

"I am" – who was Jesus?	KS2	No. of lessons: 3-4
Learning objectives: To engage with some of the Biblical titles and descriptions of Jesus which are popular with Christians, and explore what these teach about the beliefs Christians have about Jesus.		
Questions for reflection: What nickname would I like to be called by, so that others know what kind of person I am?		
Activities and experiences: <i>This unit looks at the seven famous "I am" sayings in John's Gospel. These are: chapter 6 verse 35 the bread of life; chapter 8 verse 12 the light of the world; chapter 10 verse 9 the door; chapter 10 verse 14 the good shepherd; chapter 11 verse 25 the resurrection and the life; chapter 14 verse 6 the way, the truth and the life; chapter 15 verse 1 the true vine.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Talk together about nicknames people are given, or how pop groups chose their names – how these show something about a person's personality, interests or history. Are there any local / school examples? ◆ Ask each pupil to make a mind-map to show who they are e.g. as pairs take it in turns to ask "Who are you" and each time the partner must give a different answer ("I am.....") which is added to their chart. Pupils can talk about their friends, families, religion, hobbies, behaviour etc to answer the question. When finished, encourage the partners to help each other think of a metaphor for themselves to use as a title to the chart, and which seems to sum up their personalities (I am a storm cloud because.....) ◆ As a class discuss some of the things you know Christians believe about Jesus. Divide the class into 14 small groups/pairs and give each small group a Bible reference for one of the "I am" sayings to look up (i.e. each saying is given out twice). The group creates another mind-map together to help explain what they think Jesus means by using this metaphorical title – when doing this it will usually help if they read a few verses after the "I am saying. Each of the sayings explains something special about Jesus' relationship with believers. Link with stories about Jesus or Christians which help to illustrate the saying e.g. feeding the 5000 (bread), healing the blind (light), miracles of raising the dead (resurrection), Last Supper (true vine & bread of life) –see life of Jesus list for references. What do you need to research about life in Palestine at the time of Jesus to help explain the saying? (E.g. what is a vine like and how is it looked after?) <p>Use the information gathered for each group to create either a church banner or a stained glass window design which illustrates their understanding of Jesus' teaching. Make a display for the church or assembly hall – suitably annotated to explain the reasoning and meaning behind the design.</p>		
Websites: There is a crossword based on the I am sayings at http://www.christiananswers.net/kids/crswd-2.html which can be printed off and used to test out pupils' ability to locate Bible references. For the banners and stained glass, key the different sayings into Google Images where you will find some interesting examples. There's a set of sermons on the sayings at http://www.abideinchrist.com/messages/jesuiamseries.html which will give you useful background information – but not one for your pupils!		