

February
24/25

I
AM

the light
of the world

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Introduction

In our second week of our *I AM* series, we visit another statement from Jesus in John 8:12, "I am the light of the world." Jesus was claiming to be the only true source of spiritual light and power to the world. This was a radical claim which confused and challenged those who heard. Jesus was proclaiming to be a light that gives life and eliminates the darkness in our hearts. In Isaiah 42:6-7, we see a foreshadowing of the promised Messiah, Jesus, and the role He would play for all humanity "I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness."

Discussion

1. Compare John 8:12 with John 1:4, and as a group, discuss what it means for Jesus to be the light of the world and the light of your world.
2. Light dispels darkness. In what ways do you need the light of Jesus to dispel some darkness in your life, your heart or your thoughts?
3. How does Jesus' identity as the light of the world connect with his charge to us in **Matthew 5:14-16**?
4. In what ways can you be a light in your family, neighborhood, workplace and community?

Think About It

When Jesus made His statement about being the light of the world, He was in the synagogue where candles were lit to symbolize the pillar of fire that God used to guide the Israelites through the desert in Exodus 13:21. Jesus used the symbolism of His people to show them He and the Father are one, and He can provide eternal life for them. The pillar of light also represented God's presence and protection. Think about the ways in which God guides, protects and makes His presence known to you in all areas of your life.

Do Something

1. Pick one of the ways you can be a light from discussion question #4 above, and act on it this week. Tell your group what you plan to do so they can pray and ask about it the next time you meet.
2. Be praying about who you can invite to Easter services. Grab a "Little Iowa" packet from the Connection Desk and use it to start the conversation.
3. If there are areas in your life where you need the light of Jesus to overcome darkness, spend some time with Him this week asking for what you need.
4. Spend time re-reading John 8 throughout the week asking the Holy Spirit to reveal more truth to you.