

**Sample Packet**

# I AM

## [Sample Packet]

**A Vacation Bible School Program written and published by Pax Domini Press**

Customer Service and Ordering Information - (419)475-6140

[www.pax-domini.com](http://www.pax-domini.com)

### **Who is Pax Domini Press?**

*Pax Domini Press* is a small but growing publishing company which aims to provide an alternative to the highly commercialized products of the leading Christian publishing houses.

### **What are some Pax Domini Press Products?**

*Pax Domini Press* has published nine Vacation Bible School programs, each available for purchase at \$150. These programs include: *Lord, Have Mercy* (on Law and Gospel), *In the Name* (on the Holy Trinity), *I Am* (on the 7 I Am's in the Gospel of John), *According to the Scriptures* (on Christ in the Old Testament), *Take up the Cross* (on the baptismal life), *The Remission of Sins* (on Holy Absolution), *Fervent Love for One Another* (on Christian charity), *Five Words of Understanding* (on the ICHTHUS), and *A New Song* (on the songs of Scripture).

Finally, *Pax Domini Press* has available three Sunday School curricula. Like the VBS program, this curriculum is produced for self-publication. One curriculum is entitled, *Teaching them to observe all things*, which takes the student through the entire Gospel of Matthew. Another curriculum is entitled, *A.D. The Acceptable Year of the Lord*. It follows the Gospels of the Historic Lectionary. Finally, a new curriculum, *The New Song*, teaches Scriptural backgrounds for the texts of the liturgy.

### **What is included in this sample packet?**

Included in this sample packet are a picture of the front cover, brief explanations of the materials given in the kit, lessons from each level (from Level 4 down through Level 1), a sample from the puppet show, and a sample from the daily prayer bulletin, including the hymn.

### **How does Pax Domini Press's Vacation Bible School program work?**

*Pax Domini Press* produces a CD with all the files needed for a congregation to publish a VBS program. Included on the CD are the following:

1. PDF files of a Program Manual with guidance on program implementation, instructions for the craft, and ideas for recreation time.
2. PDF files of teachers editions of each student workbook.
3. PDF files of workbook pages for the student workbooks.
4. PDF file of chapel bulletin with prayer service for each day of the program.
5. PDF file of puppet show script for use with Level 1 material.
6. PDF files of advertising materials (door hangings, bulletins, bulletin headers)
7. Extra electronic images and PDF files to be used with Level 1 material (coloring pages, activity pages, etc.) or for the craft (patterns, verses, etc.).

With these resources, the congregation simply assembles the workbooks, bulletins, and craft materials. The cost of the VBS can cost anywhere from \$10/child to \$20/child (pending on whether the craft kit is purchased or not, also pending on how the workbooks are assembled).

### How do the workbooks work?

The congregation receives a CD with color and black/white PDF files of workbooks for Levels 1-4. The congregation has permission to do whatever it wants with these files. They may do the following:

- (1) Simply print them off for the children
- (2) Take them to a printing professional to make booklets for the children
- (3) Advanced copiers/printers may have capabilities to produce booklets from PDF files

**Workbooks can also be ordered through Pax Domini Press for \$6/booklet (color).  
Call (419) 475-6140 or go to the website, [pax-domini.com](http://pax-domini.com).**

### What is the age range for this program?

- |         |            |
|---------|------------|
| Level 1 | Ages 4-5   |
| Level 2 | Ages 6-7   |
| Level 3 | Ages 8-9   |
| Level 4 | Ages 10-12 |

### What is the theme of *I Am*?

The Gospel of John is famous for Jesus' several "I Am" statements. Seven times He says "I Am...the Good Shepherd, the Way (etc.), the Light, the Bread of Life, the True Vine, and the Resurrection (and the life)." Through the use of these "I Am" statements, Jesus clearly reveals Himself to be the Lord God, the One Who appeared to Moses at the burning bush saying, "I am who I am."

Through these seven "I Am"'s, Jesus reveals His Person and work. This Vacation Bible School is anchored in these seven "I Am"'s. Using the simple images of the "I Am"'s, this VBS teaches basic doctrines of the faith such as the Ministry, Law and Gospel, Baptism, Holy Communion, and the Resurrection.

Here is a summary of the lessons for the five days:

Lesson	Title	Theme	Text
1	I Am the Good Shepherd.	Jesus seeks the lost through the Holy Ministry.	John 10: 11-18
2	I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life; I Am the Door.	Baptism in the name of Jesus is the Way to heaven.	John 14: 1-7; John 10: 1-10
3	I Am the Light of the World.	Law and Gospel shows the Way to heaven.	John 8: 12 & John 9: 5
4	I Am the Bread of Life; I Am the True Vine.	Holy Communion unites the believer to Christ.	John 6: 35-58
5	I Am the Resurrection and the Life.	Because Jesus lives, so shall all believers.	John 11: 1-45

### What is the craft like?

Typical *Pax Domini Press* crafts meet a high standard of materials, meaning, and craftsmanship, requiring strong oversight by craft supervisors. The goal is a craft that engages the child artistically as well as theologically. The craft for *I Am* fits these qualifications.

