



WEEK 2

I Am the Light of the World

*John 1:1-5, John 8: 12-19 cf.
Psalm 119:105, Exodus 3:13, 14*

OPEN

This is the second week of our series called "I Am" where we will be exploring the 7 "I Am" statements of Jesus throughout the gospel of John. Festivals in the bible were an invitation to pause and reflect on the presence and provision of God for his people.

It was during the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles where Jesus declared another "I Am" statement: **"I am the Light of the World"**. This Festival would have pointed back to how God saved his people from Egyptian slavery by speaking salvation through the light of a fiery bush to Moses. Moses received God's assignment and God's name as the "I AM". Understanding God as both "I AM" and light were key spiritual themes for ancient Jews. Historians of Temple archeology tell us four 75 foot torches were illuminated during the Festival of Tabernacles, making a strong reminder that "I AM" was the light in the desert darkness.

READ

CONTEXT: The final night of the Festival of Tabernacles was known as the *illumination of the temple* where towering candelabra's lit up the night sky. Jesus stands among these lights declaring that he is the ultimate light of the world not only for one night but for all time to provide salvation for all who look to him.

- **Read John 8:12-19.** Picture Jesus standing up at this festival at this time making the statement "I Am the *light* of the world".
 - How does the above context give weight to this statement? Why do you think Jesus used metaphors like "light" to describe his person and purposes?
- **Read John 7:1-10.** How does the language of him waiting in secrete to show himself to the world fit with his declaration in John 8?

REFLECT

- Festivals were an invitation to pause and reflect on God's presence and provision. Where in your life do you stop to take notice of God?
- We live in a world saturated by artificial light. Darkness is rare. The ancient world valued and relied on natural sources of light.
- **Read Psalm 119:105.** How do you think the ancient biblical world would have understood this verse in a world with no electricity?
 - Have you ever found yourself in a dark place where your need for light became very apparent? How did having that light make you feel? How has Jesus presence provided light in a dark time in your life?
 - After Jesus declares that he is the light of the world he is rejected by the crowd. They reject his testimony, his identity, and his authority.
- Have you ever experienced rejection for declaring Jesus? How did you respond?
 - How have you helped point people to Jesus, the light of the world? What helped the person be receptive to Jesus?

APPLY/PRAY

- Last week Pastor Dan began this series by saying, **"The I Am's are an invitation to receive God's purposes for our lives."**
 - What practices have you participated in that allow you to be more receptive to God's purposes?
 - How can you make these practices a higher priority in your life?
- Author Os Guinness said, **"mothers and fathers are world builders for their children...as children we look especially to our mothers to assure us everything is going to be alright..."**
 - What have your parents done to bring God's light into your life?
 - What have you done to bring God's light into the lives of your own children?
- Sometimes there are dark areas of our lives that we need the light of Christ to penetrate and expose. Where do you need to experience the penetrating light of Jesus today?
- Pray for each other that God would equip you to walk in His light.

