

**Lesson Title:** The I Am's of John—I Am the Light

**Key Concept:** Throughout the Book of John, Jesus used the Old Testament declaration "I Am" to reveal the different facets of his relationship with us. As the light, Jesus reveals and guides all who will follow out of the darkness of sin and into his glorious light for all eternity.

**Scriptures:**

Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

(John 8:12 *New Living Translation*)

<sup>14</sup>"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.

<sup>15</sup>No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house."

(Matthew 5:14–15 *New Living Translation*)

**Context Scriptures:** Psalm 119:105; John 12:35–36; Matthew 5:14–16; Genesis 1:3–5; Psalm 18:28; 27:1; Luke 11:34–35; John 1:5; 9:5; 12:35–37; 1 John 1:5–9; James 1:17; 1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 21:23

**Lesson Thoughts:**

Jesus made the proclamation, "I am the light of the world," around the time of the Jewish festival of the Feast of Tabernacles. This annual festival celebrated how God guided the Israelites for forty years of wandering in the desert as a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. To commemorate this, large candelabras, placed in the Court of Women, were lit by temple priests and burned throughout the night. The Jewish people gathered to remember the light that God provided for their ancestors to follow as he faithfully led them through the wilderness. So, when Jesus appeared at the Feast of Tabernacles and proclaimed, "I am the light of the world," he revealed that he was, in fact, the

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same light they were celebrating. The audience would have understood the parallel Jesus made and the call to follow him, just as their ancestors followed the light in the wilderness.

As the light, Jesus leads and guides us even today. He is our lamp and our light (Psalm 119:105). And without a light to follow, it is impossible to find your way out of sin and darkness. Jesus said, "Those who walk in darkness cannot see where they are going" (John 12:35). The light of Jesus reveals the darkness of sin in our lives. As we follow his light, he will guide us away from sin. The light of Christ also dispels all darkness that results from sin. It even conquered the ultimate darkness and finality of death. His light will lead us to eternity where there is no darkness.

As the light of the world, Jesus offers the hope of eternity for all. The Greek word for "world" (*cosmos*) encompasses all of time. His light is for all people throughout all of time. The light of Jesus illuminates like a candle in a dark cave. In Matthew 5:14, Jesus tasked his disciples with carrying out his mission when he said, "You are the light of the world." Jesus' light continues to burn bright through his church. And just like Jesus spread his light to all who will receive it, as Spirit-filled believers, we continue to let our light shine for all to see, so they can become lights revealing God's glory like we are.

**Discussion Questions:**

- 1) List and discuss the uses of light.
- 2) In what ways are the uses of light a metaphor for the light of the world?
- 3) How has the light of Christ affected your life or the lives of others you've seen?
- 4) How do we as disciples let our light shine? How do we hide our light?

**Next Lesson:** The Resurrection and the Life

**Notes and Reflections**

- 1) Do a search for the word “light” in the Bible. Identify a couple favorite verses and meditate—think deeply—on them.
  
- 2) Spend some time asking God to continue to lead and guide you by his light.

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**Notes and Reflections, cont.**