The craft for "I Am" is a set of seven ornaments, underscoring the notion that the "I Am"'s are all about the Person of Jesus, Whose Incarnation we celebrate on Christmas. Craft instructions are

given for each ornament, and with certain "I Am" statements, two sets of directions are given. Craft materials may be easily attained at a craft store. Pax Domini Press does not have craft kits for this program. Some of the crafts require use of a scroll saw.

A picture of the seven ornaments is given here.

### What about worship?

*Pax Domini Press* provides a worship folder which has a simplified Matins service for each day of the week. In the service are the Matins versicle, a Psalm, a hymn, a reading, a message, the Lord's Prayer, and the Apostle's Creed. The hymn uses original words – five verses summarizing the five lessons of the week – and puts them to the tune of several hymns which may be found in the hymnal. A sample of a day of the prayer service and the words of the hymn are given at the end of this packet.



### What about the pre-schoolers?

The Level 1 material includes a puppet show (which older children may also enjoy) and a story booklet written in simple language. Also included is a teacher's book with suggestions and ideas for songs, games, and activities which will emphasize the theme for the day.

Congregations interested in expanding their program to include 3 year olds may also purchase *Let the Little Children Come unto Me*. This is a "catechism kit" with coloring books and a mini-VBS that teaches the Holy Trinity. See website for more details.

### What else does the kit come with?

The kit also comes with recreation ideas. These recreation ideas are activities which incorporate the theme of the VBS. The kit also includes masters for canvassing, posters, and bulletin inserts. Finally, the kit gives some guidance and advice on running a VBS; it includes a check-list of things which must be done 3-4 months prior, 3-4 weeks prior, 3-4 days prior, during the VBS, and after the VBS.

# I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. I am the Door.



In the last lesson, we learned that Jesus is the Good Shepherd who takes care of the sheep. We learned that we have original sin which causes us to wander away from the Lord and commit actual sin. We also learned that Jesus seeks us out and saves us.

Today we learn the way by which Jesus leads us back into His sheepfold. Imagine a large field where sheep graze, eat, and drink. Imagine a large fence around the entire field. The fence keeps the sheep in, but it also keeps wolves out. Now imagine Jesus standing at the door deciding who will be allowed in and who will not be allowed in.

In other words, if a sheep is brought into the protection of the flock, it will only be through Jesus. This is the meaning of “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” It is also the meaning of “I am the Door.”

Jesus is the only Way to heaven! Jesus is the only Door to heaven! In fact, Jesus says that no one can get to the Father but through Him.

**Read the following about how Jesus is the Door from John 10: 1-10:**

### Jesus the Door

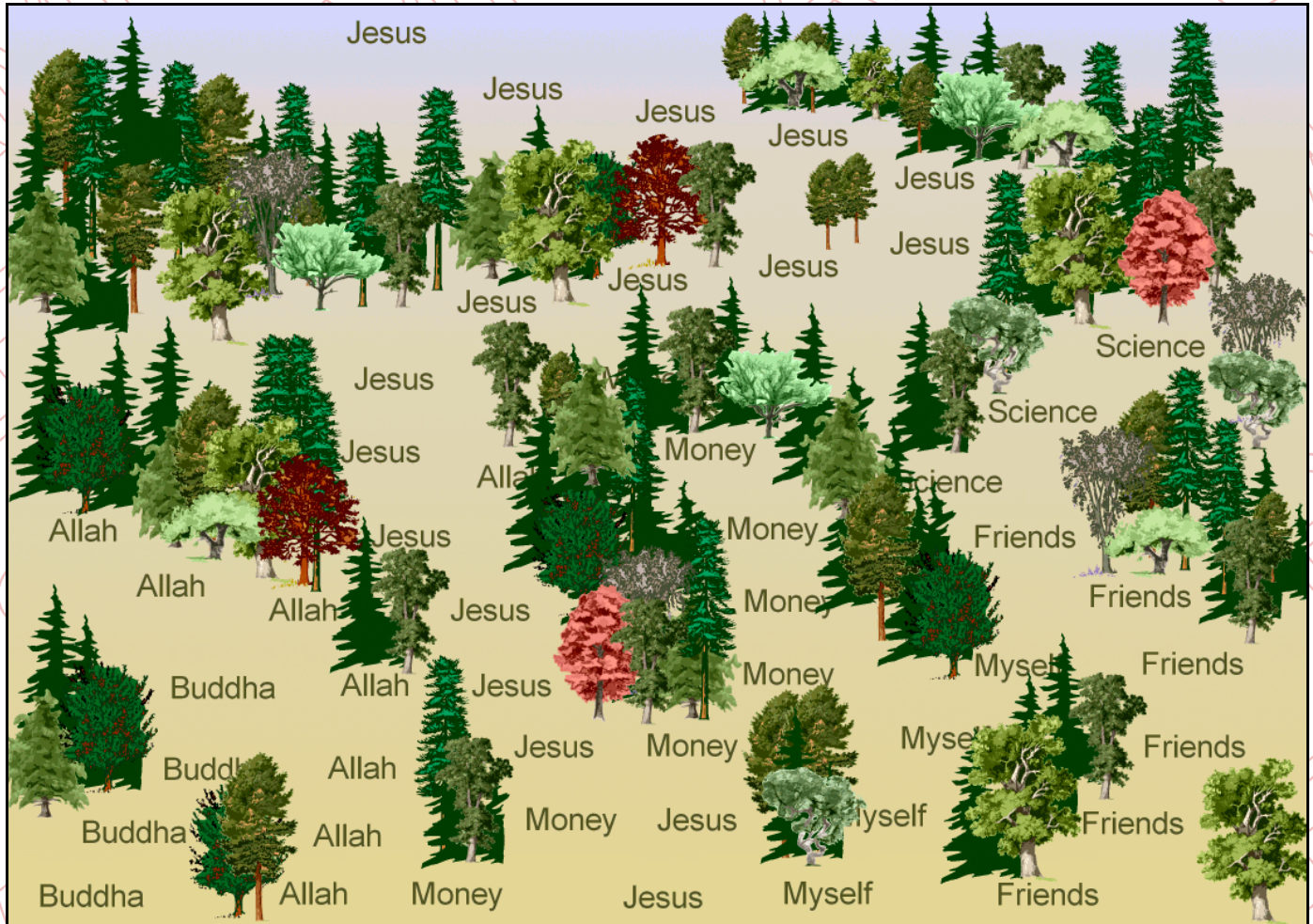
[Jesus says,] “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a

robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them.

Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 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.”

Do the following exercise to see how Jesus is the only way to heaven. Start on the bottom and follow each word and see if it will take you through the forest.



Notice some of the other “paths” or “ways” by which some people think they can be saved. Discuss some of them:

- Buddha
- Allah
- Money
- Myself
- Friends

### Jesus the Way

Only Jesus is the Way which leads us to the heavenly Father and to heaven. Jesus is the only Way because Jesus is the only Person Who died for the sins of the world. Remember, this is what makes Jesus the “good” shepherd. Jesus alone has laid down His life for His sheep.

Jesus the Shepherd took on our sins and died in our place. He suffered and died for original sin and for all the actual sins that we have ever done!

**Read the following passage that shows how Jesus died for us wandering sheep; discuss the underlined phrases with your teacher:**

**Isaiah 53: 5-7**

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

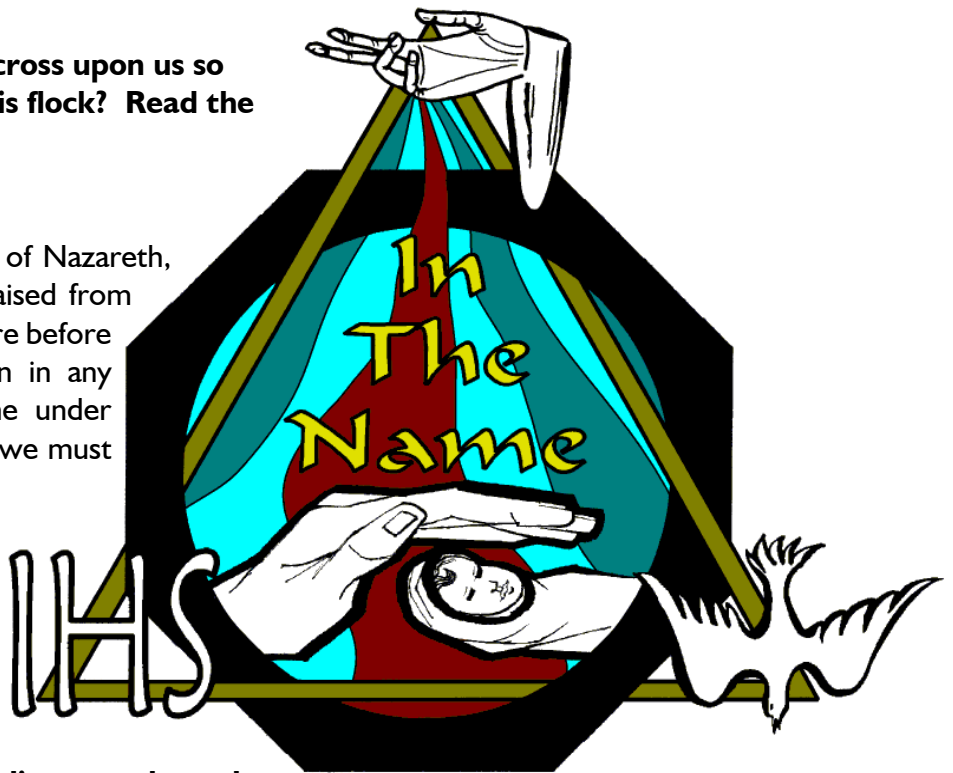
## The Door into Jesus' Flock

How then does Jesus stamp His cross upon us so that we might become part of His flock? Read the following passage:

### Acts 4: 10-12

By the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole...Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Yes, it is “by the name” of Jesus – and in the name of Jesus alone! – that we are saved.



Now read the following verses to discover where the name of Jesus is given to you. Circle the word “name,” and underline the other word that repeats in every passage:



### Matthew 28: 19

[Jesus said,] “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

### Acts 2: 38

Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

### Acts 10: 48

And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.

