

Facilitator Guide: Session 1 – Who is I AM?

Session Focus: Laying the foundation of belief and belonging

Theme: Who is I AM?

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1. Welcome & Opening Prayer (3 minutes)
 - a. Welcome everyone warmly.
 - b. Affirm this as a safe, welcoming space.
 - c. *“Today we’ll talk about who we are as a church and what it means to live by faith.”*
 - d. Prayer: *“Lord, thank You for gathering us today. Help us to listen, learn, and grow in community. Open our hearts to Your Word and Your calling. Amen.”*
2. Group Video Viewing: *Welcome to I AM Church* (5 minutes)
 - a. Instructions: Play the 5-minute introductory video titled *Welcome to I AM Church*. This video includes:
 - i. Opening words from Pastor Isaac
 - ii. The story of the church’s beginnings
 - iii. Core beliefs and Scriptural foundations
 - iv. Mission and vision statement
 - v. (Before the video): *“Let’s start by watching this short video that gives us the heart behind I AM Church. Where we started, what we believe, and why we’re here.”*
 - vi. **[Facilitator Note: Cue and test the video beforehand. Ensure audio and visuals are working properly.]*
3. Icebreaker: One Word That Describes Faith (5 minutes)
 - a. Ask each person to share one word that describes what faith means to them
 - b. Keep it light, allow for brief responses.
 - c. *“Faith may look different for each of us, but at the core, it’s about trust in who God is and that’s what we’re exploring today.”*
4. Session Recap & Story Reflection (5 minutes)
 - a. *“The video shared how I AM Church started small with prayer, vision, and a heart for real community.”*
 - b. *“We’ve grown through challenges like COVID and moved locations, but our mission hasn’t changed.”*
 - c. *“What part of the story or video stood out to you personally?”*
5. Core Beliefs Exploration (15 minutes)

- a. Break participants into pairs or triads. Assign each group one of the seven beliefs with Scripture.
 - b. Have them read the Scripture, reflect, and discuss. Belief Assignments:
 - i. 2 Timothy 3:16 – God’s Word
 - ii. Matthew 28:19 – The Trinity
 - iii. Titus 2:13 – Jesus is Lord
 - iv. Galatians 5:22 – Holy Spirit’s Fruit
 - v. Ephesians 2:8 – Salvation by Grace
 - vi. Matthew 28:19 – The Great Commission
 - vii. Genesis 2:24 – Biblical Marriage
 - c. “What stands out to you in this verse or belief?”
 - d. “Why do you think this is foundational to I AM Church?”
 - e. “How does this belief shape your daily walk with Christ?”
 - f. After 10 minutes, bring everyone back and invite 1–2 groups to share a highlight.
6. Group Reflection: Living Out Our Beliefs (7 minutes)
- a. “How does one of these beliefs shape your daily life?”
 - b. “Where have you seen God work through this belief in your own story?”
7. Vision & Mission Connection (3 minutes)
- a. “Our vision is to reach the lost, restore the broken, and make disciples.”
 - b. “Our mission is to worship God by making disciples who love God, love people, and impact the world.”
 - c. “Which part of that mission speaks to where you are in your faith today?”
8. Doer’s Activity: Share Your Faith Story This Week (3–5 minutes)
- a. *Goal: Put belief into action by sharing your faith with one person this week.*
 - b. “Today we learned what I AM Church believes. Now let’s live it out. This week, I challenge each of us to do one thing: share one part of your faith story with someone.”
 - c. Think of one person you can talk to this week.
 - d. Write their name on a notecard or in your phone.
 - e. Say a quick prayer asking God for courage and the right words.
9. Closing Encouragement & Prayer (2 minutes)
- a. “You are part of something bigger than a Sunday gathering. You are part of a story God is writing in this city and this church.”
 - b. “Thank you for showing up and being real today. Let’s walk this out together.”
 - c. Prayer: “God, thank You for the truths we’ve shared today. Strengthen us as we grow in faith and live boldly for You. Amen.”

