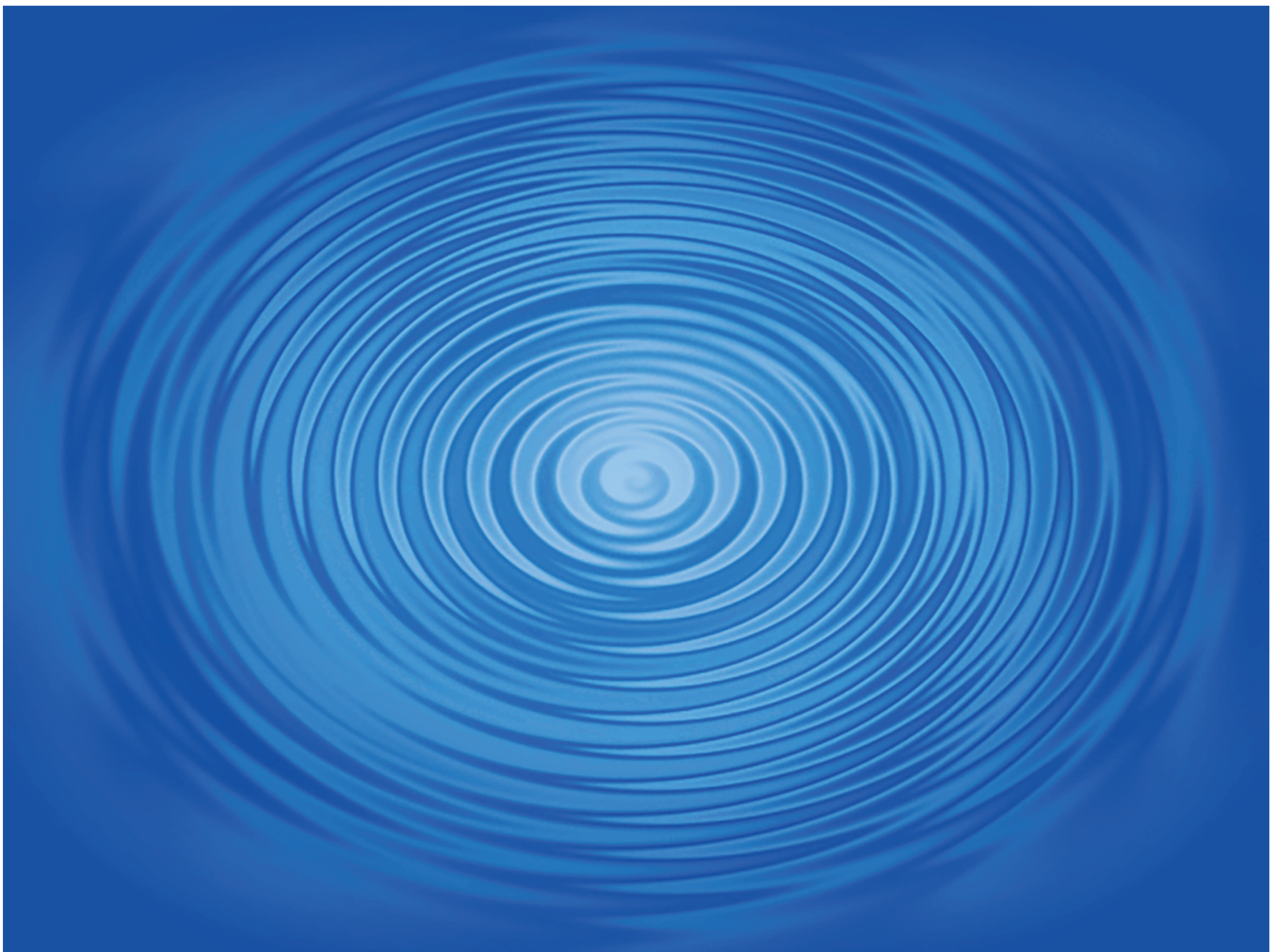


The GREAT IMMERSION in “I AM”

Stepping into the River of God

LEADER GUIDE



An immersion into Jesus' 7 profound “I AM” declarations to discover God's higher purposes and step into His greater life

Harvey L. Diamond

THE GREAT IMMERSION IN “I AM” STEPPING INTO THE RIVER OF GOD LEADER GUIDE

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Our inspiration and encouragement

Embracing the apostle Paul's great word of encouragement

I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:14)

Our Heavenly Father has a great inheritance and higher things in store for us

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord.
9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts.
(Isaiah 55:8-9)

that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be *partakers of the inheritance* of the saints in the light. (Colossians 1:10-12)

we are confident of *better things* concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation (Hebrews 6:9)

Being strengthened by the constant pour of God's love through the Holy Spirit to pursue what God has purposed and will fulfill through Christ

Now hope does not disappoint, because *the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.* (Romans 5:5)

let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto *Jesus, the author and finisher* of our faith (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Going forward in His amazing manifold grace to receive His unshakable promises and Kingdom inheritance

Therefore, since *we are receiving a kingdom* which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear (Hebrews 12:28)

Keeping at the forefront of our mind the *first things* Jesus proclaims—*His great mission—(amplifying Isaiah 61:1): Healing—Liberty—Vision*

The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to *heal* the brokenhearted,
To proclaim *liberty* to the captives
And *recovery of sight to the blind*,
To set at *liberty* those who are oppressed;
19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.
(Luke 4:18-19)

***to make ready a people prepared for the Lord* (Luke 1:17)
bringing many sons to glory (Hebrews 2:10)**

The Great Immersion in “I AM” series is a discipleship resource based on the seven profound “I AM” declarations Jesus makes in John. Through them Jesus, in essence, proclaims key aspects or dimensions of God’s nature meant to help us gain valuable insights into who He can be in us and who we can become in Him. Consider them God’s self-disclosed pillars and resources supporting a strong healthy life.

Jesus’ goal is for us to be convinced and know with certainty the constancy of God’s great love poured into our heart by the Holy Spirit that we experience His joy and live overcoming in life. So, He encourages us and shows us how to engage with God in dynamic ways so we are more conscious of God’s very real and active presence. Truly, God’s great love and the active flow of the Holy Spirit is constantly available to us—more than we typically think! Our part is stoking the fire within and stirring the gifts of the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 1:6).

So, Jesus offers us an amazing perspective through the profound seven “I AM” declarations. He shows us *how to engage with Him, our Heavenly Father and Holy Spirit, and flow in trusting faith, in eternal union with God, experiencing abundant life in and through Him, “life in His name”* (John 20:30). Through these seven “I AM” declarations Jesus gives us a broad and dynamic perspective. We can be greatly encouraged to learn more of God and His ways to grow in and through Him.

Therefore, through His seven profound “I AM” declarations, *Jesus gives us a grid and dynamic keys to help us realize that our identity—which was created in God’s image and likeness—can be refreshed and renewed, even recreated according to God’s original intentions and purposes for us through His recreation image born of and empowered the Holy Spirit.* The AMPLIFIED version of Ephesians 2:10 illuminates this great reality,

For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].