### Acts 19: 5

When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

### Acts 22: 16

[Ananias said,] “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”



## Holy Baptism

Sometimes when you go to a club, or a concert, or a festival, you will get a stamp on your hand when you go in. That stamp means that you have paid for entrance. If you leave, you can come back. The doorkeeper will see the stamp and let you back in.

Baptism is the same thing. Jesus Christ has paid our way into heaven with His own blood. And He stamps us with His name so that we are allowed into heaven.

In the beginning of each Divine Service, the pastor says "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

By doing this, the pastor acts as the "doorkeeper" who calls us to remember that we have the stamp which allows us into the presence of the Lord. A good way to remind yourself of this stamp is to cross yourself when you hear the pastor say these words.

### Activity: Word Search

Discover the words we learned today in the word search using the clues given:

1. Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_, the truth, and the life.

2. Holy \_\_\_\_\_ is the Door by which we enter the Church.

3. Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ is stamped upon us.

4. We are bought and redeemed by Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ which He shed for us.

5. Holy Baptism \_\_\_\_\_ all our sins.

6. The name is the name of the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, and the Holy \_\_\_\_\_.

7. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the doorkeeper who reminds us of the name stamped on us.

8. Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ by which we enter into the flock

D	R	O	T	S	A	P	S
R	E	N	A	M	E	E	R
T	H	O	L	S	V	N	I
S	T	I	R	I	P	S	D
F	A	W	G	T	A	R	O
O	F	R	W	P	G	O	O
S	O	N	D	A	P	O	L
F	R	I	S	B	Y	D	B



## I am the Light of the World



### Introduction

In the first lesson, we learned that Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He laid down His life for the sheep to protect them from the wolf. That is, He died for all our sins.

In the second lesson, we learned that Jesus is the only Way to heaven. He is the only Door which opens up into heaven. We also learned that the Way or Door into heaven is Holy Baptism. Baptism forgives all our sins.

Today we learn how Jesus lights the way to heaven. Let us imagine being a sheep who has wandered away into the forest far away from the flock. Jesus the Good Shepherd has found us, and He is going to lead us back to the flock.

Let us imagine it is the middle of the night and that it is very dark in the forest. If Jesus is going to lead us, He will need to give us light.

Jesus is the Light of the World. He leads the way to heaven by this Light.

### Jesus the Light

Listen to this passage which speaks of Jesus being the Light of the World:

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Based on the following passages, how do the following passages explain the picture above?

Psalm 119: 1-5 – Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

John 1: 14 – The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

John 8: 12 – "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

## The Darkness

Jesus is the Light of the world because the world is a very dark place. Jesus says, "the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed."

People love darkness because it hides their sins. Most crime happens at night! But when Jesus talks of darkness, He means all sin that happens anytime, even during the day.

Circle the things below that make the world a dark world.

DEATH

HATRED

Rules

OUTER SPACE

LOVE

GOOD

Crime

GREED

WAR

Jesus

OCEANS

Other gods

PARENTS

SATAN

NIGHTTIME

Fun

SIN

ANIMALS

Daytime

FORESTS

## Law and Gospel

Jesus is a light in our dark world of sin, crime, death, and hatred. How is Jesus a light in this world? He shows us the sin of the world, and He shows us that He is a Savior of the world.

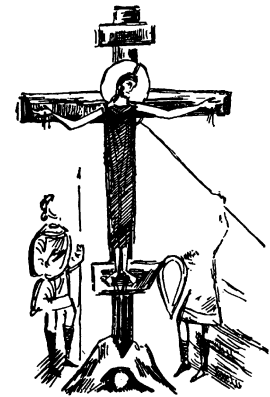


### LAW

The Law shows us our sins.

S.O.S.

Show Our Sins  
Show Our Savior



### GOSPEL

The Gospel shows us our Savior.

The Law shows us that we are sinners. We may believe that we do not need a Savior, but then God's Law shows us that we break all God's laws. For example, God's Law says, "Thou shalt not kill." We might not think that we have ever killed someone, but Jesus says that if we are angry with our brother, we break this commandment.

When we learn that we are sinners, Jesus also shows us the Light of the Gospel. What is the

Gospel? The Gospel is the good news that Jesus died on the cross for all our sins. When we feel sorry in the darkness of our sins, the Good News shines in us and comforts us. All our sins were paid for by Jesus at the cross.

The Law shows us that we are sinners. The Gospel shows us that Jesus died for all our sins.

**Think about the following questions and fill in the following blanks:**

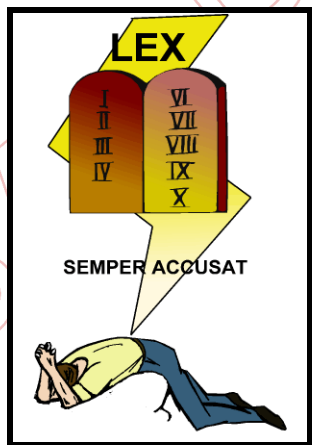
If there were no Law, we would not know that we are \_\_\_\_\_.

If there were no Gospel, we would not know that we have a \_\_\_\_\_.

Which is better, the Law or the Gospel?