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Facilitator Guide: Session 2 - Life at I AM

Session Focus: Community, Ordinances (Baptism & Communion), and Membership

Scripture Theme: Ephesians 4:3, Romans 6:4, 1 Corinthians 11:26, Acts 6:3, and others

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer (3 minutes)
 - a. “Welcome to Session 2 of our New Member 101 class.”
 - b. “Today we’ll talk about life in the I AM Church community. How we grow, worship, serve, and belong together.”
 - c. “We believe the church isn’t a building or a service; it’s a spiritual family walking in unity.”
 - d. Prayer: *“Lord, thank You for placing each of us in community. Guide our hearts today as we explore what it means to live faithfully as part of Your Church. Amen.”*
2. Engagement Activity: Challenge Check-In (5 minutes)
 - a. *Purpose: Foster accountability, reflection, and growth over time.*
 - b. Begin with: “As we continue our journey together, let’s take a moment to reflect on how we’ve lived out what we’ve been learning.”
 - c. “Did you take any steps—big or small—in response to what we discussed?”
 - d. Invite 2–3 people to briefly share their experience.
 - e. Affirm and encourage participation
3. Group Video: *Life at I AM* (4 minutes)
 - a. *“Let’s begin by watching a short video that sets the tone for our session. It explores the heart of our Christian community and why it matters.”*
 - b. Play the video: *Life at I AM*
 - c. Debrief Question (after video):
 - i. “What stood out to you from that video about how God designed the Church to function?”
4. Partner Activity: Sharing Community Experiences (7 minutes)
 - a. Pair participants. *“Each person take 2–3 minutes to share about a time you experienced meaningful Christian community. Whether through church, a group, or a spiritual friendship.”*
 - b. Debrief (whole group):
 - i. “What did you hear or share that reflects the purpose of spiritual community?”
5. Exploring Church Community at I AM (8 minutes)
 - a. Scripture:

- i. *Ephesians 4:3 – ‘Maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.’*
 - ii. *Hebrews 10:25 – ‘Not neglecting to meet together... but encouraging one another.’*
 - b. “At I AM, we live out our faith in community through worship, service, Breaking Bread groups, and shared life.”
 - c. “Unity doesn’t just happen. It’s something we choose, nurture, and protect.”
 - d. Discussion Prompts:
 - i. “What helps build a sense of belonging in a church?”
 - ii. “How can we each contribute to the unity of this community?”
6. Understanding Ordinances: Baptism & Communion (8 minutes)
- a. Scripture:
 - i. *Romans 6:4 – ‘Buried with Him in baptism... raised to walk in new life.’*
 - ii. *1 Corinthians 11:26 – ‘You proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.’*
 - b. “Baptism and Communion are spiritual markers. One begins our journey, the other sustains it.”
 - c. “We celebrate them not as rituals, but as acts of obedience, remembrance, and renewal.”
 - d. Discussion Prompts:
 - i. “What does baptism mean to you personally?”
 - ii. “How does communion help realign us with Christ and each other?”
7. Membership Pathway (7 minutes)
- a. “Membership at I AM is a meaningful step of alignment and commitment.”
 - b. “To become a member, you’ll need to:
 - i. Profess faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9)
 - ii. Be baptized as a believer (Acts 2:38)
 - iii. Regularly attend for at least two months
 - iv. Complete this New Member 101 class”
 - c. “You’ll also review and agree with our mission, beliefs, and church structure.”
 - d. Prompt for Reflection:
 - i. “What questions do you have about the membership process?”
8. Responsibilities and Privileges of Membership (5 minutes)
- a. Scripture Highlights:
 - i. *Acts 6:3 – Participate in spiritual leadership decisions*
 - ii. *1 Peter 4:10 – Serve according to your gifts*
 - iii. *James 5:16 – Walk in spiritual accountability*
 - iv. *2 Corinthians 9:7 – Give cheerfully and consistently*
 - b. “Membership is not just about what you receive. It’s about what you give and contribute.”

- c. “God has gifted each of us to build up the Church and advance His Kingdom together.”
 - d. Discussion Prompt:
 - i. “Where do you feel called to contribute through serving, giving, or leadership?”
9. Doer’s Activity: Invite Someone Into Community This Week (3 to 5 minutes)
- a. *Purpose: Practice building spiritual community by extending an invitation.*
 - b. “Today we talked about the Church as a spiritual family. Community does not grow by accident. It grows through intentional connection. This week, I challenge each of us to take one step: invite someone to experience community with you.”
 - c. Instructions
 - i. Think of one person—friend, coworker, neighbor, or even someone at church—who may be feeling disconnected.
 - ii. Invite them to something simple this week: Coffee, A Breaking Bread group, A church service, A personal conversation about faith
 - iii. Write their name down and pray for the opportunity to connect.
10. Closing Reflection & Prayer (2 minutes)
- a. Reflection Question:
 - i. “What is one next step you can take to connect more deeply with this community?”
 - b. Closing Prayer: *“Father, thank You for the Church. A place of grace, growth, and purpose. Lead each of us to find our place and walk in unity. Amen.”*

