

FACILITATOR / TEACHER GUIDE

SESSION 3 – I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

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

PURPOSE OF THIS SESSION

This session explores Jesus' declaration, **"I am the Light of the world,"** one of the central **"I AM" statements** in the Gospel of John. Spoken in a context filled with darkness, confusion, and resistance, this statement reveals Jesus as the one who illuminates truth, exposes what is hidden, and guides people into life.

The goal of this session is to help participants understand that Jesus does not merely *teach* truth or *show* the way—He **is** the Light. Participants are invited to reflect on how light functions spiritually: revealing, guiding, confronting, and transforming those who walk in it.

INTENDED USE

This lesson is designed for **personal preparation and group discussion**. Participants should complete the Student Guide prior to the group meeting. The facilitator's role is to **guide discussion, encourage reflection, and help participants engage the text honestly**, rather than deliver a lecture.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this session, participants should be able to:

- **Understand the meaning and significance of Jesus' statement, "I am the Light of the world"**
 - **Recognize the biblical symbolism of light and darkness**
 - **Reflect on how light both comforts and confronts**
 - **Identify what it means to walk in the light in everyday life**
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FACILITATOR PREPARATION

Before leading the session:

- **Read John 7–9 to understand the broader context**
 - **Pay attention to themes of light, darkness, blindness, and sight**
 - **Reflect on times when truth brought clarity—and times when it was uncomfortable**
 - **Prepare to hold space for honest conversation about resistance, doubt, and transformation**
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SESSION FLOW (60–75 MINUTES)

1. WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

Welcome participants and remind them that this session continues the exploration of Jesus' **"I AM" statements**, focusing on identity rather than merely action.

Open with prayer, asking God to:

- Reveal areas of darkness and confusion
- Grant openness to truth
- Lead participants into deeper understanding

Suggested prayer focus:

- **Clarity and humility**
 - **Willingness to see and be seen**
 - **Courage to walk in the light**
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2. ORIENTING THE GROUP: LIGHT AND DARKNESS IN JOHN (5 MINUTES)

Briefly remind the group that light and darkness appear from the very beginning of John's Gospel.

Key teaching point:

In John, light represents God's life-giving presence, while darkness represents resistance, confusion, and separation from truth.

Invite participants to recall:

- How light is described earlier in the Gospel
 - Why darkness is more than the absence of light—it is often an active resistance
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3. SETTING THE SCENE: WHERE JESUS SPEAKS (5–10 MINUTES)

Explain that Jesus' statement occurs during a major religious festival, in a setting filled with symbolism.

Discussion prompts:

- **Why do you think timing and setting matter when Jesus speaks?**
- **How might people have understood "light" in a religious context?**



Facilitator insight:

Help participants see that Jesus is making a bold claim about His identity, not offering a metaphor detached from real life.

4. DISCUSSION: “I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD” (10 MINUTES)

Read the statement aloud slowly.

Key idea:

Jesus does not point to the light—He claims to be the Light.

Discussion prompts:

- **What is Jesus claiming about Himself?**
 - **Why do you think this statement would be both compelling and threatening?**
 - **What expectations does this place on those who follow Him?**
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5. DISCUSSION: WHAT LIGHT DOES (10 MINUTES)

Invite participants to think about the nature of light.

Key idea:

Light reveals, guides, and exposes.

Discussion prompts:

- **What does light reveal that darkness hides?**
- **Why can light feel comforting in some moments and uncomfortable in others?**
- **How does this help us understand people’s reactions to Jesus?**

Application focus:

Encourage reflection on how truth can both heal and disrupt.

6. DISCUSSION: WALKING IN THE LIGHT (10 MINUTES)

Jesus connects light with following Him.

Key teaching point:

Walking in the light is an ongoing way of life, not a one-time decision.

Discussion prompts:

- **What does it mean to “walk” rather than simply “see”?**



- **How is following Jesus more than intellectual agreement?**
 - **What habits or choices reflect walking in the light?**
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7. DISCUSSION: RESISTANCE TO THE LIGHT (5–10 MINUTES)

Address the opposition Jesus faces immediately after His statement.

Discussion prompts:

- **Why do some people resist the light rather than welcome it?**
- **What fears or losses might truth expose?**
- **Where do you see this tension in your own life or culture?**

Facilitator note:

Affirm that resistance is common and human. The goal is awareness, not shame.

8. CONNECTION TO BLINDNESS AND SIGHT (5–10 MINUTES)

Briefly connect this statement to the healing of the man born blind.

Key idea:

Seeing is not just physical—it is spiritual.

Discussion prompts:

- **Why do some who can see remain blind to truth?**
 - **How does humility affect spiritual sight?**
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9. PERSONAL REFLECTION AND APPLICATION (5–10 MINUTES)

Invite quiet reflection or brief sharing.

Reflection questions:

- **Where do you sense clarity right now?**
- **Where might God be inviting you into greater honesty or openness?**
- **What would it look like to walk more fully in the light this week?**

Encourage participants to identify one concrete response.

10. CLOSING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)



Close in prayer, thanking God for sending light into the world through Christ.

Optional prayer focus:

- **Courage to face truth**
 - **Guidance for daily decisions**
 - **Transformation through Christ's light**
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KEY TAKEAWAY FOR FACILITATORS

This session invites participants to consider not only what Jesus reveals, but **how they respond to being revealed**. Walking in the light involves trust, humility, and ongoing transformation. Allow space for discomfort as well as hope—the light exposes, but it also leads to life.

