SAMPLE



Thank you for downloading this FREE SAMPLE of the DNowStudies 4-session Bible Study, *Trreplaceable*.

Irreplaceable is an amazing resource for your DNow or Retreat weekend. By leading your student through this study, you'll not only challenge them to live out their faith in a powerful way, you'll equip them to do it long after your event is over.

Before jumping into this sample, make sure you check out all the amazing features that **DNow-Studies** puts at your fingertips. There really is nothing else like it anywhere...

What You'll Find In This Sample

- A Sample of a Small Group Lesson Plan
- A Sample of the Student Book
- A short version of the *Irreplaceable* Overviews

Of course each of these components, and dozens more, are available to your teachers through their Online Lesson Manager. This PDF simply gives you an idea of the main content of *Irreplaceable*.

If you have questions, email us at **dnow@leadertreks.com**. Or, give us a call at **1-877-502-0699**.





Did you know that Small Group Content is just one of the many components you have access to with the purchase of a **DNow** study?

DNowStudies gives you the resources you need to create transformational DNow or Retreat Weekends. Take a look at what's included in your purchase of *Irreplaceable*.

- Large Group Speaker Outlines
- Large Group Videos
- Large Group Motion Background/Loop
- Large Group PowerPoint Slides
- Promotional Tools: Web Banner/Poster Files
- Promotional Tools: Promo Videos
- Parent Resources

Throw in built-in **Tools and Training** for you and ALL your leaders, a streamlined Teacher Management tool, and of course your Small Group Lesson Plans and you begin to see how DNowStudies really can help make your Disciple Now and/or Retreat Weekend exceptional.

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Soft T-Shirts

Themed to complete your event.

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4 weeks of interactive content to keep students growing beyond the event.



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ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTES

Who is Jesus?

For many of us, this feels like an easy question to answer. After all, we're called to spend our lives following him and becoming more like him. But do we really know who we're following? How can we be more like Christ if we don't even know who Christ is?

Thankfully, Jesus makes it clear who he is. In the book of John, he tells us through a series of "I Am" statements that he is (among other things) the Way and the Truth and the Life, the Bread of Life, the Good Shepherd, and the Light of the World. Knowing who Jesus is and believing in him is the only way God changes our lives. It can be easy to substitute our own logic or the world's pleasures for the true life Jesus offers. We think we can earn salvation. We believe we can provide for and take care of ourselves. We linger in the darkness of our sins. But as we dive into Jesus' "I Am" statements, we will discover that what Jesus offers is much better: himself. Jesus is irreplaceable!

That's what this DNow event is all about: accepting no substitutes for Jesus, the only one who can offer true salvation, full satisfaction, and abundant life.

SMALL GROUP OVERVIEW

Small Group Session 1

- Session Title: He's Got the Answers
- Main Scripture Passages: Isaiah 53:3-5, Acts 4:12, Colossians 3:9-10
- **Session Overview:** The goal of this session is to help you and your students understand the uniqueness of Christ and think about how we can truly be right with God. Students will reflect on what they've believed in the past and what to change going forward so they can experience new life in Christ (if they aren't already a Christ-follower).

Small Group Session 2

- Session Title: He's Got What You Need
- Main Scripture Passages: Exodus 16:14–20, Matthew 26:26, Isaiah 55:1–3
- Session Overview: The goal of this session is to help you and your students understand that nothing else can satisfy a person except the Lord—the Bread of Life. It's tempting to run to substitute things that fill us up temporarily, but because God made us and knows us perfectly, he knows that only he will truly fill us and give us life eternally.



ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTES

Small Group Session 3

• Session Title: He's Got Your Back

• Main Scripture Passages: Isaiah 53:4–7, Isaiah 40:10–14, Mark 1:16–20

• **Session Overview:** The goal of this session is to help you and your students understand the importance of hearing and following Jesus' voice. It's easy to get distracted and follow the voices of the people and culture around us, but if we train ourselves to hear Jesus' voice, we'll be guided safely under his care.

