

**I AM**

**WAY • TRUTH • LIFE**

*Ken Hemphill*

## **STUDY GUIDE**

**for *I AM* by Ken Hemphill**

# I AM Study Guide

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Study guide written by Judi Hayes and is intended to be used with *I AM* by Ken Hemphill.  
*I AM* is available online at [crossbooks.com](http://crossbooks.com), [AuxanoPress.com](http://AuxanoPress.com), [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), [Borders.com](http://Borders.com),  
and [LifeWayStores.com](http://LifeWayStores.com).

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or visit online to [www.auxanopress.com](http://www.auxanopress.com).

For additional resources for this and other studies, go to [www.auxanopress.com](http://www.auxanopress.com) or contact Ken  
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### Introduction

*I AM* by Ken Hemphill explores Jesus' statement in John 14:6: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (HCSB). Through Jesus' other "I am" statements, a look at some Old Testament Scriptures, passages from John's writings, and other selected New Testament passages, *I AM* considers who Jesus is and His claim to be the only way to God.

This study guide can be used in a number of ways to facilitate your study of *I AM*.

1. You can study *I AM* in an adult or student Bible study class during Sunday school or at another time. *I AM* has five chapters plus an introduction and conclusion. The study could run from five to seven weeks. Believers and seekers will benefit from *I AM*. It is an excellent evangelistic tool and a wonderful study for new believers. But it is also a good review for believers who ask about Jesus' claim to exclusivity, and it is helpful for believers seeking to witness to others. It will equip, inform, and challenge all who study it.
2. Similarly, *I AM* is an excellent book for a home Bible study or cell group. It's the perfect choice for a mixed group of believers and nonbelievers. As they explore this book and God's Word together, both groups will understand clearly the reasons for Jesus' statement in John 14:6.
3. You can also use *I AM* for a one-on-one study with a coworker, neighbor, relative, prayer partner, or friend. Believers will grow in their discipleship and will be challenged to believe firmly in Jesus as the only way to God, while unbelievers will understand Jesus' claim and the way to faith. The plan of salvation is clearly spelled out in the pages of *I AM*, and the book ends with a clear appeal to faith in Jesus Christ.

This study guide is divided into seven sessions. If you desire fewer sessions, combine sessions 1 and 2 and/or 6 and 7.

To offer flexibility and use in a variety of settings, the study guide is simply a series of questions. Each session begins with one or more get-acquainted questions that move into the content of the book. The answers to some of the questions may be the opinions of the readers. All of the biblical questions can be answered from the pages of *I AM* and references to God's Word, the Bible.

Provide Bibles as needed. Take time to explore various translations and to enjoy Jesus' words and His promises.

Encourage participants to take notes in their Bibles, write in their books, and/or journal in a separate notebook. Since many of the Scripture selections will be visited several times, they may want to arrange journals by beginning a new page for each Scripture reference so that they can go back and add to notes from previous sessions.

Pray in every session. Share concerns and build relationships as you study and pray together.

### Session 1 | Truth or Harmful Lie?

1. Read “Introduction: Truth or Harmful Lie?” in *I AM* by Ken Hemphill.
2. Read John 14:1–6.
3. Make introductions as needed.
4. Ask:
  - Why are you reading and studying Ken Hemphill’s *I AM*?
  - What is your religious or spiritual background?
  - In John 14:6, Jesus claims that He is the only way to the Father, God, and the only way to have eternal life. How do people outside the Christian church respond to this claim today? How do people inside the church respond to this claim? Why do you think opinions and reactions to this statement vary?
5. Pray for clarity and understanding as people read *I AM*.

### Session 2 | I AM

1. Read chapter 1, “I AM,” in *I AM* by Ken Hemphill.
2. Read selected Scriptures as referenced throughout the chapter.
3. Invite participants to complete this statement in any way they choose: “I am . . .” Then ask them to complete it with a faith statement. For example: “I am a Christian.” “I am a Christ follower.” “I am a believer.” “I am a Baptist.” “I am a seeker.”
3. In the introduction to the chapter, Dr. Hemphill mentions other “I am” statements of Jesus. Which image appeals to you most? Why?
4. What “I am” statement did Jesus make to the woman of Samaria? Read John 4:1–26. What promise follows this “I am” statement? (Read vv. 13–14.) Who has the power to fulfill such a promise?
5. How are Jesus’ “I am” statements connected to the Old Testament and the name of God?
6. In the story of the healing of the man at the pool of Bethesda, how does Jesus connect Himself with God? Read John 5:1–18.
7. What “I am” statement is found in John 8:12? What promise goes with this statement? Who can fulfill such a promise?
8. Read John 10:1-19. What is Jesus’ “I am” statement in this passage? How does He connect Himself with God in this passage? What does He mean when He talks about “laying down His life?” What claim does Jesus make in John 10:30?
9. In John 11, Jesus responds to His friend Lazarus’s death. Before Jesus restores Lazarus’s life, what did He say to Lazarus’s sister Martha in verses 25–26?
10. In John 14, Jesus is preparing His disciples for His coming crucifixion. How does He reinforce His teachings in verses 1–15? What does He say about who He is?
11. Jesus message of comfort continues in John 15. In the first five verses of this chapter, what does Jesus say about His relationship with God?
12. When Jesus was arrested, who did He say He was?
13. What do Jesus’ “I am” statements say about God?
14. Pray that all will be drawn to a more intimate relationship with Jesus.

