



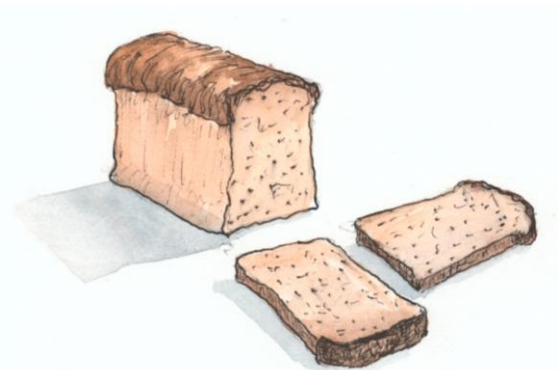
Progressive Christianity Study Series

Study Number 003

**“Jesus: The I AM
Metaphors”**

Sincere thanks to the inimitable Doug
Thomson for the artwork on page 2.





"I am the bread of life. The one who comes to me shall never hunger, and the one who believes in me shall never thirst" (John 6:35).

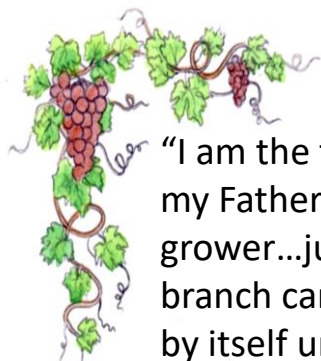


"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep...I am the good shepherd; and I know my sheep, and am known by my own." (John 10:11, 14).



"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

Choose your metaphor



"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower...just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches" (John 15:1-5)



"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live" (John 11:25).

"I am the gate for the sheep. All who ever came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the gate. If anyone enters by me, they will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture" (John 10:7-9).



"I am the light of the world. The one who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life" (John 8:12).



Invitation to reflection

1. Jesus is referred to using many metaphors: Lamb of God, Word of God, Son of God. In the Gospel of John, Jesus self-describes in seven different ways with the famous “I am” statements. Read each of these statements slowly, and reflect on the metaphorical imagery employed. Which metaphors most resonate with you, and why?
2. What questions do the metaphors raise for you? Allow yourself to follow the thread of these questions and see where it leads.
3. Some of the metaphors seem to describe different aspects of the same reality (e.g. the gate by which the sheep enter safe pasture, and the shepherd who safeguards them). Might the different metaphors for Jesus fit together in some way, creating some form of narrative? How might such a narrative link with your own journey?

