

# JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

YEAR: TRANSFORM / FOCUS: LIVING FOR JESUS / SERIES: GOD IS I AM

## BIG TRUTH: JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

John 9:5; 1:4-5

## BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 8:12

*"Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world, Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'"*

## BIG IDEAS

- We live in spiritual darkness.
- Jesus alone illuminates the path to life.
- To walk in the light we must follow Jesus.

## BIBLE PASSAGE: JOHN 8:12-19; 3:19-21

## TRANSFORM: LIVING FOR JESUS

In High School, the Transform Year is an exploration of what it looks like to have transformed influence as we seek to live for a Kingdom that is greater than our own. First, we recognize that we will never be transformed if we are not Living for Jesus. To do this, we must first know who Jesus is by looking at who He says He is (John 8:58), and then look at what the Bible says about how in Him, we live by faith (James 1:6). Next, we recognize that to have transformed influence means that we must live as disciples in pursuit of Christ and His Kingdom over ourselves and our own kingdoms.

## SERIES AIMS



### Every student should know...

- The 8 different "I AM" statements that Jesus uses in the gospel of John.
- We will always be dissatisfied when we search for joy and life apart from Jesus.
- The value and worth of our lives is found in Jesus alone



### Every student should feel...

- Awe that God would make a way for our relationship with Him through Jesus.
- Convicted of the lies that they are tempted to believe about Jesus.
- Responsible to use their influence for Jesus alone.



### Every student should strive to...

- Read the entire gospel of John.
- Memorize the Bible verse each week.
- Practice sharing the truth about who Jesus is using the 'I Am' statements from Scripture



### Every student should want to...

- Grow in their understanding of who Jesus is.
- Abide in Christ deeper than they ever have before.
- Be known for how they point people to Jesus with their lives

## GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



Property of Tri-Cities Baptist Church  
171 Promise Land Dr. Gray, TN 37615

**BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 8:12**

*“Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world, Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’”*

**Everyone is darkened by sin.**

*“Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will not walk in darkness...’”*

- The sin of mankind permeates every part of this world shrouding it in darkness. The perfect world that God created is distorted and broken by the sinfulness of mankind. When the first man and woman sinned against God, they were separated from Him and sin has separated man from God ever since. This means that every person walks in this darkness while they live separated from God.
- Sin darkens our minds and keeps us from truly seeing and knowing God. We don’t recognize the truth or see God at work in the world because our hearts are darkened, and our eyes are blinded by our sin nature. This keeps us from following God.

**Jesus’ life shines a light into the world.**

*“Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world...’”*

- Light is symbolic of life and truth. When sin separated man from God, mankind was separated from light and truth. When Jesus entered the world, light entered the world. Where once there was only darkness, now there was light.
- Jesus’ life is a light that points each person to the truth. His life shows us the right way to live and opens our eyes to the truth about God. When we see Jesus and understand who He is, we understand ourselves and our need for a Savior. His life illuminates the way back to God. When we see Him and understand that it is through Him that we are reconciled to the Father, we no longer walk in darkness.

**Believers live in the light of Jesus.**

*“...Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”*

- Following Jesus means our eyes are opened and we no longer are blind to our sin. We see the truth and understand it. Not only do we see things clearly, but we live that truth in our daily lives. Believers no longer follow the path of this world.
- A person who has emerged from the darkness doesn’t return to the darkness. They remain in the light and follow the source of the light—Jesus. Believers live in the light of Jesus because He is the light and their source of light and truth always.

