

# LIFE GROUP LESSON

## I AM

### Introduction

There is nothing quite like standing on the beach at Hilton Head Island early in the morning before daybreak. It was only a couple of weeks ago, I had the opportunity to do this. Early one morning, on a day our family had actually intended to sleep in, I felt compelled to get up and go to the beach and watch the sunrise. Since the place where we were staying was only a short distance from the beach, I have no excuses. And I don't get to see this every day. So, I made myself get up, get dressed in the dark, slip out so as not to disturb anyone else, and head down.

As I walked onto the cool sand, the sky above the gently lapping waves of the Atlantic was in the in-between stage – which lasts only a few minutes – stars illumined and horizon glowing. Some distance up-shore, I could see silhouettes of numerous people. About a hundred people or so, yards ahead, were scattered on the beach like statues facing east. What is this?! The scene stopped me in my tracks. And it hit me – all these people (me included) are out here for one reason: to see God's glory revealed in His creation. Then, within moments, that first beam of sunlight pierced the darkness and it was on!

We often speak of the sun rising. But have you ever thought about how the sun does not rise; it remains in its place. We, however, turn toward that radiant source of light in our galaxy. God has designed planet Earth to rotate on its axis toward the sun. Everyone on Earth has a window of daylight – their turn for sunshine – before it is night again. At every moment, a new day dawns. Similarly, when we choose to turn our hearts toward the Lord, His light dawns upon our lives. At any moment, we can face Him, and He has the power to shine upon us. He is the light of the world.

### Background

Though ridiculed by many of the religious leaders at nearly every point, Jesus was undeterred in His public ministry. When He was in Jerusalem He regularly taught in the Temple. Jesus had nothing to hide. He was the perfect Son of God, Son of Man – He had nothing to hide, nothing to apologize for, nothing to be ashamed of or embarrassed about. Jesus is light and in Him is no darkness at all. Jesus taught that any (and all) who choose to come to Him will have true light that leads to life. We no longer have to remain in sin and darkness.

Throughout John's Gospel, Jesus is direct in expressing who He is. In chapter one, John defines Jesus' role; chapter two, Jesus turns water into wine and clears the Temple of corrupt thieves; chapter three, Jesus explains to Nicodemus how he can be 'born again'; chapter four, Jesus reveals truth to a Samaritan woman who meets Him at a well; chapter five, Jesus heals a man lame for 38 years, and as a result, religious leaders begin harassing Him; chapter six, Jesus says He is true Bread from heaven; chapter seven, Jesus arrives in Jerusalem, midway through the Festival of Shelters. Jesus says, "I am the light of the world..." (John 8:12a). But there is great division over just who Jesus is, especially when He says: "I tell you the truth; before Abraham was even born, I AM!" (John 8:58). Do you believe Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness?

### Read John 8:12-26

#### 1. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

Jesus says, "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" (v12). Think about how light draws our attention. Jesus wants to draw us to Himself. When our hearts (our lives) turn toward the Son, much like this Earth rotating toward the sun, light dawns upon our hearts. His light will reveal things we didn't know were there. It is because He loves us He wants to show us the areas where we need attention; or perhaps, He shows us other areas where we have been worried (consumed or fixated on) and reveals there is nothing to be afraid of, no reason for fear.

#### 2. What are you going to do about it?

Jesus says, "If you follow me..."

You must choose. The Lord doesn't say you have to follow Him. It is a personal choice. He won't make you follow Him; you can choose to remain in darkness. But if you choose to follow Jesus, ask Him to be both Lord and Savior of your life – all of you, every area of your life. Jesus promises to reveal truth in all areas of your life so that "you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32).

### 3. How can we help you?

How can we be there for one another? Following Jesus is a journey, and we are all on the journey together. Like living water, the Holy Spirit refreshes us, binds us together, and helps us remember all that the Lord has taught us. Much like the lampstand in the Temple was designed to shine light forward, we have been divinely designed for the light we bear to shine forward. As we ask the Holy Spirit to fill us, like oil His presence fills our lives so that we are empowered by God to shine bright in this dark world – to point people to Jesus, the Source of Light! “Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name goes all the glory” (psalm 115: 1).

Take a few minutes, refer to the following passages, and share one thing that stands out to you personally. What should true Christ-followers be about?

Exodus 25:31-40; 40:16-32    Matthew 5:14-16    2 Corinthians 4:1-7  
Revelation 22:12-16

#### Close in a Time of Prayer asking:

How can I pray for my fellow Life Group participants this week?

#### One Year Bible Reading

Apr. 16: Joshua 13:1-14:15, Luke 18:1-17, Psalm 85:1-13, Proverbs 13:7-8  
Apr. 17: Joshua 15:1-63, Luke 18:18-43, Psalm 86:1-17, Proverbs 13:9-10  
Apr. 18: Joshua 16:1-18:28, Luke 19:1-27, Psalm 87:1-7, Proverbs 13:11  
Apr. 19: Joshua 19:1-20:9, Luke 19:28-48, Psalm 88:1-18, Proverbs 13:12-14  
Apr. 20: Joshua 21:1-22:20, Luke 20:1-26, Psalm 89:1-13, Proverbs 13:15-16  
Apr. 21: Joshua 22:21-23:16, Luke 20:27-47, Psalm 89:14-37, Proverbs 13:17-19  
Apr. 22: Joshua 24:1-33, Luke 21:1-28, Psalm 89:38-52, Proverbs 13:20-23

# I AM

**Text: John 8:12-20**

## Plain Truth:

**Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ who came to  
\_\_\_\_\_ up your world.**

## WHAT DOES THE LIGHT DO

**1. Light \_\_\_\_\_**

**2. Light gives sight**

**3. Light gives \_\_\_\_\_**

## WHAT DOES THE LIGHT SAY

**1. \_\_\_\_\_ yourself and \_\_\_\_\_ me...**

**2. You won't HAVE TO walk in \_\_\_\_\_...**

**3. You WILL have the \_\_\_\_\_ and the  
\_\_\_\_\_ will have you.**

## HOW DOES THE LIGHT SHINE

**1. Oil**

**2. Old garments**

**April 23, 2023**