Small Group Session 4

• Session Title: He's Got a Mission

• Main Scripture Passages: Psalm 119:129–130, Matthew 5:14–16, 1 Peter 2:9–10

• **Session Overview:** The goal of this session is to help you and your students understand how to shine Christ's light into the dark world. They'll discover that the theme of shining Christ's light occurs throughout the Bible, and they'll think about how they can shine the light of Jesus to others in this world, helping dispel the darkness around them.

LARGE GROUP OVERVIEW

Large Group Session 1: John 14:6 Large Group Session 2: John 6:35, 51 Large Group Session 3: John 10:11, 14 Large Group Session 4: John 8:12

STUDENT BOOK DEVOTIONAL OVERVIEW

Devotional 1: Romans 8:1–11 Devotional 2: John 4:1–14, 31–34

Devotional 3: John 10:1–18 Devotional 4: John 1:1–14

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE



Session 1: He's Got the Answers



HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

GOAL:

The goal of this lesson is twofold:

- 1. This small group lesson is designed to help you and your students understand the uniqueness of Christ and think about how we can truly be right with God. They will reflect on what they've believed in the past and what to change going forward so they can experience new life in Christ (if they aren't already a Jesus-follower).
- 2. It is also designed to make it easy for you to facilitate and teach students. That is why the Small Group Leader Guide is packed with easy-to-use instructions, timeframes, and questions that promote thinking and draw out real responses.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

- A copy of the Small Group Leader Guide for you and any other facilitators.
- A Student Book for each participant.
- Be sure to check out the Live It Out section ahead of time to prepare. You'll need:
 - pencils, a maze handout, and a maze answer key for each student (printable mazes and answer keys can be found at the end of this lesson)
 - optional: a timer

TEACHER PREP VIDEO:

Don't forget to take a minute and watch the teacher prep video found in your DNow Studies account. It's a short video that will take you through some of the need-to-knows before you dive into this lesson with students.

WHAT'S INCLUDED: Small Group Leader Guide or Student Book

This table outlines the parts of each lesson and provides an approximate timeframe that you can adapt to meet the needs of your group.

Lesson Elements (and brief description)	Included in Small Group Leader Guide	Included in Student Book	Approximate Timeframe
LARGE GROUP TALK REVIEW W/OPENING QUESTIONS Recap the teaching. Get discussion going by sharing answers from the end of the Large Group Talk.	√	✓	3–5 minutes
A SECOND LOOK A look at how the irreplaceable Christ impacts your everyday life–followed by discussion questions.	✓	✓	10–15 minutes
A LITTLE DEEPER Dig into Bible passages that were not in the Large Group Talk. See what else Scripture says about this topic.	√	(w/discussion questions)	10–15 minutes
LIVE IT OUT An experiential activity to help students reinforce and internalize the lesson–followed by discussion questions.	√		15–20 minutes
APPLY IT A practical application for students to do this week.	√	√	2–3 minutes
STUDENT DEVOTIONAL A short devotional for students to do on their own.		√	

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Small Group Session One: He's Got the Answers

THE FIRST MEETING

Since this is the first small group meeting for this event, take the time to lay the foundation for the whole event.

- If your students don't know each other, cover introductions and consider an icebreaker (see <u>leadertreks.org/freebies</u> for several icebreaker and team-building activities).
- Make sure to cover the schedule and ground rules for the event, especially if you are staying at a host home.
- Tell students why you are here. You are probably sacrificing some time and comfort to be a small group leader and, chances are, it's worth it! Let students know why you care so much about them and why you want to invest in them to help them grow. Tell students why you think they're great and why it's worth it for you to be a small group leader this weekend!

LARGE GROUP TALK REVIEW

Take a minute to review what students just learned in the Large Group Talk. Have them pull out their notes, and ask them to share what their answers were for the two questions found on page 4 of the Student Book (see below). Consider having students share their answers with a partner, and then ask for two or three volunteers who might want to share with the whole group.