Truly, as we allow the Holy Spirit to work this in us, we experience greater measures of His shalom; peace, joy, freedom of soul, wholesomeness, and all He has for us—in Him. In fact, through each “I AM” reality we see how our state of being can be refreshed and reinvigorated by the Holy Spirit in dynamic ways!

This immersion, therefore, is designed to help foster this process by illuminating God’s Word and helping us engage with God and one another through vibrant in-person and online contextual conversations and exercises. It will bring greater illumination through a greater stirring of the Holy Spirit we desperately need in our world of increasing darkness.

So, as we follow Jesus’ pattern and engage in discussions and exercises, this immersion into the seven profound “I AM” declarations will help us more fully realize and receive the magnitude of God’s great love, riches and promises set before us. We will receive keys Jesus meant to help us overcome obstacles to flow in God’s grace gifts and truly experience His great love and promised life—life more abundantly—in Him.

How the teachings of the immersion are organized

There are 97 video sessions, ranging from 4-8 minutes, totaling 8 hours. Separate audio recordings are also provided for listening flexibility. This format presents nuggets to reflect upon and internalize. Each session follows a page in the workbook and ends with questions to reflect upon and discuss with others in a group setting.

The best discussions bring up further questions to enhance the conversation and stimulate increased personal adoption. This brings the greatest values to participants. It fosters greater transformation than a mere presentation of information ever can. This happens through *reflection*, receiving *revelation* from the Holy Spirit, coming to personal *resolve*, and then *responding*—to God and others—through conversation and actions. Our purpose, therefore, is to lead people beyond gaining information to actively mine the treasures of the dynamics of the Kingdom of God and *Christ’s identity of “I AM” in us*.

The content, therefore, is designed to present a fresh approach to Biblical narratives to inspire and encourage people to live in greater union with God and experience real transformation. This equips people to navigate life better, be an overcomer and bear greater fruit of God’s grace. It also enables people to be a brighter light and witness to a darkening world.

Benefits of our approach and presentation of the content

Paul provides us with an example of a teaching style that fosters real transformation. He employed a *fathering* approach. *“For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers... Therefore I urge you, imitate me”* (1 Corinthians 4:15-17). We employ a similar approach. So, we purpose to *speak into the hearts of people as fathers*. We also encourage engagement around *life-focused* topics, encouraging *heart-stirring* and *thought-provoking life-shaping two-way conversation*.

The video and workbook content are designed to *immerse* people in the essential aspects of the seven profound “I AM” declarations Jesus makes. This fosters growth of *Christ’s life in us* through various dimensions of *God’s great love* and *active presence and ministry of the Holy Spirit*.

Encourage people to also bring a notebook or electronic device to take notes and expand upon their thoughts and reflections to help them internalize the content and keep for future reference. Continuing growth and application exercises are also provided. They include:

- ❖ Exercises Focusing on God’s Promises
- ❖ God’s Love Lab; a set of discussion topics and exercises to be continuously strengthened in the different dimensions of God’s great love
- ❖ Exercises to be Immersed and Washed in the Beatitudes
- ❖ Exercises Confessing Confidence in Our Identity as a Child of God
- ❖ Exercises to Successfully Navigate through Life’s Shifts
- ❖ Exercises to Grow in the Life and Ministry of the Holy Spirit
- ❖ Tracking My Growth in God’s Greater Capacities

INTRODUCTION: Catching God’s vision for us to experience *life more abundantly*

INT-1	p. 3	5:23	Seeing key statements Jesus makes regarding overcoming
INT-2	p. 4-5	4:39	Seeing Jesus’ seven “I AM” declarations as <i>God’s</i> framework for growth Seeing the big picture of the manifold blessings of our identity in “I AM”
INT-3	p. 6	5:07	The significance of the <i>order</i> of Jesus’ seven “I AM” declarations
INT-4	p. 7	3:19	Being inspired and encouraged through the Lord’s great immersion

PART I: SHADOWS POINTING TO GOD’S PURPOSES AND REALITY

Part 1	p. 9	3:43	Jesus uses metaphors as <i>shadows and patterns pointing to greater spiritual realities</i>
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I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

BRD-1	p. 13	5:48	I AM the Bread of Life keys to the immersion
BRD-2	p. 14	5:16	God’s Word breathed by His Spirit feeds our life
BRD-3	p. 15	5:26	How love-truth-faith makes a difference in our life
BRD-4	p. 16	4:08	How the dynamics of love-truth-faith feed our inner being
BRD-5	p. 17	4:52	Testimonies of love-truth-faith feed our soul
BRD-6	p. 18	5:07	See how John connects the dots of love-truth-faith
BRD-7	p. 19	4:38	Experiencing love-truth-faith as critical links nurturing our life
BRD-8	p. 20-21	6:58	Enzymes and tools to help us be nurtured and strengthened

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

LGT-1	p. 25	4:26	I AM the Light of the World keys to the immersion
LGT-2	p. 26	5:45	How love-truth-faith refresh the soul
LGT-3	p. 27	4:03	Possessing your identity as a child of God’s light
LGT-4	p. 28	3:53	Jesus reveals a key to being taught and led by the Holy Spirit
LGT-5	p. 29	4:58	Seeing how the Holy Spirit brings us to a paradigm shift
LGT-6	p. 30	3:24	Comparing the power of sunlight to that of the Holy Spirit
LGT-7	p. 31	3:46	Transformation works by intentionally yielding to the Holy Spirit
LGT-8	p. 32	5:13	Seeing how the Holy Spirit accelerates transformation
LGT-9	p. 33	7:13	Guarding against counterfeit forms of light

I AM THE DOOR OF THE SHEEP

DOR-1	p. 39	3:24	I AM the Door of the Sheep keys to the immersion
DOR-2	p. 40	7:30	Keys to understanding divine access to God’s grace and authority
DOR-3	p. 41	4:54	The value of access we have to the abundant grace of God
DOR-4	p. 42	7:56	How God trains us to walk through doors of opportunity
	p. 43		Exercises to strengthen vision and our walk of faith
DOR-5	p. 44	5:39	Experiencing life more abundantly in the Lord’s identity

PART II JESUS REVEALS LOVE AS THE HEART OF GOD’S IDENTITY

➤ *Crossing over* to a more personal and higher level of relationship with God

I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD

SHP-1	p. 51	4:13	I AM the Good Shepherd keys to the immersion
SHP-2	p. 52	4:51	Coming to greater intimacy with God through Psalm 23
SHP-3	p. 53	8:04	Understanding the key dimensions of the profound love of God I
SHP-4	p. 54	7:24	Understanding the key dimensions of the profound love of God II
SHP-5	p. 55	5:52	Jesus reveals the reality and application of love-truth-faith
SHP-6	p. 56	6:46	Knowing the certainty and power of God’s love
SHP-7	p. 57	5:55	Jesus reveals a key to seeing from God’s perspective
SHP-8	p. 58	5:16	Seeing how love-truth-faith brings us to a key pivot point
SHP-9	p. 59	6:17	Seeing how our Good Shepherd brings us to intimacy with God
SHP-10	p. 60	5:27	Seeing how Sonship brings us to a unique healthy state of being
SHP-11	p. 61	6:53	Jesus reveals the fatherhood of God
SHP-12	p. 62	7:01	Our Heavenly Father cultivates vision to impart a greater perspective
SHP-13	p. 63	6:02	Seeing how Brideship is the beautiful identity God envisions for His people
SHP-14	p. 64	4:50	Seeing how Sonship and Brideship help us see bigger pictures
SHP-15	p. 65	5:42	Following our Good Shepherd as He leads us through transformation

