Day 2 I Am

*Jesus answered, ‘I tell you before Abraham was born, I am!’ John 8:58*

Do you have a Christmas tree at your place? Some people have an artificial tree, and some people buy a real tree. Of course, a cut down real tree doesn’t live very long.

Some trees still in the ground can live for ages. People who know how to work out the age of trees think that the very oldest tree in the world is about 5,000 years old. That is very, very old.

Who is the oldest person you know?

About 4,000 years ago there was a man whose name was Abraham. When Jewish people thought back to the very beginning of their nation, the first person they thought of was Abraham. Other people lived before him, but he was the oldest, most ancient person in their nation.

Jesus makes an extraordinary statement. He says that before Abraham lived, Jesus himself was alive. Jesus is saying that he was alive before he came to live as the human person, Jesus.

Two things in these words of Jesus get us thinking about Jesus being God.

One is that he was alive before Abraham. And so perhaps Jesus is even saying that he was alive at the very beginning of time.

The other thing is that the two words ‘I am’ are used as a name for God in the Old Testament part of the Bible. God told the people his personal name. It went something like this - ‘I am who I am’.

It’s a very big deal to claim you were alive at the beginning of the world. It’s also a very big deal to claim the name of God for yourself.

Both these things make Jesus more special than anyone else who has ever lived. And Jesus, this very special person, wants each of us to know him and be his friend.

Imagine being friends with the most special person who ever lived. That’s what Jesus wants to be with you - your friend.