



# I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

JOHN 8:12-30

## GOAL

- ▶ **To show children what Jesus meant when He said, “I am the light of the world!”** In this declaration, He presented Himself as the only source of spiritual light—the light that reveals the truth and exposes lies; the light of the divine presence of God who guides, protects, and delivers; and the light of life and giver of eternal life. Review the various characteristics of darkness and light to help children understand some of the more obvious implications of Christ’s claim.
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## WORDS TO KNOW

- ▶ **Light:** Light helps us to see things clearly, and it’s essential to life. Light shows the way and exposes potential obstacles. In the context of this lesson, Jesus is the source of light as the creator of all living things, the one who shows the way, and the giver of eternal life.
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## MEMORY VERSES

- ▶ **John 8:12:** Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

**John 3:19:** And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light, because their works were evil.



## OVERVIEW

▶ **Read John 8:12-30:** Jesus continues to reveal who He is and why He came into the world in this second of seven “I am” statements. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” The path to heaven can only be discerned with the light of His truth; the sinful condition cannot be solved apart from the light of His revelation; and a purposeful life can only be enjoyed with His light as its guide.

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## SUGGESTIONS

▶ **Talk about the benefits of light and how they apply to the Jesus’ statement, “I am the light of the world”:**

- 1. Light exposes sin:** Jesus, and His Word (the Bible), illuminates and exposes the reality of our sinful condition and our need for forgiveness.
- 2. Light gives direction:** Jesus illuminates the true path here on earth, which leads to our eternal reward in heaven.
- 3. Light sustains life:** Every living thing requires some amount of light in order to live. Without the energy that comes from light, all living things would die. Jesus is not only the Creator of the light that sustains the physical world, but also the spiritual light that produces eternal life.



## PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY



**Treasure Hunt with Flashlights** | **Supplies:** Small trinkets that are appropriate for your students' age group and flashlights.

Beforehand, hide trinkets and treasure around the room. Usher the children in and have them all sit on the ground. Once they are all safely seated, turn out the lights. From where they are seated, have them tell you if they see any of the treasure hidden around the room. For this next part, be sure to instruct them to proceed cautiously so no one gets hurt. Hand out flashlights and have the children shine the light around the room and look for trinkets until they are mostly found. Discuss how the flashlights made it possible to see and how they were less likely to stumble or bump into one another. Now, turn on all the lights in the room and show how it is even easier to see. Perhaps they will find even more well-hidden treasures. Compare how the flashlights revealed what was hidden, how the classroom lights exposed even more hidden treasures, and how Jesus is the light that reveals the true path and the ultimate treasure.

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## MEMORY VERSE MEANING



### **John 8:12**

Jesus is the source of light that helps people see and understand their true condition before a perfectly holy God. The light of His word guides in the path of righteousness.

### **John 3:19**

Jesus did not come to condemn the world, but to offer salvation. The condemnation lies in the fact that many people love sin too much to face the reality of their condition and their need for the forgiveness of God.



## POST-LESSON ACTIVITY

▷ **Sticker Word Mix** | **Supplies:** label stickers and sheets of paper.

Print/write ahead of time each word of the memory verse on a separate adhesive-back label, also include the verse's reference. Jumble the labels and give the complete set of words along with the sheet of paper to each child. Instruct them to peel off the words and put them in the correct order on the provided sheet of paper.

## TAKE HOME

▷ Did you know that when you belong to Jesus, His light shines through you? Like the moon reflects the light of the sun, we reflect the glory and light of God! Discuss the aspects of physical light (shines, exposes, reveals, etc.) and how we can affect those around us with the light of God:

**1. Light exposes sin and the need for God's forgiveness:** Let your life (your light) shine in a way that brings attention to God and His grace and mercy. Talk about the good things God has done for you and talk about how Jesus died for your sins and saved you from sin.

**2. Light gives direction:** God's Word gives us truth to live by and exposes sin in our lives. It should also be used to help and encourage those around us. His words are the way to an abundant life that lasts forever.

**3. Light sustains:** We have the power to both bless and curse with our words and actions. Take every opportunity to speak life—even to your enemies. Jesus died for them too! God promises that when you speak His words they will successfully accomplish His purpose.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 1



**Q1a:** What festival had just come to an end?

**A1:** The Feast of Tabernacles had just ended.

**Q1b:** Have you ever used a compass?

**TN:** The Earth is a magnet, and compasses contain magnets attracted to the Earth's North Pole, meaning that a compass always points north. It can be challenging at first to use one, but after a bit of practice, equipped with a compass, we can always find our bearings. Jesus always points us toward good, righteousness, and love. He is the absolute standard by which all good and evil is judged. He is the only source of truth.

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### SLIDE 2



**Q2a:** What did Jesus say His followers would have?

**A2:** Jesus said His followers would have the light of life.

**Q2b:** You're left in the middle of the wilderness with only a compass. Could you find your way home?

**TN:** If we have no idea where we are, knowing which way is north is of little use. If we are north of home and we keep walking north, we're in for a very long walk. In this situation, what we really need is a compass and a map. In life, Jesus is our moral compass, helping us to make good choices, all the while directing us on the path toward eternal life.





## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 3



**Q3a:** What did Adam and Eve experience in the Garden of Eden?

**A3:** They experienced joy, happiness, and perfect fellowship with each other and God.

**Q3b:** What things are necessary to grow a garden?

**TN:** Soil, water, and light. Without any one of those ingredients, the plants will fail. Humans are similar in that we have basic needs, such as food, water, and shelter; however, we have more advanced needs. We were created to worship God, and without His light, we wither.

### SLIDE 4



**Q4a:** Why were Adam and Eve driven out of paradise?

**A4:** They were driven out of paradise because they rebelled against God and sinned.

**Q4b:** You get a brand new bike, but it requires you to put it together. Could you read the instructions in the dark?

**TN:** Not only could we not read the instructions, we wouldn't be able to see any of the parts or tools necessary to put it together. The instructions show us how to build the bike correctly so that it is functional and safe. Jesus is the only source of spiritual truth in this life. In order to make good choices and stay on the path God has set for us, we must follow Him.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 5



**Q5a:** What did Adam and Eve's sin bring into the world?

**A5:** Their sin brought shame, hopelessness, anxiety, and separation from God.

**Q5b:** You get the last cupcake at your friend's birthday party, but you're full from lunch. Where do you hide it until you're ready to eat it?

**TN:** The best place to hide something is somewhere out of sight—usually someplace dark where people are less likely to be able to see it. If that cupcake is left out in the open, everyone can see it, making it known that there is one more cupcake left. In the open, it's no longer a secret that this is the last cupcake.

The thing about sin is we try to keep it secret—we hide the evidence or push the memories way back in our minds, hoping that no one ever finds out about what we've done. Sinning causes us to feel shame. We don't want other people to know what we've done. We don't want others to judge us, making us feel even worse than we already do. We hide our sins, and keep them in the dark. When we sin, we should confess it rather than hide it because honestly, we cannot hide our sins from God. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross gave us forgiveness for our sins, and we should not be afraid to confess and repent. Jesus shines a light on our sins, leads us away from them, brings us into the light, and illuminates the path we are to walk with Him.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 6



**Q6a:** What announced that the Messiah had come to break through the darkness?

**A6:** The brightest star shone, announcing that the Messiah had come.

**Q6b:** How did the first people who sailed across the oceans find their way without maps?

**TN:** They used the position of the sun and stars to guide them. The wise men used the star that appeared after Jesus' birth to find Him and worship Him. While we may not have anything quite as obvious to follow on our journey through life as we make our way on the path God has set for our lives, we do have a guide. His directions are not as obvious as those of a GPS telling us when to turn right or left, but directions have been and will be given every step of the way. Jesus illuminates the path of righteousness that leads to Heaven and eternal life.

### SLIDE 7



**Q7a:** What proved the success of Jesus' mission against sin and death?

**A7:** Jesus' resurrection proved He was successful in overcoming sin and death.

**Q7b:** Answer this riddle: How are you like the moon?

**TN:** The moon doesn't shine at night because it produces its own light; it reflects the light from the sun. As Christians, we experience the love and truth of God. This is such a huge force in our lives that it shows in our words and actions. If we live our lives for Jesus and in His example, we are shining His light in this dark world full of sin and sorrow. By following Jesus, we become beacons to others struggling with sin, helping them to realize their need for Jesus.





## MEMORY VERSES

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## BIG IDEA

▶ Jesus is the light that illuminates the truth, gives us life, and leads us toward eternal life.

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## CLOSING PRAYER

▶ Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for being the light that saves us from sin and guides us toward You and eternal life. Help us to reflect Your light to those in our lives. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 1



The brilliant lights that illuminated the great city of Jerusalem were extinguished one by one as the Feast of Tabernacles came to an end. The week-long celebration recalled the brighter days of Israel's glorious past, when God Himself led the nation with the fire of His presence. As things returned to normal, the people were reminded once again of the reality they now faced—they were a nation in darkness, ruled by strangers. Where was God, and when would the light of His glory return? The crowd grew quiet as Jesus stood to teach, but His first words left them stunned: "I am the light of the world!"

### SLIDE 2



Jesus continued, unaffected by the astonished crowd, "Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." His claim was bold, backed by the authority of God Himself—He was the true source of life and light who spoke the world into existence. He was the light that shined into darkness and darkness could not overcome it. "I am the light of the World," He said.

### SLIDE 3



Adam and Eve once lived in the Garden of Eden where God's brilliant presence brought them daily joy, happiness, and perfect fellowship with each other and God. There were no tears, no pain, no sickness, and no death because it was a place where God lived, and the light of His righteousness ruled.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 4



But Adam and Eve rebelled against God, and sin and darkness entered their perfect world. They were driven out of paradise.

### SLIDE 5



Because of their sin, they and all of humankind after them would experience shame, hopelessness, anxiety, and the pain of being separated from the Light, from the One who breathed them into existence. But God in His mercy had a plan—He would enter into the dark kingdom to rescue what was lost.

### SLIDE 6



The kingdom of God broke through the darkness and into humanity as a tiny baby, and the brightest star shone, heralding Him as the Messiah. The light of God and His salvation had finally come!

### SLIDE 7



His perfect sacrifice set into place a destructive force against the curse of sin and death, and His resurrection proved the success of His mission! Through Jesus Christ we are saved and brought out of darkness and into the light of His presence, where there is joy and happiness forevermore!