PART III ACTIVATING GOD’S IDENTITY AND NEW LIFE IN YOU

Part 3 p. 69 2:12 *Crossing over to experience dynamic paradigm shifts of new covenant life*

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

RES-1	p. 73	4:28	I AM the Resurrection and the Life keys to the immersion
RES-2	p. 74	4:57	Seeing spiritual realities of resurrection life
RES-3	p. 75	4:58	Seeing different dimensions of the new life in the Lord
RES-4	p. 76	6:16	Experiencing revival, transformation and grace at God’s pace
RES-5	p. 77	5:44	Possessing the gift of His overcoming resurrection life identity
RES-6	p. 78	5:24	Receiving keys to God’s gift of resurrection life
RES-7	p. 79	6:59	Receiving the gift of His resurrection life and all it encompasses
RES-8	p. 80	6:42	Seeing what His overcoming resurrection life looks like
RES-9	p. 81	5:52	Experience His love-truth-faith manifested in you
RES-10	p. 82	6:49	Engaging with the Holy Spirit as David and Paul did
RES-11	p. 83	6:15	Gaining fresh perspectives and greater enablement through resurrection life
RES-12	p. 84	5:46	Seeing how love-truth-life are key operatives of the new life
RES-13	p. 85	5:08	Possessing the gift of His overcoming resurrection life identity
RES-14	p. 86	5:15	Emerging with Christ in His resurrection life through the spirit of sacrifice
RES-15	p. 87	6:20	Overcoming constraint to experience greater capacities in Christ
RES-16	p. 88	6:23	Being immersed in God’s love-truth-life to activate the new life
RES-17	p. 89	6:01	Seeing the gospel of grace as a message of identity

I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE

WTL-1	p. 95	6:49	I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life keys to the immersion
WTL-2	p. 96	6:28	Unlocking the mysteries of God’s higher thoughts and ways
WTL-3	p. 97	8:13	Issues relating to the truth
WTL-4	p. 98	6:44	Jesus calls the Holy Spirit the Spirit of truth three times
WTL-5	p. 99	7:20	Seeing how the dynamics of falsehood operate to combat truth
WTL-6	p. 100	4:37	Receiving God’s love-truth-faith to know life more abundantly
WTL-7	p. 101	5:09	Receiving God’s love-truth-faith to experience His higher ways
WTL-8	p. 102	4:45	Seeing how God’s way is walked out through garments of the Spirit
WTL-9	p. 103	5:04	Seeing the grace and blessings of the Beatitudes in a greater light
WTL-10	p. 104	6:06	Seeing our identity immersed in the Beatitudes
WTL-11	p. 105	6:08	Seeing how Paul learned how to put on the garments of grace and salvation
WTL-12	p. 106	5:02	Settling the issue of the will to enable God’s will to be done
WTL-13	p. 107	6:16	Putting on the garment of Christ’s humility
WTL-14	p. 108	5:28	Walking in the way of humility and wisdom
WTL-15	p. 109	4:32	Walking in the way of willingness and obedience
WTL-16	p. 110	6:24	Walking in the way of compassion and sacrifice
WTL-17	p. 111	6:51	Walking in the way of the fear of the Lord
WTL-18	p. 112	5:38	Walking in the way of integrity
WTL-19	p. 113	5:35	Walking in the way of sowing in God’s love and reaping His joy 1
WTL-20	p. 114	5:56	Walking in the way of sowing in God’s love and reaping His joy 2
WTL-21	p. 115	5:58	Jesus models the way of engaging with our Heavenly Father and Holy Spirit

I AM THE TRUE VINE

TRU-1	p. 121	4:45	I AM the True Vine keys to the immersion
TRU-2	p. 122	5:01	Being your true self being organically connected to God
TRU-3	p. 123	4:49	Embracing the value of strong rootedness in the Lord
TRU-4	p. 124	5:04	Abiding in the Lord fosters the flow of love-truth-faith to bear good fruit
TRU-5	p. 125	7:18	Intimacy with God positions us to receive and steward our Father’s inheritance
TRU-6	p. 126	5:14	Experiencing God’s baptism of rest to flow in God’s rhythm
TRU-7	p. 127	5:50	Flowing in God’s rhythm of observing and doing brings prosperity and good success
TRU-8	p. 128	3:59	Seeing how the Holy Spirit is God’s beat keeper helping us flow in rhythm with God
TRU-9	p. 129	4:17	Walking in God’s rhythm of rest to grow into God’s higher calling and capacities
TRU-10	p. 130	4:47	The power of agreement and alignment helps us walk in greater rhythm with God
TRU-11	p. 131	6:26	God’s arrangements bring people together for His divine purposes and for His glory

PART IV: THE CONVERGENCE OF GOD’S WILL AND OUR IDENTITY

CON-1	p. 139	5:39	Seeing convergence as actualizing God’s image and likeness in you
CON-2	p. 140	2:06	Experiencing the kingdom of God breaking through for God’s glory
CON-3	p. 141	13:37	Coming into powerful union with God through Jesus’ prayer in John 17
CON-4	p. 143	4:32	Locking into intimacy with God to live in a state of unity with God
CON-5	p. 144	5:10	Possessing His identity and inheritance requires intentionality and vigilance

Jesus makes some bold statements and shares key insights that are meant to have a profound impact and make a big difference in our life. These are four key statements:

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. *I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.* (John 10:10)

But *seek first the kingdom of God* and His righteousness, and *all these things shall be added to you.* (Matthew 6:33).

But the Helper, the *Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name*, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. *Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.* (John 14:26-27)

These things I have spoken to you, *that in Me you may have peace.* In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, *I have overcome the world.* (John 16:33)

His goal is for us to know and relate with God in a new and greater way; to know with certainty the reality of God's great love constantly available and poured into our heart by the Holy Spirit that we live grateful for His grace, overcoming in life through Him, flowing in faith, in eternal union with our Creator, Lord God Almighty.

His hope is that we experience His abundant life, *“life in His name”* (John 20:30) and the *reality of His kingdom and its blessings*. So, He speaks of:

1. The reality of the awesome dimensions of His identity, *who He is and can be in us*;
2. The greatness of His leadership and *benefits of experiencing His kingdom's realities*.

Jesus knows *the deep issues of our heart and gaps to be filled by His great love* that we experience God's great blessings. So, He illustrates a common *conflict faced by two types of mindsets and encourages us* through the story of the Prodigal Son.