Question 1: What thoughts or behaviors in your life are false, and what truth should you replace it with? (e.g., beliefs about God or the Bible, how you portray yourself on social media, what you say or think about others, etc.)

Question 2: Who can you talk to about any doubts you may have about Jesus' claim of being the only way to God the Father?

A SECOND LOOK

Read this story together and answer the following questions, found on page 6 of the Student Book.

Take a moment and imagine the best possible version of yourself, a version you think God would be pleased with. What would make you "good"? Maybe you'd regularly take communion and confess your sins, go to church every week, go on a short-term mission trip every summer, and donate food to the local food pantry every month. You would think you were pretty good, right? There's no doubt these are good things, but unfortunately, doing them does not make anyone a good person. Before Christ is our personal Savior, our "good deeds" are not good at all. They're done out of habit or tradition, maybe with some selfish motives thrown in. The Bible says "all our righteous acts are like filthy rags" (Is. 64:6 NIV)! We can never be clean enough or good enough for God to let us be in his presence without a sacrifice for our sin. Our good deeds don't impress God or compel him to love us more. Instead, God loves us because he chose to love us out of his grace. He chose to put your sin and punishment on his perfect Son, Jesus Christ—the one who was good enough for God—and instead give you the gift of Christ's righteousness so that you can have a personal relationship with him.

Discuss:

- What are ways you have, either consciously or subconsciously, tried to earn God's love and approval?
- How does it make you feel that you can't earn or work your way to a relationship with God and that it's simply a gift you have to receive?
- If Christ is already your personal Savior, what is the purpose of your good deeds?
- If you are a Jesus follower, how are you experiencing true life?

A LITTLE DEEPER

Even though we can't earn our way to God or do enough good deeds to make God love us more, we do have a clear path to God because of Jesus. Because of Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross, we can receive the free gift of salvation and be forgiven of our sin! We are offered a new life when we trust in Jesus as our personal Savior, since he is the way, the truth, and the life we are all searching for.

Read each Bible passage and answer the questions, found in the Student Book on pages 7 and 8:

ISAIAH 53:3-5

"He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed."

Discuss:

- How is Jesus described in this passage?
- Jesus suffered for you and for all his children. How does it make you feel that he went through this torture instead of you?

Say Something Like: Jesus is the suffering Savior—unlike any other savior the world has known—and fulfills all the prophecies of this passage.

ACTS 4:12

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

Background Note: In this passage, Peter is talking to a group of Jewish leaders who did not believe Jesus was the Messiah. Even though we don't know if a person we are talking to is saved or not, it's important to be upfront with them, telling them the truth of Jesus and the Gospel.

Discuss:

- Why is salvation only found in Jesus?
- What are we saved from?

Say Something Like: No one else who has ever lived or will live can save us from the punishment we deserve for our sins except Christ alone.

COLOSSIANS 3:9-10

"Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator."

Discuss:

- How does God help us take off the old self (sinful habits, thoughts, motivations, etc.) and put on our new self?
- If you are a child of God, what parts of your old self do you still need to get rid of?
- If you are a child of God, you are now living as your "new self." In what ways are you being renewed, becoming more like Christ?

Say Something Like: Once we are a child of God, we have a new life. Our actions, thoughts, and words are certainly not perfect right away, but God is constantly renewing and changing us to be more like Christ.

LIVE IT OUT: Maze of Life

What you'll need: pencils, a maze handout, and a maze answer key for each student. (Printable mazes and answer keys can be found at the end of this lesson.) Optional: a timer.

Say Something Like: Jesus says he is the only way to God. There are not many roads leading to forgiveness of sin, salvation, and an eternal relationship with God, but one road. Thankfully, the Bible clearly explains the gospel. Our job is to repent of our sins and believe that Jesus is the sacrifice in our place!

