



# Who Am I?

A DEVOTIONAL FOR A  
JESUS-CENTERED  
SCHOOL YEAR

Cindy Barrineau Curtis

WHO AM I?  
A Devotional for a  
Jesus-Centered School Year

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South Carolina United Methodist Advocate Press

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# Table of Contents

Introduction.....	6
<b>August/September: I Am the True Vine</b>	
Week 1 Be Ready.....	9
Week 2 Mistakes.....	10
Week 3 Beginnings.....	11
Week 4 Persevere.....	12
Week 5 Problems.....	13
<b>October: I Am the Good Shepherd</b>	
Week 6 New.....	17
Week 7 Temptations.....	18
Week 8 Loneliness.....	19
Week 9 Defeat.....	20
<b>November: I Am the Light of the World</b>	
Week 10 Joy.....	23
Week 11 Justice.....	24
Week 12 Love.....	25
Week 13 Darkness.....	26
<b>December: I Am the Gate for the Sheep</b>	
Week 14 Light.....	29
Week 15 Pathways.....	30
Week 16 Speak.....	31
<b>January/February: I Am the Bread of Life</b>	
Week 17 Follow or Lead.....	35
Week 18 Courage.....	36
Week 19 Life.....	37
Week 20 Discrimination.....	38
Week 21 Acceptance.....	39
Week 22 Boundaries.....	40
<b>March/April: I Am the Resurrection and the Life</b>	
Week 23 Struggles.....	43
Week 24 Reset.....	44
Week 25 Truth.....	45
Week 26 Listen.....	46

Week 27 Look and See..... 47  
Week 28 Trust ..... 48  
Week 29 Fear..... 49  
Week 30 Peace..... 50

May/June: I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life

Week 31 Journey ..... 53  
Week 32 Frustration ..... 54  
Week 33 Hope..... 55  
Week 34 Bittersweet ..... 56  
Week 35 Decisions ..... 57  
Week 36 Freedom..... 58

About the Author ..... 61

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# Introduction

In the Gospel of John, we learn the beautiful messages of Jesus as the I Am. He clearly tells us who he is, and helps us to discover who we are in him.

As you navigate the school year, you can follow the devotions week by week, or you can skip to topics that apply to what you are going through.

A suggested reading schedule includes reading the entire chapter from which the focus verse is taken. Some students find reading the devotion before school on Monday sets the tone for the week. They read the whole chapter, a bit at a time, on the other weekday mornings.

Finding hope, peace, love, and joy in the Lord grounds you and helps define who you are as a child of the one true king.

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# August/September

## I Am The True Vine



*“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.  
He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch  
that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.  
You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.  
Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit  
by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit  
unless you remain in me.”*  
—John 15:1-4 NIV

# Week 1

## Be Ready

How do you get ready for the school year? What do you focus on most? How do you manage all the things you feel you have to do to be ready?

Sometimes the nervous energy you may feel can be a help. You might start by making a list of things you need, want, or wish you could have. The problem with a list like that is you have to be real, right? Other times, it can feel overwhelming. Maybe it causes you to focus on what you lack instead of what you have. Maybe it causes you to look back at last year's mistakes instead of looking forward to a fresh start.

We all need time to reset, refocus, and be ready to accept the changes we can make. Each new school year offers hope, grace, and a chance to start again on a new path.

*“Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching.”—2 Timothy 4:2 (NLT)*

## Week 2

### Mistakes

Are you allowing yourself to make mistakes? Can you let go of your inner critic? How can you learn from a mistake instead of beating yourself up over it?

When you mess up, the hardest thing to do is own it. But once you do, you free yourself to accept what happened and move on. Sometimes it requires you to apologize. Sometimes it requires you to forgive. And sometimes it means asking for and accepting help.

Most of all, it requires taking good care of yourself during the moving-on time.

Remember, we all make mistakes. We all need the promises of God to get us through them.

*“So be humble under God’s powerful hand. Then he will lift you up when the right time comes. Give all your worries to him, because he cares for you.”—1 Peter 5:6-7 (ERV)*



## About the Author

Cindy Barrineau Curtis is a master teacher, published author, and motivational speaker. Her career spans more than 30 years in education, ministry, writing, and speaking. Her nonfiction writing offers hope and empowers readers with methods to manage life's ups and downs with confidence and grace. She runs IwriteYouwrite LLC, offering writing practice and support to teachers, authors, and aspiring writers. She is available to speak to your group. Contact her at [iwriteyouwrite.com](http://iwriteyouwrite.com) and [mrsindycurtis@gmail.com](mailto:mrsindycurtis@gmail.com).