Facilitator Guide: Session 3 - Core Doctrines

Theme: Foundations of Our Faith – Core Beliefs of Christianity

Purpose: Explore essential Christian doctrines foundational to I AM Church

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer (0–4 minutes)
 - a. Welcome the group warmly and thank participants for joining.
 - b. *“Today we will explore the core doctrines that shape our faith and church life.”*
 - c. Emphasize that understanding these doctrines influences how we live and relate to God and others.
 - d. Prayer: *“Lord, thank You for bringing us together. Open our hearts and minds to understand Your truth deeply and live it faithfully. Amen.”*
2. Engagement Activity: Challenge Check-In (5 minutes)
 - a. *Purpose: Foster accountability, reflection, and growth over time.*
 - b. Begin with: *“As we continue our journey together, let’s take a moment to reflect on how we’ve lived out what we’ve been learning.”*
 - c. *“Did you take any steps—big or small—in response to what we discussed?”*
 - d. Invite 2–3 people to briefly share their experience.
 - e. Affirm and encourage participation
3. Video Viewing: Session 3 – Core Doctrines (4–10 minutes)
 - a. Say: *“Let’s watch a 6-minute video that clearly presents the key doctrines that guide our beliefs and practices here at I AM Church.”*
 - b. Play the 6-minute Session 3 video on Core Doctrines
 - c. After the video, invite brief reflection:
 - i. *“What message or truth from this video stood out to you?”*
 - ii. Allow 1–2 participants to share short responses.
4. Overview of Core Doctrines (10–16 minutes)
 - a. Sin: Romans 3:23 — We have all sinned and fallen short of God’s glory.
 - b. Salvation: Romans 5:8 — Christ died for us while we were still sinners.
 - c. Grace: Titus 3:5 — We are saved by God’s mercy, not by works.
 - d. Justification: Romans 5:1 — Through faith, we have peace with God.
 - e. Atonement: 1 John 2:2 — Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.
 - f. Sanctification: Philippians 1:6 — God continues the work of transformation in us.
 - g. The Church: 1 Corinthians 12:27 — We are the body of Christ with unique roles and gifts.
 - h. [Display or distribute the verses for participant reference]
5. Small Group Discussion 1 (16–31 minutes)

- a. *“Which of these core beliefs was hardest for you to understand when you first came to faith? Why?”*
 - b. Facilitator Guidance:
 - i. Encourage open and honest sharing without judgment
 - ii. Affirm each person’s journey and questions
 - iii. Share briefly from your own experience if appropriate
6. Small Group Discussion 2 (31–41 minutes)
 - a. *“What does God’s grace personally mean to you, and how has it changed your life?”*
 - b. Facilitator Guidance:
 - i. Encourage vulnerability and connection
 - ii. Share a personal story about grace to model openness
 - iii. Respect silence or non-participation while creating a safe space
7. Doer’s Activity: Reflect and Share God’s Grace This Week (42-47 minutes)
 - a. *Purpose: Encourage participants to apply and share the doctrine of grace in a personal and relational way.*
 - b. *“Today we explored core doctrines, especially God’s grace—the unearned love and mercy He gives us. This week, I challenge each of you to reflect on how God’s grace has changed your life and share that truth with someone.”*
 - c. Instructions:
 - i. Think of one person you can talk to this week—a friend, family member, coworker, or neighbor.
 - ii. Share briefly how God’s grace has impacted you. This can be a simple story or a way grace encourages you daily.
 - iii. Write down their name as a reminder and pray for courage and the right moment to share
8. Wrap-Up & Closing Prayer (47-50 minutes)
 - a. Reiterate that these doctrines are not just beliefs to memorize but truths that guide how we live.
 - b. Encourage participants to meditate on these truths throughout the week
 - c. Thank participants for their engagement and openness.
 - d. Prayer: *“Father, thank You for the gift of salvation and the ongoing work of Your Spirit in us. Help us to live out these truths with love and faithfulness. Unite us as Your Church and empower us to serve one another. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”*

Facilitator Guide: Session 4 - Discipleship at I AM Church

Theme: From Belonging to Becoming — The Discipleship Pathway

Purpose: Guide participants through the discipleship stages and encourage reflection on personal growth and multiplication