1. One wastes his inheritance in ignorance through *wanton, worldly living* and the other is *unaware of the fullness of riches before him*.
2. Neither one *understands the true greatness of the father's love*, nor the *greater reality and potential of their relationship* with their father to experience *His intended “life more abundantly.”* They—and we—need a *strengthened view and upgrade!*

God's aim is to strengthen our identity—which was *created in His image and likeness*—that it be *refreshed and restored in Christ by the Holy Spirit* that we experience *His great love and the fullness of His shalom; peace, joy, freedom of soul, and “life more abundantly” that He has for us*. This gives us *great hope for victorious living*.

This immersion will impact us to help us more fully *realize and receive* God's great love, true riches and promises. In addition, we will gain *keys to flow in God's great grace gifts* and experience His abundant overcoming *new life in Christ—life of the Holy Spirit*.

SEE THE SEVEN PROFOUND “I AM” DECLARATIONS AS GOD’S DIVINE UPGRADE—A GRID OR FRAMEWORK AND IMMERSION INTO THE LORD’S GREAT LOVE AND NATURE TO KNOW MORE FULLY THE REALITY OF WHO HE IS IN US AND WHO WE CAN BECOME IN DYNAMIC UNION WITH HIM.



The seven “I AM” declarations *progressively illustrate* profound aspects of God’s nature and expressions of His great love. They *substantiate the reality* that “*no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ*” (1 Corinthians 3:11). So, they reveal dynamic aspects of who Messiah Jesus is in us and who we can become in and through Him by His grace through faith. Therefore, being *immersed* in His identity of “I AM” can help us:

- Know the *constancy of God’s love* in *greater ways*, grow and walk in *greater faith*
- Experience *greater joy* and *peace* and find more *hope* for *victorious living*
- Find God’s strength to *overcome* life’s challenges, conflicts and pressures
- Walk in Christ’s *redemptive graces* and experience His *restoration* as God intended
- Tap into a variety of *resources* within God’s identity and DNA created in us
- Grow through a variety of *grace gifts* created within God’s identity in us
- Discover a path towards God’s *higher calling* we can advance towards
- Flow in greater *rhythm* with our Heavenly Father, Holy Spirit, Messiah-Savior Jesus
- Defeat the lies of Satan and the world to block spiritual identity theft
- Advance the kingdom of God within and among us
- Change our story and shift the trajectory of our life in a new and greater way

SEE THE BIG PICTURE OF THE MANIFOLD BLESSINGS OF OUR IDENTITY IN “I AM”**I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE****Rhythm of being nurtured by God's love and truth to be inspired, encouraged, strengthened**

Referencing life's basic nutrient and bread of life, pointing to God's Spirit and Word, love and truth
Embracing God as our Creator and covenant provider of life-sustaining resources, joy and peace of soul
Having your state of being effectively nurtured in the Lord (John 6; Genesis 2-3 dynamics)
Experiencing the kingdom of God growing in you, nurtured by God's love and truth through faith

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**Rhythm of being fueled by the Holy Spirit to be illuminated and empowered in His grace gifts**

Referencing the life giving substance of the Holy Spirit, manifesting the love, grace and power of God
Revitalizing and renewing life energy; illuminating truth, strengthening love, vision and clarity
Having your state of being illuminated by the Lord (John 8-9; 1 John 1-2; 1 Ephesians 5:1-21)
Experiencing the kingdom of God revealed by God's light, His love and truth

I AM THE DOOR OF THE SHEEP**Rhythm of living in God's presence, experiencing His great love and all He is and has to offer**

Pointing to the gateway to the abundant life and love of God, revealing the presence and glory of God
Opening free and full access to God's presence, love, power, grace, intentions, blessings, glory
Having your state of being led and directed through the Lord (John 10:1-10; Romans 5:1-5)
Experiencing the kingdom of God securing access God's way through relationship with the Lord

I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD**Rhythm of being led by Christ in an intimate relationship to make His love and leadership real**

Identifying in a very personal way with the Lord through the immensity of the love of God
Receiving the fullness of God's love, faithfulness, authority, oversight, wisdom, care, protection
Having your state of being known by the Lord and intimately knowing Him (John 10:11-30)
Experiencing the reality of the kingdom of God through active relationship with the Lord

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE**Rhythm of living in His overcoming empowerment to bring transformation and new life to every situation**

Experiencing the empowerment of the Holy Spirit and new life of God through His great love and truth
Experiencing revived overcoming vitality and strength for redeemed, renewed, everlasting life
Experiencing your state of being alive in the Lord and His new life of the Spirit (John 11-12 dynamics)
Experiencing the kingdom of God triumphing through the new life of the Holy Spirit

I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE**Rhythm of walking with Christ to bring the reality of heavenly alignment to every aspect of life**

Empowering the overcoming life and love of God; realizing eternal truths and the divine realities of God
Seeing the way of God and way to living overcoming life, achieving fulfillment and purpose
Having your state of being in true alignment and rhythm with God and His ways (John 13-14 dynamics)
Experiencing the kingdom of God operating according to God's ways and truth, bearing His life in His love

I AM THE TRUE VINE**Rhythm of flowing in joyful fruitfulness through Christ**

Establishing rootedness and connection; living in the sustained flow of the life and love of God
Experiencing true union with God in rhythm with God, bringing sustained flow of fruit bearing life
Experiencing a state of abiding in fruitful flowing union immersed in the Lord (John 14-17 dynamics)
Experiencing the kingdom of God flowing organically and synergistically bearing fruit glorifying God

The order in which Jesus proclaims the seven “I AM” declarations is significant.

They build upon each other, *progressively revealing the increasing dimensions of who the Lord is, and can be, working in and through us*. They also reveal key crossing points.

1. The first three “I AM” declarations use metaphors (bread, light, door) as *shadows pointing to greater spiritual realities*. They may be viewed as *previews* providing *vision* and insight into God’s greater purposes. Such vision brings *focus* and *direction*. It enables us to *see beyond—to motivate, prepare and strengthen us to move towards God’s upward call*.
2. The Lord then moves beyond using metaphors. He shifts to reveal His identity in a very personal way. He invites us to *cross over the threshold* to engage into an *intimate relationship* with Him that brings us *beyond many customary aspects and trappings of philosophies and religious traditions*. As we do, we experience His love in greater ways than most people know to become positioned to receive His greatest blessings.
3. The Lord then moves to reveal *greater and more powerful dimensions of spiritual realities*. He invites us again to *see beyond* and *cross over* to participate in *paradigm shifts* that express dynamic dimensions of *the new life of the Spirit* and *reality of the kingdom of God*—which is within us and among us—and open to us by faith. This brings *new, greater possibilities, real freedom of soul and greater peace and joy to life! This is how we bear good fruit and glorify God*.

These seven profound “I AM” declarations provide *context* to establish a *construct* of a *wholesome* identity according to God’s *covenant* and plan of redemption in Messiah—Christ.

They connect with: a) God’s *eternal identity*, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM” (John 8:58); b) God’s *covenant identity*, “I AM WHO I AM” (Exodus 3:14); c) God’s *sovereign identity*, “I am God Almighty” (Genesis 35:11).

They point to God as *Creator* and source for every need; our *Redeemer*, bringing restoration.

So, as we unpack each “I AM” disclosure we will see *greater dimensions of our God-given identity being renewed and recreated in God’s image and likeness in Christ*.

