

STUDENT STUDY GUIDE

SESSION 3 – I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

JOHN 8:12–20 (WITH CONTEXT FROM JOHN 7–9)

SESSION FOCUS

In this session, Jesus makes one of His most powerful and far-reaching claims: **“I am the Light of the world.”** With these words, Jesus declares that He is the one who reveals truth, exposes what is hidden, and leads people out of darkness into life.

Light is more than a comforting image—it is also confronting. This study invites you to reflect on how Jesus’ light brings clarity, guidance, and transformation, and how people respond differently when darkness is exposed.

OPENING REFLECTION

Before reading the passage, pause and reflect honestly.

- Where do you notice confusion, uncertainty, or struggle in your life right now?
- When things feel unclear, where do you usually look for guidance or direction?
- How do you typically respond when truth challenges you?

(You may want to write a few notes before moving on.)

SCRIPTURE READING

Read **John 8:12–20** slowly.

If possible, also skim **John 7–9** to notice the broader setting.

As you read, pay attention to:

- References to light and darkness

- How Jesus describes Himself
- The reactions of those listening

Do not rush. Notice words or phrases that stand out or raise questions.

KEY IDEA

Jesus does not simply show the way—He is the Light.

Those who follow Him do not remain in darkness but are invited into clarity, truth, and life.

PART 1: LIGHT IN A WORLD OF DARKNESS

From the beginning of John’s Gospel, light and darkness are used to describe spiritual reality. Darkness is not just the absence of light—it often represents resistance, confusion, and separation from truth.



Jesus speaks into a world filled with religious certainty, fear, and misunderstanding.

Reflection Questions

- What does darkness represent in spiritual or emotional terms?
- Why do you think light is such a powerful image for God's presence?
- Where do you see darkness at work in the world today?

Personal Notes:

PART 2: "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD"

When Jesus makes this statement, He is claiming far more than wisdom or insight. He is identifying Himself as the source of truth and life for all people.

This claim is bold—and unsettling.

Reflection Questions

- What is Jesus saying about His identity?
- Why might this statement have been threatening to religious leaders?
- How is this different from seeing Jesus as merely a teacher or guide?

Personal Notes:

PART 3: WHAT LIGHT DOES

Light reveals what darkness hides. It brings clarity, but it can also expose things we would rather keep unseen.

Jesus' light comforts those who seek truth and challenges those who resist it.

Reflection Questions

- What does light reveal that darkness conceals?
- Why can truth feel uncomfortable or even threatening?
- How have you experienced truth as both helpful and challenging?

Personal Notes:

PART 4: WALKING IN THE LIGHT

Jesus does not speak only about seeing the light, but about **walking** in it. This suggests an ongoing way of life rather than a one-time moment of insight.

Following Jesus means allowing His light to shape daily choices, attitudes, and direction.



Reflection Questions

- What do you think it means to “walk” rather than simply “see”?
- How does following Jesus involve trust and movement?
- What practices help keep you oriented toward the light?

Personal Notes:

PART 5: RESISTANCE AND BLINDNESS

Immediately after Jesus speaks, His words are questioned and challenged. Later, John’s Gospel shows that some who claim to see clearly remain spiritually blind.

Light exposes more than ignorance—it reveals the heart.

Reflection Questions

- Why do people sometimes resist truth even when it is clear?
- What fears or losses might light uncover?
- Where do you notice resistance within yourself?

Personal Notes:

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take a few quiet moments.

- Where do you sense God inviting you into greater clarity or honesty?
- What areas of life might you be keeping in the shadows?
- What would it look like to walk more fully in the light this week?

Personal Response:

CLOSING PRAYER

In your own words, or silently, pray for:

- **Clarity where there is confusion**
 - **Courage to face truth honestly**
 - **Guidance as you follow Christ, the Light of the world**
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OPTIONAL TAKE-HOME PRACTICE

This week: • Re-read **John 8:t2** each day

- Notice moments when you choose light or retreat into shadows
- Ask yourself: **What does it mean to walk in the light today?**



FINAL THOUGHT

Light does more than help us see—it shows us who we are and where we are going.

Jesus invites us not only to see the light, but to live in it.

