



## **I AM (Part 1) - "Life in the Light of Love"**

### **John 8:12 NIV**

*12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

### **John 8:57-58 NIV**

*57 "You are not yet fifty years old," they said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!"  
58 "Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, **I am!**"*

### **John 1:4-5 NIV**

*4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

### **Isaiah 9:2 NIV**

*2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.*

### **John 3:19-21 NIV**

*19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.*

### **Key Points**

- *Jesus is the Light of the World because He is the visible image of the Invisible God.*
- *The dawning of the light of Christ disrupts the darkness.*
- *Darkness has its advantages; it provides cover that allows us to present ourselves on our terms while controlling and protecting what people see.*
- *The dawning of the Great Light exposes things we depend on to remain hidden.*
- *We see ourselves in the light of His life and light, which is rooted in His love.*
- *To live by the truth is to be principled about authenticity and integrity.*
- *Truth is relational faithfulness, to know and be known in the reality of everything we think, feel, hope, and want.*
- *When you see the love of God demonstrated on the cross, the things we hold in our hands suddenly look different.*

## **READ**

Open your time together by reading the Scripture passages on Page 1. Then, take a moment to consider what you just read:

- Read John 8:57-58. Jesus declares, "Very truly I tell you, before Abraham was born, I am!" What significance does this statement hold in understanding Jesus' identity and his relationship with God? how does it deepen our understanding of Jesus as faith's eternal and unchanging cornerstone?
- Read John 8:12 and John 1:4-5. These passages present Jesus' assertion of being the light of the world. How does this claim challenge prevailing beliefs and ideologies in Jesus' time and today?
- Read Isaiah 9:2. How might the people of that time have understood the prophecy of a great light dawning? How does Jesus fulfill this prophecy, and what does it reveal about his identity and mission?
- Read John 3:19-21. What does it mean practically to walk in the light of Christ in our daily lives? How does this impact our relationships, decisions, and worldview?

## **REFLECT**

- "If you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus." How do Jesus' life and teachings reveal the character and nature of God to you?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of darkness? How do they expose our tendencies to hide or control aspects of ourselves?
- Consider the idea that the dawning of the light of Christ disrupts darkness. How does encountering Jesus challenge and disrupt the darkness in our lives?

## **RESPOND**

- How does the statement, "His life is the light," impact your understanding of Jesus' role in revealing truth and love?
- Are there things you keep hidden or areas where you conceal in order to control?
- How can you allow the beauty of God's love to begin to define your life, causing you to reveal those places to God and others?

## **PRAY**

Close your time together with prayer requests. Ask how you can pray, support, and lift one another up. Pray over these requests collectively or by breaking into prayer partners.