

Katie



The Sunday School Lady



JOHN 8 THE I AM

Scripture: Exodus 3:4-15, John 8:31-59

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Supplies: Bush paper at end of lesson printed, rubbing alcohol, water, salt, basin, lighter, I AM craft.

Ask:

What book have we been studying? (John)

What did you talk about last week? (Jesus said, "I am the bread of life.")

Explain:

Throughout the book of John, Jesus makes 7 statements that start with I am. The bread of life was the first "I am" statement.

Today, we're going to talk about an "I am" statement that isn't usually mentioned in the list, but I think it's the most important, so it will make our list of "I am" statements, meaning we'll have 8 I am statements.

This I am statement is found in John 8, and we'll get to it, but first we have to go back to the Old Testament to understand it.

Activity:

Go outside. Beforehand, ensure the area is prepared. You will need a print out of the bush at the end of the lesson, a basin filled with a mixture of water and alcohol (2:1 ratio). Add salt. Depending on the size of your basin, think 1/4 cup. Soak the bush paper in the basin with the solution. Set the bush up in a fire-safe area. Ask if anyone can guess what story you're going to tell.

(you're going to set the bush on fire, but because of the solution, it won't burn up. The reaction will be extremely fast, but the kids will be able to see a "burning bush" for about 5 seconds.). If the flame doesn't show, there wasn't enough salt. The salt is what allows the flame to be visible

After setting up, give the background of the story.

Explain:

In Exodus 3, God called Moses. Can anyone tell me what they know about Moses?

- Drawn out of the Nile, saved by Pharaoh's daughter
- Brought up in the palace, ran away from Egypt after he killed someone
- Eventually led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt

Explain:

Moses was used by God to do incredible things for Israel, but it started with a call. While in the desert and tending sheep, Moses saw a strange sight and went over to it.

Have the kids take off their shoes

Light the bush on fire

When Moses saw this, he went over and this is what happened:

Read: Exodus 3:4-15

Ask:

Can anyone guess what our I AM statement is today?

It is just I AM. We'll head back inside and see what this has to do with Jesus.

Explain:

At this point in the ministry of Jesus, the religious leaders and teachers of the law were getting very upset with him. He was gaining popularity and they were looking for a way to kill him. John 8 records one of their disputes. The religious leaders are mad and making false accusations of Jesus. Jesus also makes accusations, accusing the leaders of not understanding the Word of God.

Read: John 8:31-47. If you have good readers, you can have one person read the part of Jesus and one read the part of the religious leaders. If not, have the two adults back there read it with drama, like a play script.

Ask:

What do you think about this interaction? Does it feel intense? If you were a religious leader, what would you think? If you were a person just watching, what would you think?

Read: John 8:48-59

Ask:

What does Jesus say right before they pick up stones to stone him? (Before Abraham was, I AM)

Think back to the burning bush. Jesus is not using bad grammar here. What is he doing? (He is claiming the name of God. He is telling the leaders that he is God)

Why would they stone him for this? (It is the highest form of blasphemy and was punishable by death according to Jewish law)

Explain:

This is a big deal. Jesus has claimed that he is God. Just before, he claimed he hadn't sinned. These are two pivotal parts of the Christian faith: that Jesus was without sin and that he is God. He is the I AM.

Craft:

Create the I AM craft at the end of the lesson.

Have the kids color the pages, then fold them in half with the pictures facing out. glue, tape, or staple a rubber band on the middle of either side. Glue the paper together. You can twist the rubber bands and hole while they release and spin, showing the I AM of the burning bush, and the I AM of Jesus. Pictures below.