1. We will see the various *dimensions of His great love* that heal and strengthen us.
2. We will see *paradigms of life* to experience His joy, peace and life in real ways.
3. We will see a *rhythm* of life bringing us into a unique *alignment* with our Creator God, which further brings us into the kind of peace and rest we all desire.
4. We will see how He *can help us move out of default modes that restrain us and into new modes that propel us to live the more abundant life God intends*.

In total, we will experience the Holy Spirit working in us in four powerful ways:

1. The seed of God’s *covenant life* progressively giving and growing life in us.
2. The divine process of His *regeneration* progressively working deeper in us.
3. The dynamics of *His grace, redemption and blessings* impacting our *state of being*.
4. The kingdom of God advancing in us, so we can grow *in our higher calling as a king and priest unto God, doing greater things*, impacting others, glorifying God.

Module focus points**I AM the Bread of Life**

God makes a crucial point relating to His covenant with mankind in Isaiah 59:21. "As for Me," says the Lord, "this is My covenant with them: My Spirit who is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth...from this time and forevermore." This module, therefore, focuses on how God's Word, being breathed by the Holy Spirit, will connect with and feed our inner spirit, imparting His love and truth, enabling us to grow in faith and live in His joy and peace. Lesson BRD-4 brings this reality to the forefront and lesson BRD-5 illustrates this through stories related in Luke 7:36-50 and John 21. We also present enzymes to help us effectively process and be nurtured by God's love and truth to bring us to a healthy state of being in lesson BRD-8. These tools can help us strengthen our relationship with God.

I AM the Light of the World

Jesus opens our heart and eyes to gain more insight into the knowledge of God. He sheds light on how God's grace and truth connect and can be exercised through faith in His love by the active presence and work of the Holy Spirit, "the Spirit of truth" (John 14:17, 15:26, 16:13). We, therefore, emphasize how the Holy Spirit serves as a catalyst in the transformation process. We also provide an exercise in lesson LGT-5 to bring this reality to the forefront. This exercise will show how greater awareness of the presence of the Holy Spirit illuminates God's truths and realities and brings God's joy to life in real ways as we go through God's transformation process.

I AM the Door of the Sheep

Jesus makes a profound declaration of His mission through His statement, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Many people struggle, however, experiencing the reality of what Jesus means by life more abundantly. We, therefore, discuss the reality of *access believers have been given to God's presence* and the many dimensions of God's grace (Romans 5). We also present an exercise in DOR-4 that parallels the way God trained Joshua to strengthen his faith and lead the children of Israel into God's promised life. We further discuss how this paradigm can be applied to many of life's situations to help us experience God's blessings.

I AM the Good Shepherd

Through this declaration Jesus invites us to cross over into a greater, more intimate relationship with Him as our Good Shepherd. We, therefore, discuss realities of God's love portrayed in Psalm 23 in lesson SHP-2. Then in lessons SHP-3 and SHP-4 we discuss various dimensions of God's love to help us appreciate, receive and live in the greatness of His love and leadership. Continuing lessons strengthen our awareness of the constancy of God's love. Then in lessons SHP-10-15 we show how Jesus brings us into greater intimacy through His love, and how we can come to truly know and experience this love through the dynamics of sonship and brideship.

I AM the Resurrection and the Life

Jesus brings us to another great crossing point. Through this declaration He opens the way for us to experience some of the greatest expressions of the Christian faith as God meant for us to experience them. So, in RES-2 we start discussing realities of resurrection life for us to experience in earth as it is in heaven. In RES-3 we discuss various dimensions of the new life of the Spirit in Christ. Continuing lessons build upon these dimensions, presenting keys to receiving these spiritual realities, and discuss the dynamics of enablement the Holy Spirit offers us to live an overcoming life in Christ. Then in lesson RES-15 we discuss a paradigm to help us come out of various constraints and grow into our God-given capacities through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. We bring the lessons in this module to a climax in lessons RES-16 and RES-17 as we discuss how the life of Jesus can increase in us as our identity in Him is strengthened.

I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life

Jesus expresses a mouthful of realities through this profound declaration. In essence, He reveals great realities of the kingdom of God. This module, therefore, explores the essence of kingdom of God living. Jesus shows us realities of the ways and solutions of our Heavenly Father, apprehending truths and God's realities by the Holy Spirit—the Spirit of Truth—and ways of walking in greater rhythm with Christ as we become more Christlike, do more like Christ and experience life “more abundantly” or “life in His name” (John 20:31). In lesson WTL-3 we show how Jesus helps us relate to the truth as a key connector, revealing how the way of truth leads us into the truth that leads to life—life more abundantly in Him. We build upon this reality in lessons WTL-4 and WTL-5, showing how the Holy Spirit enables us to overcome the forces of falsehood working in the world. We continue to illustrate how we can grow in God's higher ways that lead to living His higher life through lessons about garments of the Spirit in WTL-8 to WTL-13. In these lessons we bring the Beatitudes to life. We then continue unpacking some keys to walking in the ways of Christ in lessons WTL-14 to WTL-20. Then we bring this module to a climax in WTL-21 as we discuss how Jesus shows us a key way of engaging with our Heavenly Father and Holy Spirit to experience the higher life God has for us.

I AM the True Vine

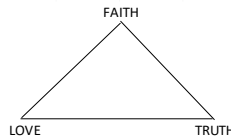
In John 15, the only totally “red” chapter in the Bible, Jesus shares tremendous realities of living firmly connected and rooted in a type of relationship He makes a big point of emphasizing as “abiding” with and in Him. We, therefore, discuss in lesson TRU-2 how the metaphor of the vine shows us the reality of an organic relationship with God that can bring great fruitfulness to life. In lesson TRU-3 we illustrate the values of a strong connection with God, and then in lesson TRU-4 we discuss the dynamics of an abiding relationship with God. We then continue in lesson TRU-5 illustrating the reality of cultivating such an abiding relationship with God by coming into greater intimacy with God. We build upon this reality discussing in lessons TRU-6 to TRU-8 how we can grow in flowing in greater rhythm with God through the presence and ministry of the Holy Spirit. Then in TRU-9 we show how living in greater rhythm with God effectuates real transformation that produces greater fruitfulness in Christ. We then bring this module to a climax discussing keys the early church learned to advance forward God's concept of the kingdom of God bearing the fruit of the True Vine to bring Him glory.

The Convergence of God’s Will and Our Identity

Convergence speaks of a coming together in a fulfillment—of our being and doing; or being who God created us to be and doing what we were created to do. It’s about seeing the vibrant life of “I AM” actualized in us and the reality of the kingdom of God unfolding and breaking through in and among us. This is God’s will for us. In His great prayer in John 17, Jesus prays various aspects of this for us. We, therefore, unpack the dynamics of what Jesus prays for us—that we come into a great unity with Him and experience His will be done in and through us as it is in heaven. This inherently is living life more abundantly as God intends for us.

Recurring theme: the dynamics of love—truth—faith

In the section, *I AM the Bread of Life*, we begin to speak of the foundational dynamics of *love—truth—faith*. We discuss how these dynamics work together to help us feed on and process God’s Word and realities. We do this by providing illumination of Psalm 89:14; “*Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face.*”



So, we discuss the reality that God’s throne, and likewise His kingdom, is founded upon His principles of *righteousness* and *justice*. From His throne radiates His *lovingkindness—mercy—grace and truth*.

