

Jesus "I AM"

Week 2 – The Seven "I Am" Statements of Jesus

Ready (*Plant the seed*)

"Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" -John 8:58

Set (*Get the conversation started*)

When you start a statement with "I am," you are about to reveal something about yourself. If you say, "I am a Christian," you are telling the world that you are a follower of Christ. So, when Jesus says, "I am," we must pay close attention for He is about to reveal something important about Himself. Learning more about Jesus teaches how we can be more like him ourselves. All the way back in the book of Exodus in Old Testament, God tells Moses, "I AM who I AM" in answer to what the people should call Him. God was letting them know that He is a perfect and loving God for then for now and for always. He is unchanging. In the Gospel of John, Jesus uses "I AM" seven times to tell us more about who He is. The first time, he says, "Very truly I tell you, before Abraham was born, I am!" This is important because Jesus was saying that He is God. Back then, this was punishable by death, which we know is what eventually happened to Him, but Jesus was perfect and rose from the grave and conquered death! He paid the price for our sins on the cross. This season, we will learn more about how Jesus reveals himself through the book of John in his seven "I AM" statements.

Athletes are many things; they are teammates, students, children, leaders and role models. How they conduct themselves on and off the court shows their character in all of these areas. As a teammate, you need to do your best for your team. As a student, you need to study your sport and practice often to get better. As a child, you need to honor your parents in all you do. As a leader, you need to show others good sportsmanship. As a role model, you need to follow all the aspects that make you someone worthy of respect. Who YOU ARE is important- you are a child of God and Jesus paid the price of death for your sin. You can show others how that is important to you by having good character in all the ways God commands.

Grow (*Take it away*)

- What are some of the ways that God commands us to behave?
- How do you show that on the court?
- Who or what do you want others to see you as?

Pray

God, you are the great I AM, the Creator of everything and everyone. We thank you for loving us and sending Jesus to take our punishment so that we could be with you forever. We ask you to work through us this season to develop our character and help make us into Christian Athletes that bring all Glory to you, God, in all we do. In Jesus' name, AMEN!

Overtime (*Optional Reinforcement Activity*) I Am Game

Directions: Have players sit in a circle. Tell them to think of a noun that describes them: brother, basketball player, artist, son, cousin, boy, etc. Direct them to think about things they like to do for help finding the right word. The goal is for each player to name everyone else by their noun all the way around the circle. You start by saying, "I am coach." The person next to you says, "You are coach, I am son." The next player says, "You are coach, you are son, I am 4th grader." If a player misses someone or gets them wrong, he is out. Play continues all the way around the circle.

Give Directions & Play Game.

After Game Say: Great job! You are many things, (*give some examples from what you heard*) but there is only one "I Am!" He loves you and wants a relationship with you forever.