Instructions:

- 1. Pass out a maze handout and pencil to each student. Keep the answer keys hidden for now.
- 2. **Say something like:** Without the grace of God, we would be eternally lost in the maze of life. Our sin would let us wander aimlessly through life without ever finding the truth of Jesus. Our lives would be selfish and displeasing to God. You can complete the puzzle in front of you, but just as we only have a certain amount of time on earth, you will also have a 20-second time limit for the puzzle. Go!
- 3. Set a timer for 20 seconds. Once the timer goes off, they have to stop.
- 4. **Say something like:** You probably spent much of that time going down wrong paths and backtracking, not knowing which way to turn. Life, like this puzzle, can be overwhelming when the way to go is not clear! Thankfully, Jesus makes it clear in the Bible that he is the way to God. His death and resurrection paid the penalty we deserved, and if we trust that he is the perfect sacrifice in your place and repent of our sins, we will be forgiven, have a personal relationship with God himself, and enjoy him forever in heaven!
- 5. Now hand each student an answer key with the highlighted route. Give them another 20 seconds to complete the puzzle. They should easily be able to trace the route with their pencils.
- 6. **Say something like:** Once we know the way to God, we need to make an informed choice. Will we follow the clear path Jesus has given us to God, or will we ignore him and take our own path?

Debrief:

- Describe your experience of the first puzzle compared to the second.
- What paths have you tried going down in the past that have proved to be the wrong way? Can

- you give an example of what happened?
- If you don't already know Christ as your personal Savior, what specific step can you take today or this week to get you going on the right path?
- If you are a Christ follower, what specific step can you take today or this week to stay on the right path?

APPLY IT

Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life—the only way to God. Who can you tell about this salvation that's freely offered to everyone?

Be specific:

What are you going to do?
When are you going to do it?
Is there someone who can keep you accountable?

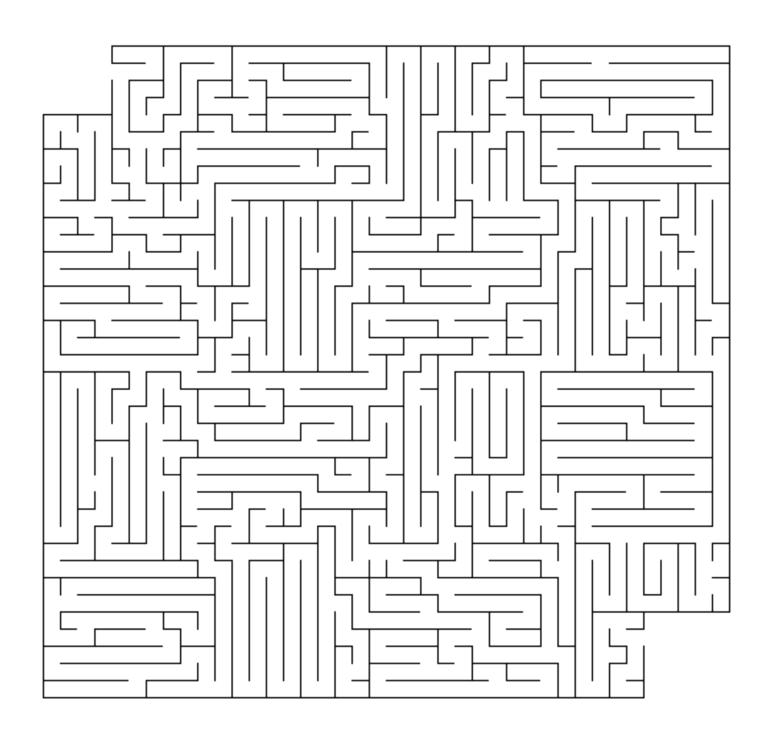
Leader's Note: Whenever students make applications, challenge them to be specific. It's one thing to say, "I'm going to trust God more." The truth is, our students won't really know if they did this, or if they grew in trust over the week. It's another thing to say, "Every morning this week before I eat breakfast, I'm going to tell God that today is his and that I trust him, and I'm going to ask him to give me the strength to replace worries with trust." Challenge your students to answer the questions under the "Be Specific" section. You can even have them pair up, share their applications, and ask for accountability from their partner.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Schedule: Let students know what's happening next in the schedule and what they need to do or bring with them.