Righteousness (*tsadiyq*): God’s goodness, perfection, moral excellence and integrity.

Justice (*mishpat*): Moral rightness, equity, fairness, truth; that which is free from bias.

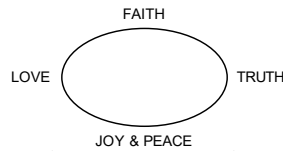
Mercy (*chesed*): Lovingkindness, mercy, grace, favor, goodness, affection, loyalty.

Truth (*emeth*): Certainty, truth, trustworthiness.

We discuss that it is crucial to see that God created the human heart to *feed on* and *respond to God’s love and truth*. *This fills gaps in the soul, brings joy and peace, and strengthens faith*. See how these great dynamics connect and flow.

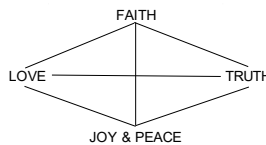
- As *love* is stirred, *joy* is felt, and *truth* can be received.
- As *love meets* with *truth*, *faith* is strengthened, and our *heart* is at *peace*.
- This brings us to *trust* God and come into greater *union* with God.
- It also brings us to *act* more according to God’s ways of *righteousness* and *justice*.
- *Faith*, likewise, enables us to *receive* and *respond* to God’s *love* and *truth*.
- Faith is *God’s gift* that enables us to *understand the realities of God, beyond what’s visible*.
- Apprehending *truth* likewise *strengthens faith* and helps us *grow and walk in love*.
- The key catalyst to this process is *humility*—the pacemaker that keeps God’s love and truth flowing.

In the section, *I AM the Good Shepherd*, we continue to develop this theme, showing how as we cross over to receive the Lordship of Christ and our Good Shepherd's love and leadership, these dynamics flow and revolve in a continuum, and strengthen our inner being in God's joy and peace.



The more we receive God's love, the more we can experience and live in the inner joy and real peace of the Lord. We receive more of the comforting and truth-revealing ministry of the Holy Spirit. This effectuates real transformation in our life.

In the section, *I AM the Resurrection and the Life*, we show how as we cross over to receive the flow of the resurrection life of Christ, the Holy Spirit works in us to cross-connect these powerful dynamics so that they flow in a more integrated way. We flow naturally and more spontaneously in the grace gifts of the Holy Spirit.



As we receive *God's great love* and the *tangible presence* of the *Holy Spirit*, our soul and conscience are *liberated beyond* that which can be attained through *human logic*. We see that God's Word is *not philosophy*—but *reality*—of the *dynamics* of God's ways. It brings us to another *pivot point*. The Holy Spirit convicts and convinces our heart of our human shortcomings in relation to God's greater love, grace, righteousness and joy found in Christ.

So, as we receive *God's gifts of grace and the active presence of the Holy Spirit*, the Holy Spirit strengthens us inside to bring us to a *state where powerful dynamics connect and flow in a more integrated way*. We flow *naturally* and more *spontaneously* in the grace gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit warms our heart to receive *God's great love*. This fills our heart with *God's joy and peace*, strengthening us to receive greater measures of *God's love and truths*. As we receive God's *truths in love*, our *faith* is strengthened to *trust God* more and be *anchored in His faithfulness*.

This happens as we *participate with the Holy Spirit, poured out through the power of the resurrection life of Christ, continuously receiving God's love and truth in trusting faith*. It becomes *easier and more natural* to defer or yield to the Holy Spirit. This is how we live a Spirit-led life in Christ with greater intentionality, and as Paul would say, “*walk in the Spirit*” (Galatians 5:25).

Keeping focused on the *first things* Jesus proclaims: *His mission proclaimed in Luke 4:18, amplifying Isaiah 61:1, to impart into us Healing—Liberty—Vision.*

The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to *heal* the brokenhearted,
To proclaim *liberty* to the captives
And *recovery of sight to the blind*
(Luke 4:18)

- Encourage resilience in receiving God’s love to be *healed* of any brokenheartedness.
- Encourage openness to *receiving strengthening spiritual vision* to walk in God’s freedom.
- Encourage hopefulness to live in God’s joy, *free from fear, being a victor in Christ.*

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21)

Place a priority on focusing upon the Review—Reflect—Respond questions and exercises

- Use as group discussion topics during class time and in online discussions.
- Reflect to gain *greater insights and understanding* of the nuggets presented.
- How does what was discussed *relate to the context of peoples’ personal experiences?*
- Encourage *reflection* and *application* of what has been discussed.
- Be sure to engage in the various exercises in the Appendix. They are provided for *continuing practical application, enrichment and growth.*
- Encourage use of a journal to enable people to reflect on and record their additional thoughts and insights brought by the Holy Spirit.

***May the Lord bless you through this immersion and on your journey in Him!
May He shine His glorious light upon you that you find yourself in His great love and shalom!***

NOTES

I. Prepare your heart for God’s upgrade! Apprehend what the apostles saw. Receive God’s great love! See beyond and enter God’s realm—life beyond human imagination.

The apostle Paul experienced a huge upgrade on how He perceived God. He, therefore, prayed that all the world would come to better apprehend what he did. The Amplified version of Ephesians 3:17-21 depicts a great rendition of this. He prayed that we would:

“be strong to apprehend and grasp with all the saints [God’s devoted people, the experience of that love] what is the *breadth and length and height and depth* [of it]; 19 [That you may really come] to know [practically, through experience for yourselves] *the love of Christ, which far surpasses mere knowledge [without experience]; that you may be filled [through all your being] unto all the fullness of God [may have the richest measure of the divine Presence, and become a body wholly filled and flooded with God Himself]*! 20 Now to Him Who, by (in consequence of) the [action of His] power that is at work within us, is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly, far over and above all that we [dare] ask or think [*infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams*—21 To Him be glory...”

The apostle John also had a great revelation.

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. (1 John 3:1-3)

John makes a huge statement here, challenging us to *behold—see beyond our carnality—and allow Christ to reveal the reality of God’s great love!* As we do, we *position ourselves for a huge life upgrade, and an inner peace, faith and confidence that propels a great measure of inner joy and stability.* This confidence enables us to *live overcoming life’s challenges and experience God’s greater purposes.*

Yes, *God is calling us to come out of our box—out of preconceptions, limited theological and philosophical understanding, dogma, thoughts and biases—and see beyond—to grasp hold of “new things” (Isaiah 42:9) He has for us.*

This is possible as we are *refreshed and strengthened in God’s great love in greater ways, are grateful for it, find our joy in it, and worship Him for it.* We just need a *reset on what we focus our heart, eyes and mind upon.* As Paul says, “Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth” (Colossians 3:2).