Both coloring pictures were retrieved online. The Jesus picture was from iheartcraftythings.com and the burning bush page was from supercoloring.com

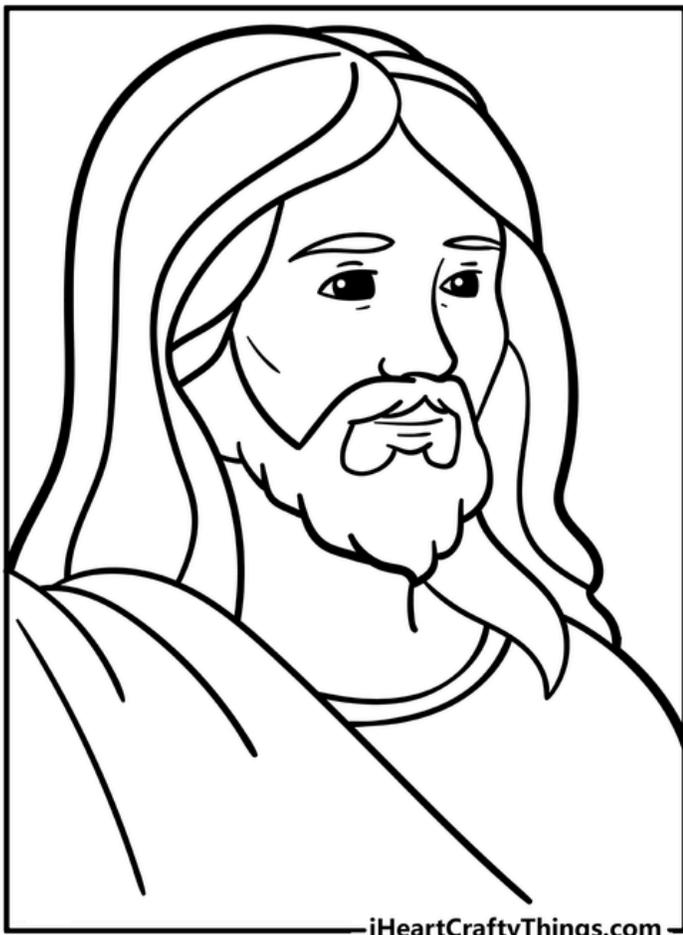
Memorize: John 8:58

Close in Prayer

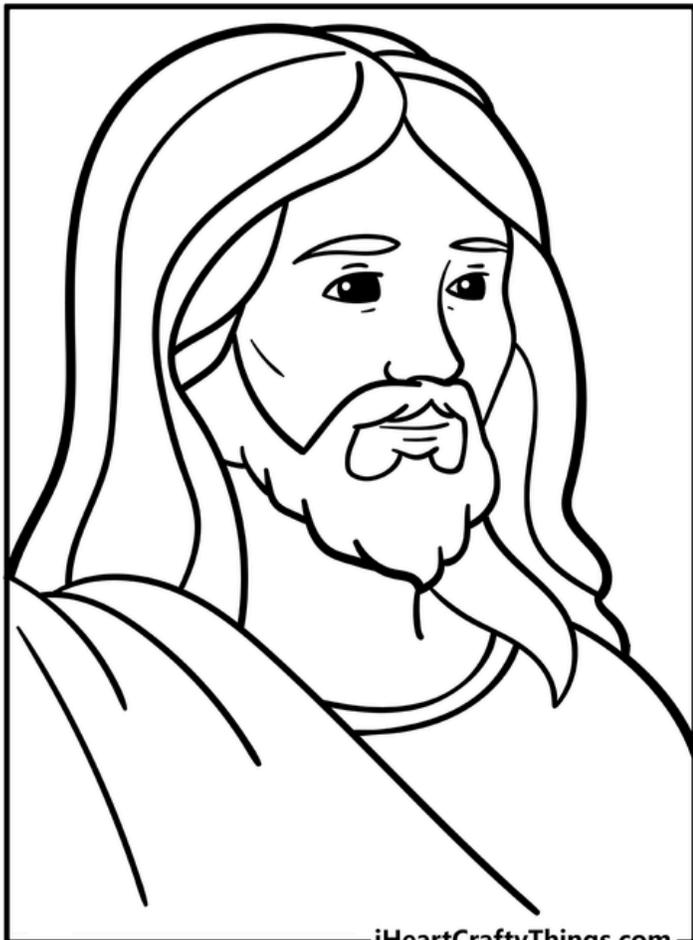
Standing away from the kids, dunk one of the cut outs of the bush in the alcohol, water, and salt mixture. Set it on fire and watch it not burn up.

Have the kids color the papers, cut them out, and then staple the rubber bands to the sides. Twist the rubber bands by flipping the papers over and over again. Let them go and watch them spin to show both sides. Both are the I AM!





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