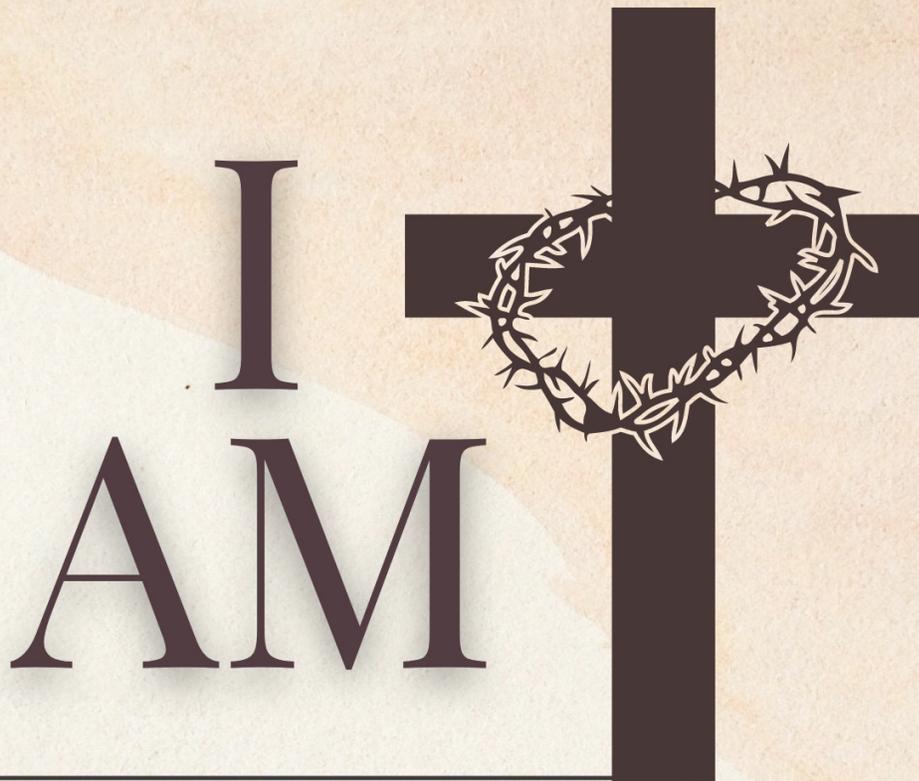


**ministry to**  
**>>> youth**



**I AM - TEACHING SERIES**

Writer: Kindall Crummey  
Project Supervisor: Nick Diliberto  
Artwork: Ever Graphics  
Editor: Angela Ivey

Created by Ministry to Youth  
[www.MinistryToYouth.com](http://www.MinistryToYouth.com)

# Week 1



**I AM the Light of the World**



**Bible Verses:**

John 8:12, Genesis 1:4,  
1 John 1:5, John 3:19



**Bottom Line:**

Jesus' light expels the darkness in our  
lives and our world.

# SUPPLIES

## IN-PERSON GAME:

- Students will need to locate small items around the room.
- Have each student walk around the room for a minute or two to find a random object that can be easily held (and hidden).
- Students will then each take a turn describing their object without showing it to anyone else.
- They should not say the name of the object anywhere in their description.
- The student that calls out what item it is gets to keep it.
- The student with the most items at the end of the game is the winner.

## ONLINE GAME:

- Each student in the group must find a random object in their house, bring it back to the call, but not show it on screen.
- Each player takes it in turn to describe their object, and everyone else must guess what it is.
- Points for those who guess it first.
- Debrief with your students what made describing and guessing the objects easy or difficult.
- Talk about how not being able to see the object added to the challenge.

# TEACH

Imagine living in a world of darkness.

That's probably impossible for most of us to even fathom!

Our world needs light.

We know the sun illuminates the day, while the moon and stars shine in the night.

Where there is light, there is no darkness.

*(Optional Illustration: If you have a candle or a flashlight, turn the lights off in the room and light a candle or shine the light from a flashlight on the ceiling to show that where there is light, the darkness flees!)*

As we open this series, we're going to be studying about how Jesus is the light of the world.

We're going to dig into what that means for us today and how we can be changed because of Christ's light in our lives.

**Jesus' light expels darkness in our lives and in our world.**

Let's see what the Bible says about light.

*Read **John 8:12** with your students.*

Each time you read about Jesus teaching His followers in the Bible, He always links Himself to the Father, God.

Here, Jesus links himself to God as being the light of the world.

The word *light* used in this verse comes from the Greek word *phos*, which means "light" or "anything emitting light."

It is profound that Jesus says, "I am," showing that light is actually a part of who He is.

He is the light.

He radiates light.

The character of Christ is light.

And anyone who walks with Him lives in the light.