So, Jesus shows us how to open our heart and spiritual eyes to see. *The Holy Spirit helps us see beyond and enables us to perceive the reality of living “life in His name.”*

Did I not say to you that *if you would believe you would see the glory of God?* (John 11:40)

Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and *having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.* (Acts 2:33)

So, we will see *how Jesus leads us to truly know Him and experience this reality through His profound seven “I AM” disclosures. This is the key to a life of joy David discovered! It is ours to receive.*

You make me *know the path of life; in your presence is unbounded joy, in your right hand eternal delight.* (Psalm 16:11 CJB)

II. Create a learning environment that allows the Holy Spirit to be the teacher, guiding God’s people into God’s truth and higher ways. This happens as we encourage people to be open and sensitive to the prompting, illumination and leadership of the Spirit.

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, *He will teach you all things*, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. (John 14:26-27)

I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, *He will guide you into all truth*; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. (John 16:12-14)

YOUR ROLE AS A LEADER-FACILITATOR

See yourself as a leader *facilitating a learning process*. As leaders, we are all *lead learners* as the Holy Spirit amplifies and provides illumination of God’s Word! Truly, *the Holy Spirit is our teacher*. As you seek the Lord through prayer and conversation with Him and invite the Holy Spirit’s presence and stirring within you, *the Holy Spirit anoints and equips you to follow His leading and prompting*, enabling you to accomplish *His purposes and goals*.

IMPARTATION BEYOND INFORMATION

Beyond being a teaching of mere information, this resource is meant to be a life transformation resource that *trains and encourages* us to:

- Grow in the *new creation image that we are in Christ* (2 Corinthians 5:17);
- Flow in the *outpouring of God’s great love through the Holy Spirit* (Romans 5:5).

CONTENT AND ENGAGEMENT COMPONENTS

Section and Module Introductions

- Each of the three general sections provides a short *Part Summary* to introduce the content of the section. This helps people focus on the *big picture* of the concepts that will be discussed.
- Each of the seven “I AM” modules start with a *Keys to the Immersion Summary* to *set the tone of the section* and prepare people to be immersed in this particular “I AM” dimension.

Review—Reflect—Respond discussion questions: to spark conversation to catalyze greater personal reflection and effectuate engagement with God and one another that helps people *internalize the concepts and spiritual dynamics, bringing deeper transformation* to better reflect outwardly.

Special exercises: to encourage *growth in various dimensions of Christ’s life within us, stir the gifts of the Holy Spirit* and internalize the dynamics presented to better apply in overcoming ways.

Tools to apply the concepts discussed: each section ends with tools to summarize and help us *apply* what has been discussed.

Immersion prayer: to invite God’s continuing impartation of the concepts discussed. *Praying this prayer slowly, meditating on the words, helps us receive the dynamics of what is being imparted.*

FACILITATION SUGGESTIONS

Active listening

Encourage active listening by *emphasizing the content in italics*, paraphrasing the content to strengthen the key points. As you do, add comments like, “*keep this in mind*,” “*focus on this key point*,” “*do you see how this works?*” The following points help foster active listening.

Promoting discussion and exercising empathy

This helps people come out of themselves and relate better with others. When facilitating Review—Reflect—Respond discussion questions and Special Exercises, there are times you might engage the group in a group discussion and other times you might first put people in pairs or groups of three. One person shares their thoughts and the impact the question draws. The second person then summarizes what person one shared. The second person then shares their thoughts and impact the question draws. The first person then summarizes what the other person shared. A third person adds diversity and an added dimension of objectivity to the thought-response dynamics. The group may then reconvene the general discussion to discuss and share general takeaways.

Reflective facilitation

People learn best through active participation—*processing, making observations, doing, reflecting, interpreting insights gained and sharing testimonies*. Our job as facilitators is to guide and support people through the process.

General preparation

There are three sections of content arranged around the seven “I AM” declarations. Each section includes a brief *Part Summary* as well as a *Keys to the Immersion Summary* for each “I AM” module. Take time to review these summaries, especially the words in italics, to acquaint yourself with the general messages of the module.

Session preparation

Review the words in *italics* to emphasize *key points on each page*. Ask the Holy Spirit to amplify the points you are to make that may be especially relevant to your participants, and jot down some notes.

Pray for wisdom in leading the Review—Reflect—Respond discussion questions as well as Special Exercises. It's important that people actively participate and take notes to help them internalize the concepts discussed.

Also encourage participants to reflect on the material, meditating on their thoughts during the week, engaging with the Lord to gain more insights, strengthen the learning process and effectuate real transformation.

Session Flexibility

The sessions are designed to provide flexibility in presenting the course. You may find it beneficial for your group to combine sessions based on the content and time allotted for your sessions.

Group Messaging and Discussions

Our online learning management system incorporates functionality to strengthen learning and foster community engagement through Messaging and Discussions. See *Tips on Using Our Online Messaging and Discussions* in the Using the Learning Management System section.

NOTES

THE GREAT IMMERSION IN “I AM” USING THE LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Viewing Course Samples

Click on the Register for free button at the bottom of the Course Sneak Peek page. After registering, the WELCOME page displays. Click on the course of choice. The Course Content page displays, and you can download the Free Sample Workbook and begin viewing the sample lessons.

Purchasing Courses and Workbooks

Each course includes one fillable/printable workbook PDF. Additional workbook PDF's and printed workbooks (available in the US only) can be purchased by the group leader, or by individuals through the Store. For Groups, be sure to enter a Group Name. On the Checkout page (and also through the My Account > My Orders > Downloads link), workbook PDF's can be downloaded. Click on the Proceed to Group button to access the Groups Dashboard and set up the group.

Setting up the Group

On the Group Dashboard click on Group Code to create a group code. Enter a number in Number of Enrollments and a Date Range. Switch Code Status to Active to activate the group code. As a group leader/organizer, you can add users (group members) by clicking on the Enroll New User button. Users can also enroll themselves in the group. Users can access the course individually by using this group code. They do this through the Register – Group Registration link.

Group Functionality

Group Organizers have total control over the settings of a group. That includes the ability to enroll group members, send Messages and start Discussions. They can also start multiple groups. The My Groups link displays the Groups created by the group organizer. Multiple groups can be created. This page enables the group organizer to create a Profile, view Messages and Discussions. Making a discussion “sticky” will bring the discussion on top of all other discussions.

- **My Groups:** Here all groups of a group organizer are displayed. Clicking on the Group Box displays group members and group functions. The group organizer can send Messages, start a Discussion, View the Course, and Manage the group. The Manage tab displays message Settings that can be customized. The Messages tab enables the sending of group or private messages. A group member can also be promoted to Moderator of the group. This enables the ability to edit and delete any Discussion within the group, excluding those posted by organizers.
- **Groups Dashboard:** Here the group leader can access the members of a group, create a group code and generate a report of the group, showing individual member progress.

Group Members

If a group organizer enrolls members, newly added users will get an email containing a username and password. Now he/she can log in to the site using those credentials (and change their password) and get access to courses inside that group. The group leader can remove the user anytime by clicking on Remove. Clicking Re-invite sends a reset password link to the user.

Members can also register themselves and enroll in a group through the Group Registration tab. They must enter the group code supplied by the group organizer. Members can access the group through the Groups > My Groups tab. They can view video lessons or listen to the audio tracks individually in their own time. This encourages and strengthens individual learning. They can access lessons via the Courses Tab on their Profile or the Group Courses Tab on the Group Profile. Members are also able to view other group members, contribute to the group's discussions and send messages.