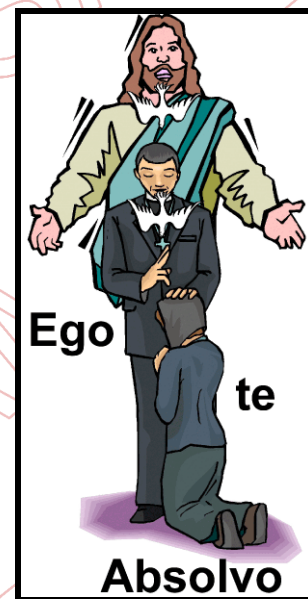
### Law or Gospel?

**Look at the following situations and decide whether it needs Law or Gospel:**



This says, "The Law always accuses."

1. Mom tells her son Todd to clean his bedroom. Todd refuses to and instead goes out to play baseball.
2. Two children are walking down the street and see a stop sign. One of the children stops. The other keeps on walking.
3. Melanie has broken a window in her house. She feels very bad and is so afraid that her dad will punish her. Her dad comes home and she tells him what she did.



This says, "I absolve (or forgive) you."

4. William talks with his friend Jenny about how he goes to church and Sunday school every week. He tells her that he is so good, how he sings the best, and how he gives money all the time for alms.
5. Nicole just had a baby. She is holding the baby and hopes that the baby is safe with Jesus. She wonders what she should do with the baby to save him.
6. Andrew just said something really mean to Paul. Paul is so upset that he is crying. Andrew now feels bad. He says that he is sorry to Paul.

7. Ashley tells Julie about sin, and shows her the Ten Commandments. Julie says she never sins. She has not broken any of the commandments. Julie says that she must be perfect.

8. A mom and dad sit at the table. They talk about how they never go to church. They feel bad and think that it is time for them to go to church. But they wonder if they will be accepted.

9. A pastor gives out the Lord's Body and Blood to members of the church.

**Now look at the following passages. Determine if they are Law or Gospel:**

Isaiah 43: 11 – I, even I, am the LORD, And besides Me there is no savior.

Colossians 3: 6 – Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience.

Luke 2: 11 – For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Ephesians 1: 7 – In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.

Psalms 21: 9 – You shall make them as a fiery oven in the time of Your anger; The LORD shall swallow them up in His wrath, And the fire shall devour them.

Jeremiah 10: 10 – But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth will tremble, And the nations will not be able to endure His indignation.

John 3: 16 – For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Acts 22: 16 – “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

Luke 22: 20 – Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.”

John 20: 22-23 – “And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’”



# I am the Bread of Life. I am the True Vine.

### Review:

1 <sup>st</sup> Day	Jesus is the Good Shepherd
2 <sup>nd</sup> Day	Jesus is the Way; Jesus is the Door
3 <sup>rd</sup> Day	Jesus is the Light of the World

### Introduction

Today we learn two new “I Am”s. “I am the True Vine” and “I am the Bread of Life.” Vines produce grapes. Grapes make wine. What happens with bread and wine in church?

In church, the pastor takes the bread and says, “This is My Body.” He then takes the wine and says, “This is My Blood.” This is called the Lord’s Supper. Jesus gives His Body and Blood to forgive our sins.

### Read about the Bread of Life:

#### Jesus the Bread of Life

Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me will never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”

Some people complained that Jesus said this.

Jesus therefore said to them, “Do not complain. I tell you the truth, he who believes in Me will go to heaven. I am the bread of life. When you eat this bread, you will not die. I am the living bread. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. The bread that I will give is My flesh. I will give my flesh for the life of the world.”

Some people said, “How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?”

Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life. I will raise him up at the last day.”



## Discussion

1. What happens if you eat Jesus' flesh and blood?
2. Where do we eat Jesus' flesh and blood?

### Now read about the True Vine:

[Jesus says,] "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. The Father cuts off any branch that does not produce fruit. He also prunes branches so that they might produce more fruit. A branch cannot produce fruit unless it is in the vine. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who lives in Me produces much fruit because I am in him. You cannot do anything without Me. If anyone is not in Me, He will be a branch that withers and dies."



## Discussion

1. How does a branch live in the vine?
2. How do we live in Jesus?
3. What kind of fruit do we bear if we live in Jesus?
4. Can a branch bear any fruit if it is not in Jesus? What does this mean for us?

### Living in Christ

In the Lord's Supper, we live in Christ. We are in Him; He is in us. We are His house. He lives in us with His love. He puts into us His Body and Blood. His Body and Blood give us His love and forgiveness.

What does it feel like to be close to someone you love? Jesus is so close to us that He is in us, and we are in Him.

