkness, they don't realize that they are lost. They don't understand that their state is darkness. After all, if all you have ever known is darkness, how would you ever comprehend light?

I do not know that Jesus', identification of himself as light occurred immediately after the incident regarding the adulterous women in real time, but it does in John's retelling. It cannot be an accident as He had just demonstrated "LIGHT" shining brightly in that moment.

The Answer for WHAT WE ARE!!

John 10:9 (NLT) Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures.

We're Outsiders. I AM... The Gate/Door. Jesus was an Outsider. He lived and died an outsider. He came to His own people the Jews and they didn't want anything to do with Him. So He died an outsider in order to become the gate, the way into something very good. Jesus is the Lord of the Outsiders. He is Lord and Leader of all who are alienated and marginalized. The sad thing, is that the insiders now will be the outsiders later. Making the "gate/door" metaphor one more illustration of the paradox of Faith as often present realities are opposed to eternal ones.
John 10:11 (NLT) "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. We're Vulnerable. I AM… The Good Shepherd. That control we try to exert over our lives for a measure of safety is an illusion. We are never truly safe because we have an enemy bent upon our destruction (John 10:10). But it’s not a problem because Jesus is our protector. So secure is His care that we may enter the gate, and bed down around the shepherd in the midst of a pack of wolves and eat in peace, completely safe. (Ps 23:5, Mt 10:16)

The Answer for WHAT WE FEAR!!

John 11:25 (NLT) Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. We're Afraid of Dying. I AM… The Resurrection and the Life. The film Temple Grandin is a story about a woman with autism of the same name. In the film, Temple is present at the death of a few animals and ultimately at the funeral of a friend. Temple asks the question, “Where do they go?” Since, Jesus is the resurrection and the life, we know that they go to be with him. Jesus’ followers don’t die. They live! They shed a cocoon. They are reborn.

John 14:6 (NLT) Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. We’re Afraid of the Path. I AM… The Way, The Truth, and the Life. This is very important. Jesus Christ is very different from any other faith. First, he rose from the DEAD, no one else has accomplished that feat. Secondly, Jesus unashamedly declares Himself as the ONLY Way. Whether you find this troubling or calming, please take hope in the truth that there IS a Way!

The Answer!!

John 15:1 (NLT) "I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. We’re Alone… I AM… The True Vine. We all crave connection. It is a fundamental need. Jesus promises to connect us to the Divine. In that connection we are made whole. In being made whole, we are also made able to connect with others.

Jesus is our answer. This study covers seven human insecurities and meets them with how and who Jesus is in regard to them.

Discussion:

- What is your initial reaction to this topic? How would you summarize it?
- Discuss Exodus 3:14. What does it mean that God has existed, presently exists and will continue to exist? Why do you think God chose “I AM” the way to identify Himself?
- Discuss the challenges present in explaining an idea to someone who has no reference for the idea. Have someone in the group look up the allegory of Plato’s Cave and discuss.
- Which of these seven statements of Christ speaks to you the most today? Why?
- If Jesus is the only way, as He says, what does that mean for people of other faiths? What does it mean to people of nations that do not know about Jesus?
- Write a personal action step based on this conversation.