

## LEADER'S NOTES

"I AM" Series

Week of March 12, 2017

I AM the Light of the World – week 3

### Share it

Where are you in your spiritual journey and how you view Jesus? What led you to this place?

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** This question is included as an opportunity for sharing your stories but also for those who are still deciding to follow Jesus to share.

When do you remember being challenged about your belief in Jesus?

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** Challenges include doubting, apologetic questions, ending conversations, etc.

### Study the Bible

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** My summary of the passages is below.

8:12-20

Jesus is the true light that surpasses anything available in the temple; he is a messenger from God, bearing God's word for the world and giving life to all who believe.

9:1-41

A man born blind, living in darkness, is healed by Jesus and now lives in the light both physically and spiritually. This becomes a living parable that illustrates that . . .

- People are born in darkness. (9:1- blind from birth)
- Jesus was sent as God's true light that leads to salvation.
- Jesus, the Son of God, is the light that people might have eternal life. 9:35
- Any person can believe in Jesus as the light and receive salvation. 9:38

What do we learn about Jesus as the Light from John 1:4, 9; 8:12; 9:39; 12:46?

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** The focus is on Jesus' role as the light (revealing) of salvation that came from God.

Read John 8:12-20 and consider these questions:

- What are the effects of the light?

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** Illuminates how we can have eternal life.

- What are the Pharisees challenging?

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** Jesus' authority

- What key point is Jesus reemphasizing? (See 8:16, cf. 5:23-24; 6:29; 7:28-29)

**NOTES TO LEADERS: That Jesus was sent from God**

Who were the parties involved with Jesus healing in John 9 and how did they respond?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Jesus, blind man, neighbors, parents, Pharisees.**

How is this story an example of Jesus as the Light of the World?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Jesus can bring people out of darkness and into the light of salvation to eternal life.**

How would you summarize Jesus' message in these two chapters? (See 8:12 and 9:35-38)

**NOTES TO LEADERS: see note at the beginning of study.**

### **Discuss Together**

What were the questions/reactions of the neighbors? Parents? Pharisees? Healed man? Jesus? (Ch.9)

**NOTES TO LEADERS: The purpose of this discussion is to help us see how different people respond to Jesus' miracle. Some responded with fear and passivity, some with amazement, Pharisees with doubt and ridicule, etc.**

How might this inform us about interactions with people in our world? What should we do? How should we respond?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: The biggest application is to help people engage in consideration of and conversation about how we can respond to people when we share what God has done in our own lives. We too are . . .**

- Sometimes ill informed
- Sometimes afraid of what others will think of us
- Afraid we will fail
- Afraid we will be rejected or cut off
- NOTICE how Jesus came back to the healed man. He is always with us and will guide and empower in every relationship.

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Please remind people to "Watch and listen to the people in your world. Come ready to share next week."**

Grace to you,  
Steve