**BIG IDEA #1: WE LIVE IN SPIRITUAL DARKNESS.<sup>1</sup>****[ THIS ]**

Since sin first entered the world it has been in darkness. We all have sin natures that blind us and that produce a love for this world and things contrary to God. We all are shrouded in this darkness and we love it. We may dislike its consequences at times, but in our sinful hearts, we love the things of this world. Because of sin, darkness is the way of this world. Because God is the source of life and truth, when man sinned and was separated from God, all light left this world. John 3:19 tells us that in our natural sinful condition we love the darkness. This spiritual darkness keeps us from even acknowledging the truth about God. Even when we recognize that there is someone greater than us involved in life on earth, we struggle to let go of the pride and self-reliance that control us. We continue in the darkness that keeps us far from God as we travel a path to eternal death.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**What are some examples from the world that show how much people love spiritual darkness?**

1 Corinthians 1:18 reminds us that to those who live in spiritual darkness, the cross seems foolish. Often, people choose to stay in this darkness. They love the works of the flesh and prefer them over the fruit of the Spirit. These works of the flesh, as outlined in Galatians 5:19-21 and Mark 7:21-23, are more preferable to them than following Jesus.

**[ THIS ]**

With each passing moment the world we live in is passing away. The darkness in the world is a result of the darkness of our hearts. We are lovers of self. We reject God and deny His existence, choosing instead to promote ourselves and worship idols that we create. We hate and carry out hate by murdering, stealing, and denying basic human rights. Our dark hearts produce the darkness in the world. We are not made dark because of the world. It is made dark because of us. It is our spiritual darkness that causes the wickedness in the world. From the moment Adam and Eve first sinned, this brokenness began to invade the earth and as mankind moved and expanded, filling every part of the earth, the sinfulness did, too. Now, we all live in spiritual darkness until we have saving faith in Jesus who is the light.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**Read Matthew 15:19. Why do people place the blame for evil in the world on something other than sin in people's hearts?**

Our pride and self-sufficiency keep us from admitting that we are sinners and in need of a Savior. Because of this pride, we choose instead to blame the evil in the world on outward things instead of looking inside to ourselves. We reject the idea that we are all sinful. This keeps us from accepting the truth that our hearts are what make this world dark.

**What are some ways that you can use the darkness in the world to point others to Jesus?**

The brokenness in the world is easy to point out to others. We can point out the sickness, death, disease, war, and fighting that happens all over the world. As you point out these things, we can point people to the origin of these things and then point to Jesus and our need for a Savior.

1. Romans 3:23: Every person is born with a sin nature that leads them to reject God and sin against Him. We are all guilty of sinning against a holy God.

**BIG IDEA #2: JESUS ALONE ILLUMINATES THE PATH TO LIFE.<sup>2</sup>****[ THIS ]**

When we enter a dark room almost always our first response is to turn on a light. If we flipped a light switch and the light was too dim or only shone on part of the room, we would find that light lacking or deficient. When we enter this world, we do so as spiritually dark people. We need a light to illuminate our path. We can't see the way forward because our hearts are darkened. We can't see truth or even recognize what is the right path. We choose the wrong things to light our paths when we are left to ourselves. On our own, we pick things that lead us away from God. We choose to follow the mantras of this world, which is like a blind person leading another blind person. There is only one light that can truly show us the way—Jesus.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**What are some false lights you've been tempted to use instead of following Jesus?**

We trust in ourselves and our own power instead of following Jesus. We trust in our own perceived ability to be good enough or our own idea of what it takes to achieve eternal life. Yet, God's Word tells us that this mindset is hostile to Him as we see in Romans 8:7. 1 Peter 5:6 and James 4:7 also help us see that it is our unwillingness to submit to God that keeps us following false lights.

**Read 1 Peter 2:7-8. Why do people look to other things to illuminate their path instead of Jesus?**

These verses reveal the truth that the gospel is offensive and foolishness to those who don't believe it. Because people are offended by the truth that they are sinful and need a Savior, they work hard to find other things to guide their lives rather than following Jesus. It is a sinful rejection of Jesus and our need for Him that lead us to look for other things.