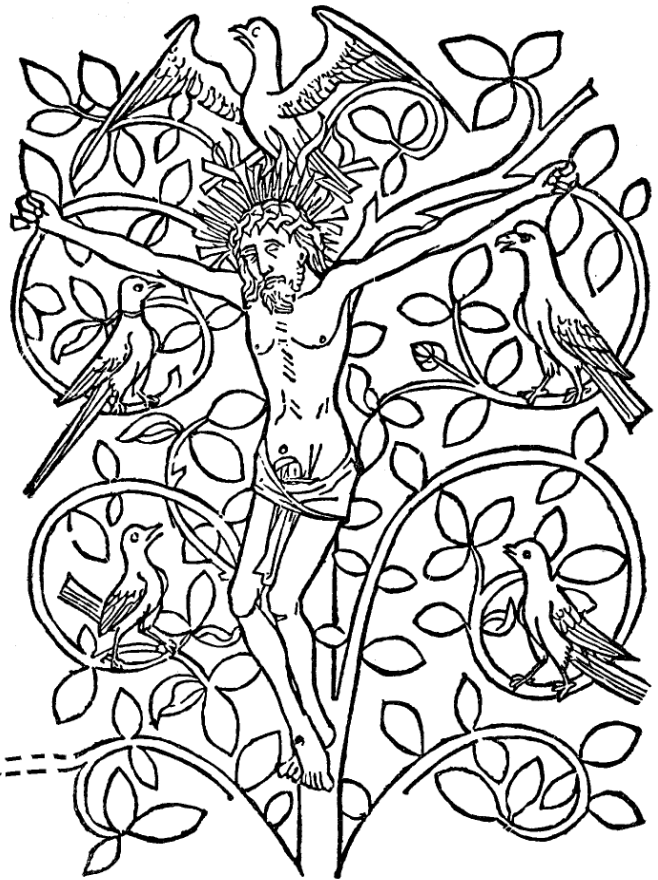
Draw a branch from the vine on the cross to the bunch of grapes. Write your name on the branch. Now in the space below list some of the fruits which are produced when we live in Christ.

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# I Am the Resurrection and the Life



Jesus had three friends, Lazarus, Mary, and her sister Martha. Lazarus became very sick, so Mary and Martha sent a message to Jesus that said, “Lord, the one that you love is sick.”

Jesus said to His disciples, “Let us go to see Lazarus. He is sleeping, and I go to wake him up.”



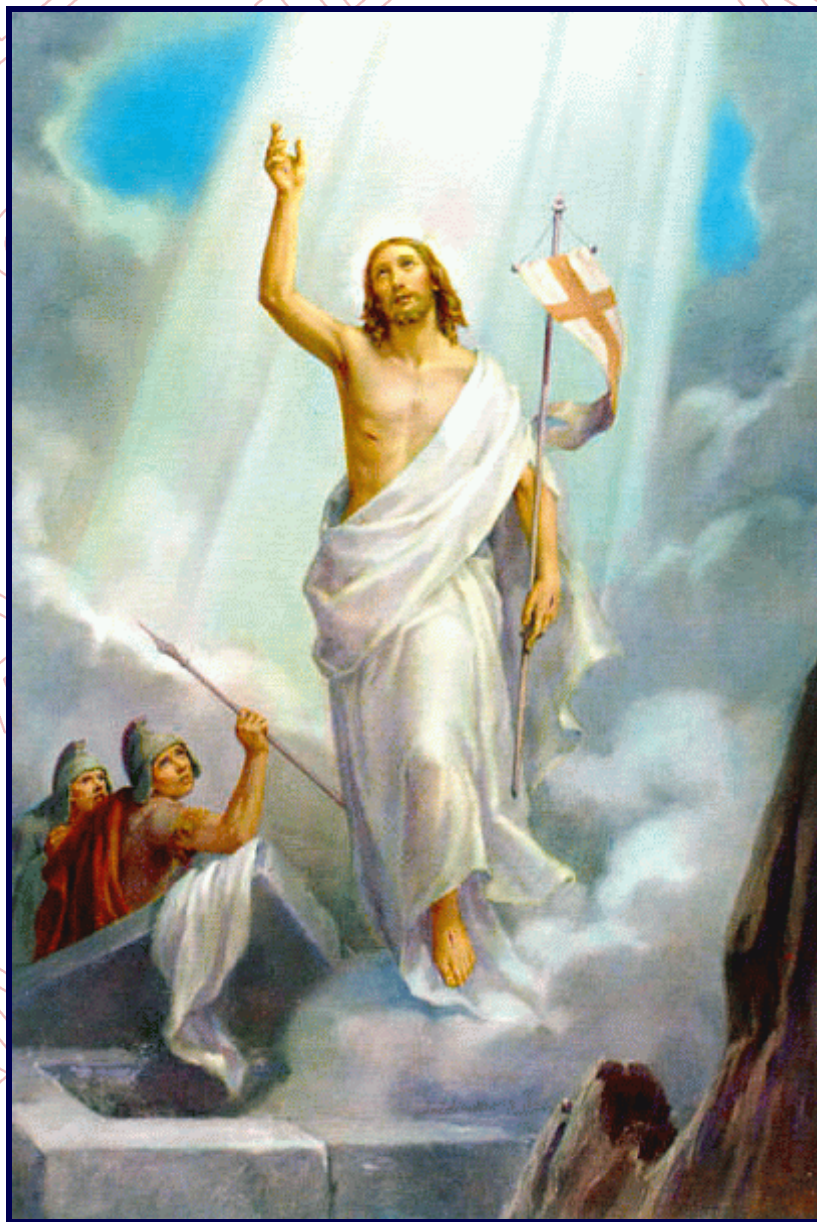
The disciples said, “Lord, if he is sleeping, he will wake up soon.”