Let's think about how natural light impacts our lives.

Each day, the sun rises.

It warms the earth.

It illuminates.

It aids growth on the earth.

At night, the moon and stars serve as navigators in the sky.

They were navigational aids long before smartphones!

The world's first GPS!

When you walk into a dark room, the first thing you probably reach for is the light switch.

Right?

Why?

Because by design, we're drawn to light.

We instinctively depend on light in every aspect of our lives.

Light invades every crack and crevice of our lives as human beings, both tangibly (regarding warmth and sight) and spiritually.

The light makes things evident, exposed, and clear, both literally and spiritually.

Read **John 8:12** with your students.

*Darkness*, as mentioned in John 8:12, is the Greek word *skotia*, which can be defined as “the darkness due to the want of light” and is used to describe ignorance of divine things.

That simply means that walking in the “darkness” is like having no knowledge of what it means to walk in the light.

Why would someone choose darkness when light is available?

Darkness is often associated with wickedness, and because of that *wickedness, misery in hell*.

Genesis 1:4 says, “*God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.*”

Jesus is the Light of the world, and all who are unconnected or far from Him live in darkness.

You can't live both in the light and in the darkness.

God's Word makes that very clear.

Being separate, ignorant, or unaware of the dark leaves us wanting for something we cannot produce on our own.

In other words, we can't produce light on our own.

We come to the end of ourselves in frustration, hopelessness, or a distant sense of happiness and joy, when we navigate through life in darkness.

However, with Christ, we have the absolute fullness of life because He is the light we crave.

And it was by God's divine design that we crave the light.

**Jesus' light expels darkness in our lives and in our world.**

*Read 1 John 1:5 with your students.*

*This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all.*

1 John tells us that in Jesus, there is no darkness at all.

It doesn't mean that darkness doesn't exist in our world, but that where Christ is, there is always light.

Light, by definition, has no darkness in it at all.

For there to be any darkness, there must be an absence of light.

God's design for us all along was to walk with Him in the light.

Sin casts shadows of darkness and separates us from the light of Christ both in our lives and our world.

There are two areas we should explore here.

1. Jesus' light expels the darkness in our lives.
2. Jesus' light expels the darkness in our world.

We can't tackle the darkness in our world until we begin to shine a light on the darkness in our own lives.

When sin entered the Garden of Eden through the deceptive nature of the serpent and Adam and Eve's rebellion, it not only cast a shadow on the perfection of creation, but it presented a problem that individuals throughout history would have to wrestle with.

God's divine plan was to draw us to Himself.

God desires to be in a close relationship with you and me.

Sin drives a wedge between us and keeps the light from shining in.

God's Word says in John 3:19 that before we saw the light, we "loved the darkness rather than the light."

God is not afraid of the darkness in our world, and He is not afraid of the darkness in you and me.

He came to save us from the darkness.

In the same way, He turned on the blinding sun in a galaxy of darkness in creation, He opens the eyes of your heart to see His glory in His Son, Jesus.

He expels your darkness and makes you a lover of the light.

Only when we recognize the darkness (sin) in our own lives do we begin to allow light to shine through and create a space for God's freedom to invade our lives.

That freedom in the light frees us from being trapped in the darkness.

Light exposes the sin that is hidden in the darkness and heals us.

When we confess our sins, Christ can work through the light in our lives in restoring us to a relationship with Himself.

We are then free to walk in the light with Him.

As children of God who walk in the light, we are called to bring light to the darkness in our world.

Metaphorically speaking, as we walk in the light, so the light of our lives (Jesus) shines in the darkness of our world.

The light of Jesus shines when we love those who are hard to love, serve others, help the poor, share the Gospel, and live out God's Word in our day-to-day lives.

When Jesus' light expels the darkness in our lives, we walk in the light.

When we walk in the light, it illuminates a world darkened by sin, and people are drawn to Christ.

When Jesus declares, "I AM the light of the world," He speaks not only of who He is, but what He does.

The light brings freedom.

The light brings knowledge.

In the light alone can there be fullness of life.

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is something that stood out to you from this lesson?
2. What is something new you learned today, or something you were reminded of about God in this lesson?
3. What is something that resonated with you about your spiritual life being like an apple tree?
4. What does it mean to you that salvation—the beginning of your relationship with God—is like a seed?
5. If you made the decision to accept God’s gift of salvation today, please consider sharing that with us so we can celebrate you right now!
6. If you have already made the decision to accept the gift of salvation, why are you glad you made that decision?
7. Who are different people God has used in your life to help you understand the truth about salvation?
8. Think of someone in your life who does not yet understand the truth about salvation, then take a moment and pray for that person.
9. Please share any questions you have about today’s lesson.
10. How can we pray for you today?