THE GREAT IMMERSION IN “I AM” USING THE LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Tips on Using Group Messaging and Discussions

Our learning management system incorporates functionality to strengthen learning and foster community engagement through Messaging and Discussions. This enables group participants to learn from each other and consider other perspectives and insights. Such discussions can take the form of reflective sharing, giving people the opportunity to expand upon and clarify their understanding of key concepts. It moves the whole learning experience beyond passive forms of watching and reading by allowing participants to *actively engage with the facilitator and others, ask questions and get support from each other and learn from one another.*

To ensure productive and meaningful discussions, provide some guidance on discussion etiquette at the beginning of the course. Firstly, let group participants know how often you will personally be engaging with discussions and how you intend to manage moderation. Also consider the following:

- Encourage and invite *active participation*
- Set a standard of *concise to-the-point focused* comments
- Encourage *movement in advancing* conversations
- *Respond* to questions and points raised relating to lessons and peoples' comments and posts
- Reference *specific course concepts* and *workbook page numbers* in comments and posts
- Encourage participants to maintain an *edifying tone* and an *environment of love*

These exercises foster a *continuing growth process*. They provide *application exercises* to help people grow in Christlikeness—“the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13).

EXERCISES FOCUSING ON GOD’S PROMISES

God’s Word is filled with promises from our Creator, our Lord God Almighty. They are *covenant promises*. And God is faithful to fulfill all his promises. Therefore, internalizing God’s promises brings *refreshing, inner healing and strengthening, and true freedom of soul*. This freedom includes freedom from fear and anxiety, addictions, sin, worry and so much more! God’s promises also build *trust in God’s provision*. They bring *hope* for lost and hurting family and friends. They bring *overcoming strength* and many more blessings and gifts to those who believe. Therefore, embracing, confessing and standing firmly on God’s promises are your keys to overcoming whatever you may be facing. These exercises encourage us to:

- *Invite the Holy Spirit to strengthen our heart and illuminate our mind to interpret these promises, receive God’s great love and strengthen our faith.*
- *Pray into them, speak them out loud, converse with God about them, and internalize them to see God move in our life for his glory and our good.*

GOD’S LOVE LAB

God’s love is compelling. It is greater than most of us can fully comprehend. However, it is the true *source of the life of God* and *catalyst stirring faith* and the *joy of the Lord, which “is your strength”* (Nehemiah 8:10).

As we receive the deeper dimensions of God’s great love, show love and sow love into others, we are more like Jesus, who shows us what love looks like. Showing love to others tugs upon and stirs our deepest inner human need for God. In addition, as we show and extend love, the *Holy Spirit in us works like a mobile hot spot. It radiates God’s love outward, conveying a signal of God’s love in His joy!* As the flow of God’s love stirs our heart and mind, it *enables God’s overcoming power to work in us in real and profound ways*. This Love Lab includes:

- A discussion on the constancy of God’s faithfulness
- A discussion on how coming face to face with God’s love brings great blessings
- A discussion on keys to feeling and walking in God’s great love
- Exercises to be strengthened in walking in God’s love

EXERCISES TO BE IMMERSED AND WASHED IN THE BEATITUDES

Jesus started His ministry teaching on these *heart attitudes* in His great Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew 5:1-10. Consider them as the *declaration of independence of the kingdom of God or preamble of the constitution of the kingdom of God*. Through these heart attitudes Jesus:

- Defines the *depth of love from God’s standpoint* to inspire us to *pursue wholeheartedness*.
- Illustrates ways the *grace of God works to strengthen us to receive God’s greatest blessings*.
- Shows us a *progression of ways we grow in faith, mature in Christlikeness and come to know a kingdom of God culture and lifestyle*.

These exercises help us *meditate on key reference scriptures*. We encourage people to *pray a series of kingdom of God values pointed out into their being, asking the Holy Spirit to strengthen them in them*. They help bring us into *great alignment with God’s heart and ways!*

**EXERCISES CONFESSING CONFIDENCE IN YOUR IDENTITY AS
A CHILD OF GOD**

We all need to be reminded of our position as children of God, *loved unconditionally by our Heavenly Father*, and the *many aspects of being a joint heir with Christ*. These confessions help us keep this crucial reality at the forefront of our mind.

EXERCISES TO SUCCESSFULLY NAVIGATE THROUGH LIFE’S SHIFTS

God calls us to embrace shifts as part of life’s journey. The children of Israel coming out of Egypt into the wilderness was a shift: a *crossing over from bondage to a wilderness faith building experience*. It shows us how God led them in *His sovereign way to prepare them to cross over into His promised land—or promised life*.

On the day of Pentecost, another major shift occurred. The people experienced a big pour of God’s love through the pour of the Holy Spirit. Paul got this crucial point and ran with it. He declares, *“the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us”* (Romans 5:5). That day, Peter *connected some historical and prophetic dots*. It marked a *pivotal shift* in mankind’s relationship with God.

How we move through shifts to bring successful long-term outcomes to realize “the end intended by the Lord” (James 5:11) for our good and God’s glory is crucial. God’s hope for us is to *grow and flow in His grace and rhythm to experience His blessings*. As Paul says in Romans 12:1-2, it takes *dimensions of renewing the mind to effectuate real transformation*. So, we provide 21 discussion topics with reflection questions to help people continue processing key issues in a coherent way to effectuate real transformation.

EXERCISES TO GROW IN THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Many people ask how to relate and engage with the Holy Spirit and hear His voice. The Bible shows us many pictures of people engaging with God and experiencing the presence of the Holy Spirit, hearing His voice.

Jesus in fact spent His last days *specifically preparing His disciples to receive the active ministry of the Holy Spirit*. He said, *“he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him”* (John 14:7-21). One very real way Jesus manifests Himself to us is through the Holy Spirit speaking to us and working *inwardly* through His love and expressing Himself *outwardly* through various *grace gifts* as we *receive them by faith* and *express them to serve in love and humility*.

Jesus also says about the Holy Spirit,

“He dwells with you and will be in you” (John 14:17)

“He will testify of Me” (John 15:26)

“He will guide you into all truth...He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.” (John 16:13-15)

So, we discuss how our heart can be tenderized to receive greater measures of God’s supernatural love and truth and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to our heart and reflect His supernatural love and truth outwards so we can flow more in the grace gifts of the Holy Spirit. This is *experiencing His kingdom coming in earth as it is in heaven*.

ASSESSING MY FRUITFULNESS IN CHRIST’S GRACE TO GLORIFY GOD

John offers us great encouragement in his declaration, *“He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world”* (1 John 4:4). Paul, likewise, inspires us to *“grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ... that you put off...the old man...and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness”* (Ephesians 4:15-24). In this “new man” in Christ we are offered great grace gifts and have great capacities in which to be strengthened and grow.

So, we provide scriptures relating to specific areas of grace and God-given capacities created within us. We encourage you to meditate on them and ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen you through His grace and in these capacities. We also provide ways to regularly assess your growth and progress.