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# I AM

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## WEEK 5 – THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

### **John 8:12**

Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "**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."

*I AM  
[ego eimi]*

*I...exist  
I...happen  
I...am...present*

Our willingness to **FOLLOW** is rooted in our ability to **TRUST**.

### **Exodus 13:21-22**

By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. <sup>22</sup>Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

*"Come, Follow Me."  
- Jesus*

### **1 John 1:5-7**

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. <sup>6</sup> So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. <sup>7</sup> But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

No area of darkness can withstand Jesus' **TRANSFORMING** light.

### **John 8:9-11**

At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. <sup>10</sup> Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one

condemned you?” <sup>11</sup> “No one, sir,” she said. “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

### **John 9:1-5**

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth.

<sup>2</sup> “Rabbi,” his disciples asked him, “why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents’ sins?”

<sup>3</sup> “It was not because of his sins or his parents’ sins,” Jesus answered. “This happened so the power of God could be seen in him. <sup>4</sup> We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent us. The night is coming, and then no one can work. <sup>5</sup> But while I am here in the world, **I am** the light of the world.”

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

The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

**Pursing Jesus leads to a RADIANT life.**

### **Matthew 5:14-16**

“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.

<sup>15</sup> No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

## SO WHAT?

**Where is Jesus inviting you to step out of the darkness and into the LIGHT?**

### **Revelation 22:5**

And there will be no night there—no need for lamps or sun—for the Lord God will shine on them. And they will reign forever and ever.



## learninggroups

**WE HAVE SEVERAL AWESOME OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO STEP INTO  
A LEARNING GROUP STARTING THE WEEK OF APRIL 29!**

- Deep Love Marriage Group
- Intentional Parenting Group
- Long Story Short Study of the Bible
- Propel Women's Group
- Wild Goose Chase Men's Group
- 33 Men's Group

## Leadercast

The largest one-day leadership event in the world, Leadercast assembles globally recognized leadership experts on one stage for equipping and encouraging leaders to invest themselves as never before. Join us in learning from Gayle King, Patrick Lencioni, Andy Stanley and others in mastering the art and science of leading healthy teams. For more information about the incredible line up of speakers, please go to [heritageqc.com/leadercast](http://heritageqc.com/leadercast).

Live Simulcast  
Hosted at our Bettendorf Campus  
Friday, May 10th  
7:15am - 3:00pm  
Tickets: \$99

Flexcast (same content)  
Hosted at our Rock Island Campus  
Thursday, May 23rd  
7:45am - 3:30pm  
Tickets: \$79

**“When we keep claiming the light, we will find ourselves  
becoming more and more radiant.”**

*Henri Nouwen*



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## **How to start a relationship with God:**

- 1) Admitting that you, like everyone else, are in need of rescue.
- 2) Asking God to forgive your sins.
- 3) Saying YES to God by trusting Jesus as Savior & Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

**Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to look to you and follow you all the days of my life.  
In Your name, Amen.**

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## **For Further Reflection:**

- :: Identify one thing the Lord has been teaching/re-teaching you through the “I AM” series.
- :: Reread/Review John 8:12
  - :: What stands out to you most in Jesus’ words?
  - :: Discuss some of the implications of Jesus identifying himself as “the Light of the world.”
  - :: How might those things impact the way we live or relate to Him today?
- :: How do you think our willingness to follow God is related to our trust in Him?
- :: Share about a time when you or someone you know displayed significant trust in following Jesus’ leading even when they couldn’t see the final destination?
- :: Pastor Justin said, “No area of darkness can withstand Jesus’ transforming light.” How do you see this displayed in John 8:1-11 and 1 John 1:5-7?
- :: Why do you think many refuse to invite Jesus into the dark areas of their lives?
- :: Re-read Matthew 5:14-16. What do you think Jesus means when He tells His followers that they are the light of the world?
- :: Take a moment to do any honest assessment of your life.
  - :: Are there area(s) where you’re not trusting Jesus to lead?
  - :: Is there an area of darkness in you that you need to invite Jesus into?
  - :: How radiant is your life for God’s glory? Can others see Jesus’ light?
- :: Read Revelation 22:5. Jesus was the Light of the world when He came. He will be the light for all of eternity. What is one area that you need to let Him be the Light in your life today?
- :: Identify one person you can ask to pray for you as you step out and do that.