**[ THIS ]**

In John 8:12, Jesus declares that He is the Light of the world. This declaration is one of the eight "I AM" statements Jesus made about Himself and in it we are given a promise. Jesus is the light that shines on men and women, revealing their utter need for Him. Those who see this truth and believe it will never walk in darkness again. Jesus is the only light to illuminate our path in this world. There is no other light to show us the way. There is no other One who can forgive and set us free. He alone is the only One who can forgive us and make us new creations. He can show us how to live for God and help us have joy in this life as we live for God. Because He sets us free from our sin natures, we are no longer enslaved to our sin natures and we are no longer oppressed by the darkness of this world. Instead, we are free to live and walk in the light that is Jesus.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**How does having a personal relationship with Jesus illuminate your path and help you live for Him daily?**

Knowing Jesus helps us understand ourselves and the world around us because we understand the One who created it and us. As we grow in our knowledge of Him, we grow in our knowledge of ourselves. We learn that He is our Helper daily. Psalm 46:1, 54:4, and Hebrews 4:16 all remind us that Jesus is our Helper and present with us daily to guide us and show us the way.

2. John 8:12: Jesus is the light of the world and the only One who lights the path to reconciliation with the Father.

**BIG IDEA #3: TO WALK IN THE LIGHT WE MUST FOLLOW JESUS.<sup>3</sup>****[ THIS ]**

Often in this world, it is easier and more convenient for people to profess a belief in God without a faith in Jesus. Jesus disputes this idea and shows the error in this thinking in John 8:19. To know the Father, we must know Jesus. This means we can't choose to follow a false light by saying we believe there is a God without giving our lives to Jesus. It's impossible. Jesus is the light sent into the world to save it. He was sent by the Father. We don't get to rework God's redemption plan. In order to receive God's salvation, we must receive His Son because that is His plan. We are not the author of God's salvation plan, so we do not get to change it or adjust it to suit us. God has determined and written His story. In order to experience His salvation, we must follow His Son.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**What is the error in professing a belief in God, but rejecting a belief in Jesus?**

As Jesus makes His "I AM" statements, He reveals His divinity. He reveals that He is God. This means that we cannot believe in God and not believe in Jesus. Jesus is God. John 14:6, 10:30, and 1:1 all help us see that Jesus is God and if we believe in God, we believe in Jesus. The two cannot be separated.

**[ THIS ]**

In order to walk in the light, we must follow Jesus. To follow Him, we must do so on His terms. We must confess, repent, and believe. Following Jesus requires a denial of ourselves and an allegiance to Him and His kingdom. This means we set aside ourselves and our pursuit of our own lives and instead pursue Christ and His kingdom. To walk in the light, we must pursue Him and deny the things of this world. As we do that, we will put away the things of this world. We can't hold onto the sin of this world and try to walk in the light. We can't love the world and follow Jesus, too. As we walk in the light, we will know more and more about God the Father and we will look more and more like Jesus. As we look more like Jesus, we will look less like the world. Jesus taught this truth in John 8:12-19 as He taught His listeners about Himself and what it means to follow the true light of the world.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**Why is it important to know and believe that Jesus is the light of the world?**

When God sent Jesus, He sent salvation. Understanding and believing that Jesus is the light of the world is believing that He is the Savior of the world. Unless we believe this truth, we cannot be saved. Proverbs 4:19 teaches us that left to ourselves we walk in darkness and wickedness. We need the light of Jesus to show us the error of our way. Luke 1:78 helps us see that He came to show us how to be saved from this darkness.

**Read Ephesians 5:8-14. What obstacles do you face in following Jesus daily? How can you discipline yourself to overcome them this week?**

Often, our sinfulness leads us astray as we try to daily follow Jesus. We are lured and enticed by the things of this world. As we abide in Jesus and grow in Him, we can resist the temptation to give in to these things. We can grow in our ability to live more faithfully for Him. This means we grow in our ability to overcome sin and choose instead to obey Jesus and follow Him.

---

3. John 8:12: In order to walk in the light, we must follow Jesus.