1. Welcome & Opening (0–3 minutes)
 - a. Welcome everyone and thank them for joining
 - b. *“Today we explore how discipleship happens at I AM Church. It is a path of belonging, believing, growing, and multiplying.”*
 - c. *“We meet people where they are, and we don’t leave them there.”*
 - d. Prayer: *“Lord, thank You for this time together. Help us understand Your call to become disciples and make disciples. Amen.”*
2. Engagement Activity: Challenge Check-In (5 minutes)
 - a. *Purpose: Foster accountability, reflection, and growth over time.*
 - b. Begin with: *“As we continue our journey together, let’s take a moment to reflect on how we’ve lived out what we’ve been learning.”*
 - c. *“Did you take any steps—big or small—in response to what we discussed?”*
 - d. Invite 2–3 people to briefly share their experience.
 - e. Affirm and encourage participation
3. Video – Session 4: The Discipleship Model (3–10 minutes)
 - a. Instructions:
 - i. *“Let’s begin with a short video that outlines the model of discipleship at I AM Church. As you watch, consider where you see yourself along this path.”*
 - ii. Play the video: [Session 4: The Discipleship Model]
 - iii. After the video, ask:
 1. *What stood out to you? Did anything challenge or encourage you?*
4. Stage 1 — Come and See (BELONG) (10–17 minutes)
 - a. Read: John 1:39 — *“He said to them, ‘Come and you will see.’”*
 - b. *“This is the entry point of the discipleship journey.”*
 - c. *“At this stage, people feel welcomed and accepted even before they fully believe.”*
 - d. *“At I AM Church, we foster this through open doors, community, and classes like 101.”*
 - e. Reflection Question:
 - i. *When did you first feel like you truly belonged in a church community?*

5. Stage 2 — Follow Me (BELIEVE) (17–24 minutes)
 - a. Read: Matthew 4:19 — “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
 - b. “This marks a transition from curiosity to commitment.”
 - c. “It involves belief in Christ, baptism, spiritual formation, and growing trust.”
 - d. “Belief becomes an identity, not just an idea.”
 - e. Discussion Prompt:
 - i. *Which spiritual discipline has helped you grow the most in your faith?*
6. Stage 3 — Be With Me (GROW) (24–32 minutes)
 - a. Read: Mark 3:14 — “That they might be with Him...”
 - b. “Growth involves intentional development of faith and character.”
 - c. “At I AM Church, we support this through deeper study, accountability groups, and leadership labs.”
 - d. Activity:
 - i. *Reflect on a spiritual gift or strength God has given you. How are you using it?*
 - e. Discussion Prompt:
 - i. Invite a few participants to share.
7. Stage 4 — Remain in Me (MULTIPLY) (32–40 minutes)
 - a. Read: John 15:5 — “Whoever abides in me... bears much fruit.”
 - b. “This stage is about reproducing faith in others through mentoring, leading, discipling.”
 - c. “We multiply what we model.”
 - d. “I AM Church equips leaders to lead others on this path.”
 - e. Vision Casting Prompt:
 - i. *What would it look like for you to disciple or mentor someone else in this season?*
8. Group Reflection & Sharing (40–44 minutes)
 - a. Prompt Questions:
 - i. *Where do you see yourself currently on the discipleship path?*
 - ii. *What is one practical next step you want to take in the coming month?*
 - iii. [Encourage open, respectful sharing. Celebrate each next step shared.]
9. Doer’s Activity: Take One Step on Your Discipleship Path (44–49 minutes)
 - a. *Purpose: Encourage participants to identify and act on a personal next step in their discipleship journey.*
 - b. “Today we explored the discipleship path—from belonging to multiplying. Each of us is at a unique place on this journey. This week, I challenge you to take one specific step forward on your path.”
 - c. Instructions:

- i. Reflect on the four stages we discussed: *Come and See* (Belong), *Follow Me* (Believe), *Be With Me* (Grow), *Remain in Me* (Multiply)
- ii. Choose one practical action you can take in the next week or month that fits your current stage. For example:
 1. *Belong*: Attend a new group or class
 2. *Believe*: Commit to a spiritual discipline like daily prayer or Bible reading
 3. *Grow*: Use a spiritual gift to serve or join an accountability group
 4. *Multiply*: Begin mentoring or sharing faith with someone else
 5. Write down your chosen action and when you plan to do it

10. Closing (50-52 minutes)

- a. *"Discipleship is a journey from belonging to multiplying. Each stage has value, and every person has a next step."*
- b. Prayer: *"Father, thank You for inviting us into Your story. Empower us to grow and to help others grow. Let us be faithful in our next step. In Jesus' name, Amen."*