Jesus then said,  
“Lazarus is dead.”

So Jesus and the disciples went to go see Lazarus. Lazarus was in the tomb for four days. When Jesus arrived, Martha came out to him.

She said, “Lord, if you had been here, Lazarus would not have died. But I know that whatever you ask God, He will give you.”

Jesus said, “Your brother will rise again.”

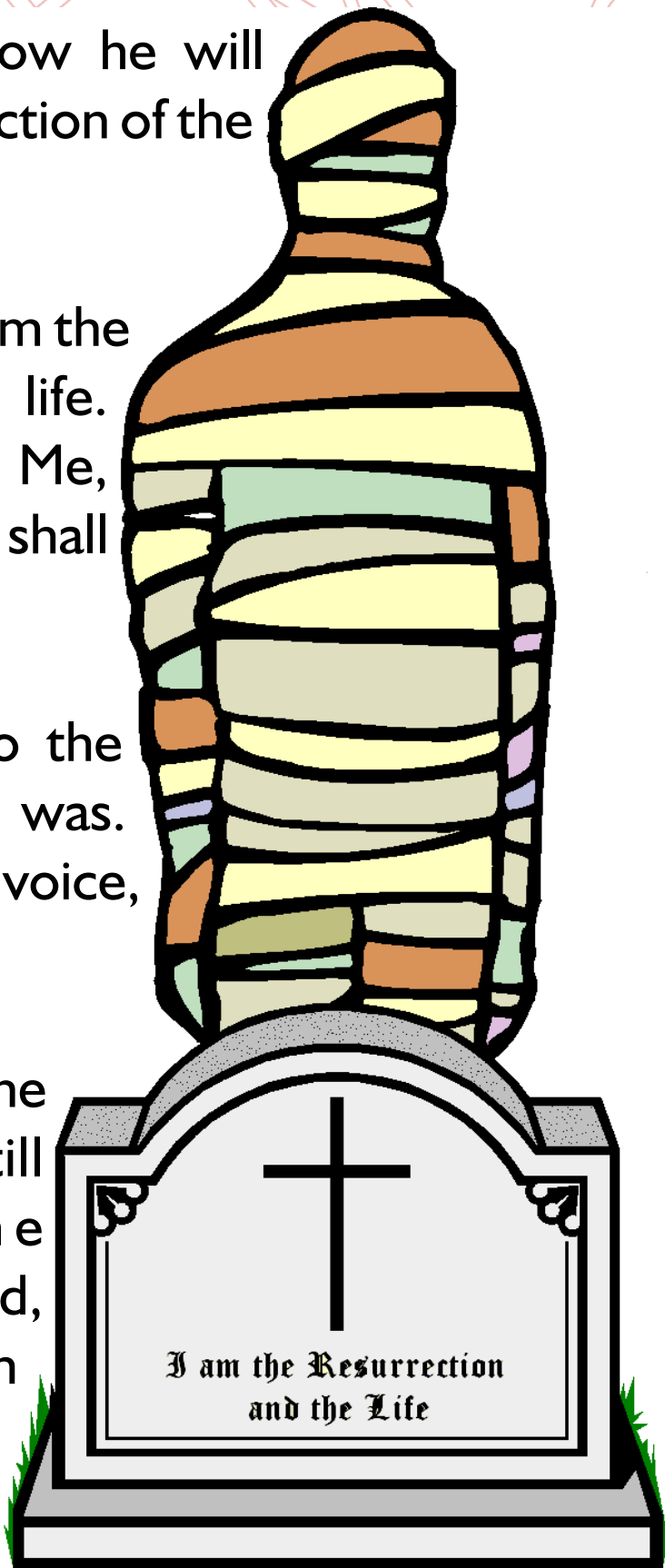


Martha said, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection of the dead."

Then Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."

Jesus went over to the tomb where Lazarus was. He called in a loud voice, "Lazarus! Come out!"

Then Lazarus came out. He was still wrapped in the graveclothes. Jesus said, "Loose him, and let him go."



One day Jesus will raise us from the dead too. We are the ones whom Jesus loves, and He will come and raise all those who believe in Him. We will be with Him forever. We will never cry again. There will be no sin, no pain, no sadness, and no more death.



# Chapel Service Sample

## Friday Prayer

Pastor: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Children: Amen.**

Pastor: O Lord, open my lips.

**Children: And my mouth will declare your praise.**

### From Psalm 16

Pastor: Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust.

**Children: O my soul, you have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, My goodness is nothing apart from You."**

Pastor: As for the saints who are on the earth, "They are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight."

**Children: The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; Yes, I have a good inheritance.**

Pastor: I will bless the LORD who has given me counsel; My heart also instructs me in the night seasons.

**Children: I have set the LORD always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.**

Pastor: Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope.