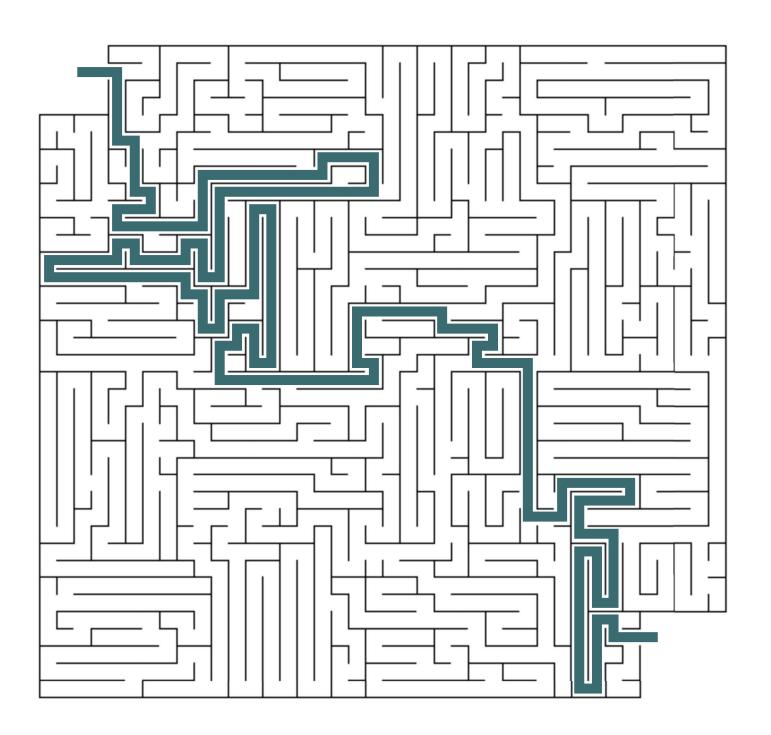
Student Devotional: The Student Book contains a short devotional for students to do on their own. Remember to point this out to students and let them know if and when this fits into the schedule of the weekend. The devotional that corresponds with this lesson is found on page 35.

MAZE OF LIFE



IRREPLACEABLE

MAZE OF LIFE ANSWER KEY



IRREPLACEABLE



Interactive Student Book





INTERACTIVE STUDENT BOOK

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO

Irreplaceable: Accept No Substitutes

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Welcome to Irreplaceable

WHO IS JESUS?

For many of us, this feels like an easy question to answer. After all, we're called to spend our lives following him and becoming more like him. But do we really know who we're following? How can we be more like Christ if we don't even know who Christ is?

In the book of John, Jesus makes several statements about himself. We'll explore four of these statements in this study:

- · I am the Way and the Truth and the Life
- · I am the Bread of Life
- · I am the Good Shepherd
- · I am the Light of the World

Knowing who Jesus is and believing in him is the only way God changes our lives. It can be easy to substitute our own logic or the world's pleasures for the true life Jesus offers. We think we can earn salvation. We believe we can provide for and take care of ourselves. We linger in the darkness of our sins. But as we dive into Jesus' "I Am" statements, we will discover that what Jesus offers is much better: himself. Jesus is irreplaceable!

HERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW AS YOU GO THROUGH THIS STUDY:

- 1. God wants to connect with you. In fact, he's looking forward to it. But how ready are you to connect with him? As you go in and out of the sessions and devotional times, make sure you are willing to listen to him and learn from him. He promises that he will come near to you if you come near to him (James 4:8). Try it!
- 2. What you put into this study is what you'll get out of it. There are people all around you who have spent a lot of time praying for you and getting ready to invest in you. You'll probably meet some new people, hear some new speakers, and get a chance to spend some quality time with God and with friends. Take advantage of it! Ask hard questions. Commit to being authentic and honest. God wants to use this time and these people in your life.