### Session 3 | I AM the Way

1. Read chapter 2, “I AM the Way,” in *I AM* by Ken Hemphill.
2. Ask, What do you rely on for directions when you travel to a place you have not been before? Then ask, What or whom do you rely on for spiritual direction in your life?
3. Getting directions demands a destination. If Jesus is “the way,” what is the destination?
4. In John 3, why did Nicodemus come to Jesus? What did he learn from Jesus?
5. What was the testimony of John the Baptist about who Jesus is?
6. What need did Jesus meet when He fed the five thousand? How is that the same or different from the need Jesus came to earth to meet?
7. In John 14, where did Jesus say He was going? What did He say He would do? How does this impact the disciples’ destination and direction?
8. If you go online to get directions, you need not only a destination but also a starting point. Where did Jesus say He was from in John 8:14? In what other places in John does Jesus make clear that He has come from the Father?
9. What help did Jesus promise His disciples (John 14:26) after He leaves? How does introducing the Holy Spirit, the third part of the Trinity, reinforce Jesus’ coming from God the Father?
10. In John 17, what is Jesus’ reason for coming to earth?
11. After the resurrection, what does Jesus say is His destination? (See John 20.)
12. If Jesus is “the way” to salvation, are you safely on your journey to follow Him?
13. Pray that the destination and the way are clear for everyone in this study.

### Session 4 | I AM the Truth

1. Read chapter 3, “I AM the Truth” in *I AM* by Ken Hemphill.
2. Ask, Do we value truth in the world today? Why or why not? How can we know the truth?
3. What is the connection between Jesus and light? How are truth and light related?
4. What is grace? Why do we need God’s grace?
5. If Jesus is the truth, why do some people accept it and some reject it? What arguments do people use for saying they do not need Jesus?
6. What are the witnesses that confirm the truth of Jesus’ statements about who He is?
7. What is the benefit of those who know the Truth, Jesus?
8. In John 10, how are those who know the Truth and those you do not separated?
9. What is faith? How do faith and truth relate?
10. How did the miracles Jesus did reinforce the truth of His claims to be one with God?
11. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in guiding people to know the Truth?
12. What is the truth of God’s plan for people? What is Jesus’ role in providing a way for that to happen?
13. Pray that participants will know the Truth.

### Session 5 | I AM the Life

1. Read chapter 4, “I AM the Life,” in *I AM* by Ken Hemphill.
2. Recall a time when the lights went out and you were alone in the dark. How did you feel when the lights came on?
3. How are life and light related? Who is the source of life and light?
4. What is the importance of “life” and “light” in John’s Gospel?
5. What does being “born again” mean in John 3?
6. John 3:16 is the first mention of “eternal life” in John’s Gospel. How does it become a theme throughout this Gospel? Give specific examples.
7. In His miracles and in His teaching, Jesus enriched and restored life in many ways. What are some ways He did this?
8. How can judgment now lead to life?
9. Who is the source of life, both life now and life eternally?
10. What evidence is there in John’s Gospel that some people were more interested in having their immediate needs met than in long-term/eternal needs? What evidence is there today that many people are still more interested in their immediate needs?
11. Who will receive eternal life? What biblical stories or examples reinforce this?
12. How do valuing this life and the life to come relate to each other? What evidence do we have that Jesus cared about life in the present as well as life everlasting?
13. How does having an eternal perspective of life change your values?
14. Pray that participants will know the Source of life.

### Session 6 | No One Comes to the Father but through Me

1. Read chapter 5, “No One Comes to the Father but through Me,” in *I AM* by Ken Hemphill.
2. Respond to this statement? “As a Christian, Jesus’ claim to be the only way to God offers reassurance to me. I can rest in the security of knowing that God holds me close to Him because of my faith in Jesus Christ. I do not need to continue searching to make sure I have found the way to God. Jesus’ words confirm my decision to follow Him.”
3. What claims does Jesus make that confirm His claim to be the only way to God the Father?
4. How did Jesus assure His disciples that they had made wise decisions to follow Him? After His death, what did Jesus’ disciples do that showed they believed they had made wise decisions to follow Him?
5. How does Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection confirm the reason He came to earth? How does Jesus’ resurrection confirm the statements He made about His relationship with the Father? How does the resurrection give evidence that Jesus can and will fulfill the promises He made?
6. How does our relationship with Jesus ensure that mourning the death of those who died in Christ will one day turn to everlasting joy?
7. Pray that participants will find assurance in Jesus’ radical claim.

### Session 7 | Who Do You Say Jesus Is?

1. Read the conclusion, “Who Do You Say Jesus Is?” in *I AM* by Ken Hemphill.
2. Spend some time looking back on this study. Invite others to share what has been most meaningful to them. Recall each phrase highlighted in the chapters of this book and the main points of each.
3. Ask: What did people say about Jesus when He was here on earth? Who did they think Jesus was? What do people say about Him today? Who do people say that He is?
4. Read the reference to the C. S. Lewis quote. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
5. Why were Jesus’ claims both radical and exclusive? How do they cause people to decide, one way or another, to follow Jesus or to ignore the truth of His claims?
6. Now, following this study, what will you do with Jesus?
7. If you are now a believer, a Christ follower, what should you do?
8. Pray that those who know Jesus will lead others to know Him too.