**Children: For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.**

Pastor: You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### Hymn

Scripture Reading

The Apostles' Creed

Message

Lord's Prayer

Prayers

Benediction

*I am the Shepherd* [back page]

John 11: 1-45

[back page]

*I am the Resurrection*

# Sample of Hymn for the Week

## I am the Shepherd

(C.M., or the tune of "Thou art the Way; to Thee alone")

1. I am the Shepherd, Good and True  
Each lamb by name I know;  
I give my life that they may live  
And to the cross I go.
2. I am the Way, the Truth, the Life  
My Name alone shall save;  
So great My Father's love for you  
His Son to you He gave.
3. I am the Door into the flock  
By Me you enter in;  
Be baptized and believe in Me  
And wash away your sin.
4. I am the Light in a dark world  
I give sight to the blind;  
By Law and Gospel, Truth is  
known,  
The path that sinners find.
5. I am the Bread of Life for you  
My flesh is food indeed;  
Forgiveness and eternal life  
My Supper there I feed.
6. I am the Vine abide in Me  
And fruit you too will bear;  
Without Me you can nothing do.  
Our union is My prayer.
7. I am the Resurrection and  
The Life forevermore;  
He who believes in Me shall live  
And death shall reign no more.

# Puppet Show Sample Script

## Day Two – I Am the Way, Truth, and Life; I Am the Door

[Jessie wants to go inside the house, but Nickolai is blocking the way. He won't let Jessie go past him until she gives him the password.]

Jessie (trying to get by Nickolai): Excuse me, Nickolai, I want to go inside. I've had enough fun and play for the afternoon...C'mon Nickolai, let me in!... Nickolai! Why are you blocking my way? Let me in!

Nickolai: Nope! You can't come by me unless you know the password.

J: What??!! A password??!! I've never needed a password to get into my own house. Get outta my way, hairball!

[Nickolai keeps blocking Jessie]

J: Nickolai! I insist that you stop this! I want to go inside.

Nickolai: Sorry, ma'am. I need to know the password.

J: Password??!! Grrrrrrr!

N: O, C'mon, Jessie, play with me. I want to play "spy."

J: You want to play "spy" huh? OK. I'll play along...

N: Sorry, ma'am. I need to know the password before I can let you by.

J: OK, I think I know the password...hmmmm...I think it's coming to me...ummmm...Oh, I got it...GET OUT OF MY BLASTED WAY OR I'LL HANG YOU FROM THE TOP OF THAT TELEPHONE POLE BY YOUR BACK PAWS!!!

N: Sorry, ma'am, that's not the password. Please try again. You have two more tries or else you'll be removed by the authorities.

J: The authorities, eh? OK, let me try again. I don't want to be taken away by your authorities, Nickolai...How about... *Pretty please, with sugar on top, would you please let me by, you adorable little fuzzy pup?*

N: Sorry, ma'am, that's not the password. That was more of a pass-sentence. I need a passWORD, please, ma'am. You have one more chance.

J: OK, OK...let me think... passWORD...just one word. Oh, duh! I got it! How could I have missed this one! I should have known who I'm dealing with: Nickolai, the most self-absorbed dog on the block! What other word could possibly be the password but...NICKOLAI.

N: How did you guess??!! How did you know that *that* was the password? You cheated!

J: Get outta my way. I said the password. Now you have to be true to your word and let me by!

N: Awww, that's no fun!

J: Well, Nickolai, come inside with me. What just happened reminds me of something that I want to talk to you about.

N: [Sighs] OK.

[The dogs walk off the stage and then pop back up on the stage, now inside their home.]

J: What just happened reminds me of something that Jesus says. Actually, it reminds me of two things Jesus says.

N: What, "Get out of my blasted way!"?

J: No, Jesus never said that. But Jesus says, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no one gets to the Father but through Me." And He also says, "I am the Door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved."

N: Ah, I see. So you're saying that I was like Jesus?

J: Don't get a big head. Jesus isn't as infuriating as you.

N: What, then, does Jesus need a password before we can get into heaven?

J: Not really a password. But it's sort of like how I couldn't get into the house without knowing your name. Jesus teaches us that the only way we can get into heaven is by His Name.

N: So we just have to say the magic word, "Jesus" and we'll get into heaven?

J: There's a little more to it than that. Jesus is the only Name by which we get into heaven because Jesus is the only Person Who has made it possible for us to go to heaven. No other names will get you into heaven.

N: No other names will get us into heaven? What about "Bob"?

J: Nope. Bob didn't do the things Jesus did to get you into heaven.

N: What about "Buddha" or "Allah." Will those names get us into heaven?

J: You mean those false gods of the Buddhists and the Muslims? Nope, Nickolai. Those false gods did not die on the cross for you or rise from the dead. Only Jesus did that. Jesus is the ONLY Name by which anyone can go to heaven.

N: Oh, I see...and that's how Jesus is the Door. Jesus is the Door which opens up into heaven.

J: Yup! So, Nickolai. Do you know where Jesus gives His Name out to all the children here? Do you know where Jesus marks His Name on them so that they can pray to Him and call upon Him?

N: I know. But let's see if the children know. Do any of you know where Jesus puts His Name upon you that gets you to heaven?

[When the children answer "Baptism," the skit concludes...]

N: That's right! In Holy Baptism, Jesus gives us the "secret password" so that we can get into heaven. Jessie...do you want to play "spy" again now?

J: After all that excitement, Nickolai, I think I need a nap!