Session 1 INTRO | HE'S GOT THE ANSWERS

There is a series of books called *Choose Your Own Adventure* where you as the reader get to make decisions and choose what happens. Every choice leads to another choice until you reach one of several endings based on what you chose. Some decision paths lead to successfully getting out of a dangerous situation, while some lead to worse outcomes like injury, imprisonment, or death. There are many paths, and each might have its own benefits and consequences.

Sometimes we bring this mentality into our faith, thinking that we can reach God or eternal life through a variety of paths. We walk down the "good works" path hoping we can do enough to earn salvation. Or we pursue other religions or gods thinking they can save us. But the truth is that salvation is not a *Choose Your Own Adventure* book with multiple successful paths. There is only one way to God—through his Son, Jesus Christ.

Large Group SESSION 1 | HE'S GOT THE ANSWERS

These two pages are designed so you can take note of anything that stands out to you and that you think is worth remembering during the large group talk. This talk will set the stage for the rest of the session. Consider writing down main points, quotes, Bible verses, and any questions that pop into your head.

What thoughts or behaviors in your life are false, and what truth should you replace it with? (e.g., beliefs about God or the Bible, how you portray yourself on social media, what you say or think about others, etc.)			
Who can you talk to about any doubts you may have about Jesus' claim of being the only way to God the Father?			

Small Group

SESSION 1 HE'S GOT THE ANSWERS

A SECOND LOOK

Take a moment and imagine the best possible version of yourself, a version you think God would be pleased with. What would make you "good"? Maybe you'd regularly take communion and confess your sins, go to church every week, go on a short-term mission trip every summer, and donate food to the local food pantry every month. You would think you were pretty good, right? There's no doubt these are good things, but unfortunately, doing them does not make anyone a good person. Before Christ is our personal Savior, our "good deeds" are not good at all. They're done out of habit or tradition, maybe with some selfish motives thrown in. The Bible says that "all our righteous acts are like filthy rags" (Is. 64:6 NIV)! We can never be clean enough or good enough for God to let us be in his presence without a sacrifice for our sin. Our good deeds don't impress God or compel him to love us more. Instead, God loves us because he chose to love us out of his grace. He chose to put your sin and punishment on his perfect Son, Jesus Christ—the one who was good enough for God—and instead give you the gift of Christ's righteousness so that you can have a personal relationship with him.

What are ways you have, either consciously or subconsciously, tried to earn God's love and approval?

How does it make you feel that you can't earn or work your way to a relationship with God and that it's simply a gift you have to receive?				
If Christ is already your personal Savior, what is the purpose of your good deeds?				
If you are a Jesus-follower, how are you experiencing true life?				

Small Group

SESSION 1 HE'S GOT THE ANSWERS

A LITTLE DEEPER

Even though we can't earn our way to God or do enough good deeds to make God love us more, we do have a clear path to God because of Jesus. Because of Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross, we can receive the free gift of salvation and be forgiven of our sin! We are offered a new life when we trust in Jesus as our personal Savior, since he is the way, the truth, and the life we are all searching for.

ISAIAH 53:3-5

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How is Jesus described in this passage?

Jesus suffered for you and for all his children. How does it make you feel that he went through this torture instead of you?

ACTS 4:12

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

Why is salvation only found in Jesus?
What are we saved from?
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"Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator."
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Small Group

SESSION 1 | HE'S GOT THE ANSWERS

APPLY IT

Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life—the only way to God. Who can you tell about this salvation that's freely offered to everyone?

BE SPECIFIC:	
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When are you going to do it?	
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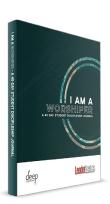
Notes

Keep Going!

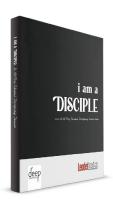
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I AM NEW



I AM A WORSHIPER



I AM A
DISCIPLE



I AM A LEADER

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