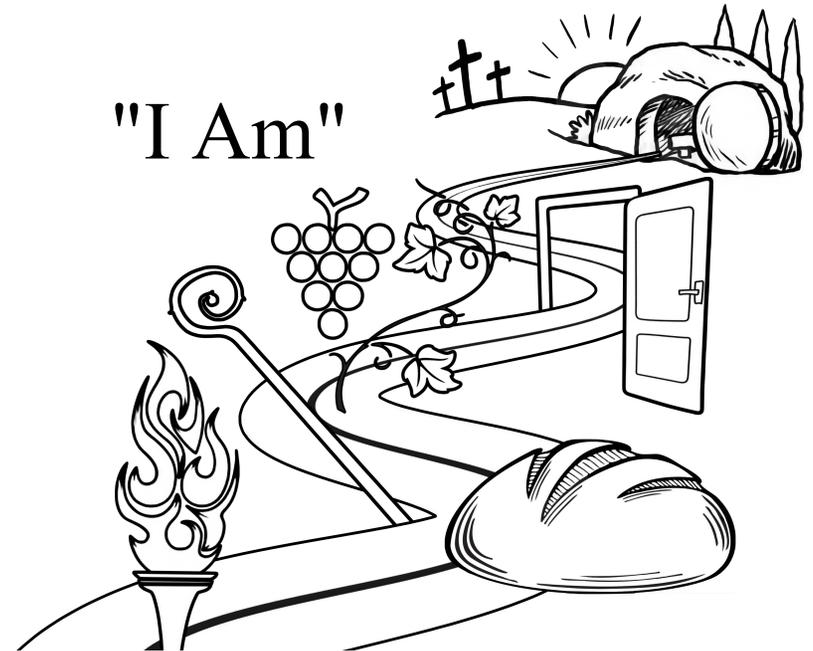


Jesus-Centered Questions

- How does this passage reveal aspects of Jesus' character or mission?
- In what ways does this passage align with or challenge Jesus' teachings, actions, or mission?
- How does this passage inspire me to embody Jesus' love more fully?
- What next steps can I take to better align my life with Jesus' way?



a study of

The Gospel According to John

Summer/Fall/Winter 2025-2026

Lesson 20

John 17

"So both each are in each, and all in each, and each in all, and all in all, and all are one." ^[1]

—or—

"I am he as you are he, as you are me and we are all together" ^[2]

[1] St. Augustine, on the Trinity

[2] Lennon & McCartney, *I am the Walrus*

from last week: *John 16:32-33 "The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. I have said this to you so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution, but take courage: I have conquered the world!"*

REVIEW: This is the last of four crimson chapters, if you're reading a red-letter New Testament (*ch.14-17*). It presents what appear as direct quotations of Jesus, but is a message inspired and derived from John's own relationship with Jesus, through John's heart, through John's pen. What is John trying to say? He wants us to know Jesus has not left us, but is working on our behalf with the Father, and has sent the Spirit to live IN us. John wants us to know the Father, the Son, and the Spirit are all one being living in us and in the Church, and in the world. (*ch. 14*)

We learned that keeping Jesus' words in our minds and hearts is how we "abide" in Jesus. It is in God's word where joy, peace, strength, and wisdom "bear fruit." John also wants us to be aware that the world will hate us—regardless of what we do or say, so we should not fear what the world can do because Jesus has overcome the world. Even if the world kills us, it cannot destroy us, because we have a forever home with God. (*ch. 15-16*)

VOCABULARY:

Perdition: Hell, utter destruction. Miriam Webster etymology: *perdition* ultimately comes from the Latin verb *perdere*, meaning "to destroy." Among the earliest meanings of perdition was, appropriately, "utter destruction." John 17:12 Greek: "ὁ υἱὸς τῆς ἀπωλείας" – Lit. "**the son the of destruction**" NRSVue: "the one destined to be lost." (see 2 Thessalonians 2:3-10 Greek: "ὁ υἱὸς τῆς ἀπωλείας" NRSVue: "the one destined for destruction")...*just be aware of translation vs. interpretation.*

Colloquialism or idiom, like: "son-of-the-devil" or, the god of this world?

Glorify: (verb) as in to elevate, to assign a high status or value to, to openly recognize so others can see value.

Glory: (noun) Honor, splendor, majesty

Name: Authority (in ancient thought), you've got the badge

Sanctify: to be made holy, set apart (*17:17 note: who sanctifies and how?*)

BRIEF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT:

Jesus' prayer in John 17 is the perfect example of Alan Storey's quote about Biblical interpretation: "I don't know if it happened that way, but I know it's true." Linguistically, Jesus refers to himself in the third person, then prays in the first person, then prays in past tense about his "finished work." Did John put words in Jesus' mouth? In a sense, yes. John, and the

CONTEXT: (continued)

Bible authors determined which words, messages, concepts were important to their message. It's the message behind the words that becomes the "living word."

Listen to John 17

1. What words or concepts speak to you on this first reading? As you listen, note words or phrases which make you focus, or make you wonder. Jot them down here:

Read John 17:1-5

2. Discuss why certain words or concepts spoke to you

Note:

- "authority over all people...all whom you have given..."
- What is eternal life?

Read John 17:6-10

3. Discuss why certain words or concepts spoke to you

Note:

- All vs. the chosen disciples
- What causes them to know and believe? vs.8

Read John 17:11-19

4. Discuss why certain words or concepts spoke to you

Note:

- Name (vv.11-12) – authority
- compare belonging to the world vs. sanctification (vv.17-19)
- How are we sanctified, and by whom?

Read John 17:20-26

5. Discuss why certain words or concepts spoke to you

Note:

- "So that the world may..." (vv.21, 23) What so?
- How have we received glory, and how does glory, given to us, make us "one?" (v.22)

6. **So What?** What will we do with this knowledge?