

Jesus is... I am...

Community Group Leaders Guide

Genesis 17:15-22 /// Week of April 30

Today's big idea: Jesus is "I am." I am defined by him.

Provide small papers and pens to group members. Share a word with the group. Each member write down a definition including the leader who will write down the correct definition. All answers are then turned in and read aloud. Group members then decide which definition they think is correct. 100 points if someone picks your definition! The words are: orthography, hackles, obdurate, apotheosis.

- Play Balderdash. Write down your definition for the words provided with the goal that someone will think that yours is the right definition.
- Review the Community Group Guidelines together.
- Someone pray that God would help us hear from him.

Head

If you would like the full story with Abraham's name change you can start back at verse 1 or you can simply include that part when you read from the Bible. The shorter text might be more helpful for the Bible Storytelling.

- Use the Bible Storytelling technique to tell the story of God's promises to Abraham and Sarah.
- Retell the story together as a group.
- Read the story from Genesis 17:15-22 in the Bible.
- How did God define Abraham and Sarah?
- How did Abraham respond to God's definitions and plan?

Heart

Discussion might be slow here because most will know what the "right" answer is supposed to be. Feel free to ask the questions in another way that might help the group participate more.

- Is it difficult for you to receive the promises, plans and purposes of God in your life? Why or why not?
- God did not pursue Abraham's plan through Ishmael. How do you feel about the fact that God may not pursue your plans either?

Hands

It is often easier to think about how we can help others rather than to change ourselves. Use the answers from the first question to set up the second question.

- What are some things that we can do to help others deal with the doubt they have in God's plans for their lives?
- What is one thing you are doing or will do to redefine yourself according to how God sees you?
- Pray for one another and for opportunities to lead others to the I AM.