

# I AM

**From Worship To Weekday - January 10**

I AM is our seven-week sermon series that explores each of the seven "I Am" statements that Jesus makes in the Gospel of John starting with John 6:32-51. Each "I Am" declaration illustrates a specific revelation of Jesus' character and testifies to his divinity. Also, each of the "I Am" announcements reveal our spiritual needs and how Jesus perfectly meets each and every one.

## **CONNECT WITH ONE ANOTHER**

- 1) How did you see God at work this past week?
- 2) What has God been teaching you in his Word this week?
- 3) How would you describe yourself in "I am" statements to someone you've just met?

### **I AM the Light of the World**

"I am the light of the world" (John 8:12; 9:5). This second of Jesus' "I am" statements in John's gospel comes right before He heals a man born blind. Jesus not only says He is the light; He proves it. Jesus' words and actions echo Genesis 1:3, "And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light."

## **CONNECT WITH GOD'S WORD - John 8:12; John 9:1-7; Genesis 1:3**

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."

### **Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind**

9 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. 4 As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 6 After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. 7 "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

Genesis 1:3, "And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light."

## GOING DEEPER

Jesus and his followers came across a man who was blind his whole life as they were leaving the temple. The disciples asked a question of Jesus that insinuated that blame must be placed for this terrible thing that has happened in the man's life. What is Jesus' reply?

Jesus is saying this very bad thing in this man's life was not his fault. It wasn't his parents' fault. Who do you know that is living in the darkness of horrible circumstances in life that needs to hear "it's not your fault"?

Like the disciples, we want to know why terrible things happen to people. Jesus provides two reasons why. The first is because the world is broken by the darkness of sin, which explains why "The Light of the World" had to come. The second is revealed in vs. 3. How have you seen this played out in the lives of current day followers of Jesus?

In the sermon, you were challenged to begin processing your life that way, if you haven't already. There may be some value at times in assessing blame, so you can work on healing. But many times, blame isn't God's agenda. He wants to display his works in you. How is your life a canvas for the works of God?

In Psalm 107:10-11, it talks about people who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death. They were prisoners in affliction and in irons. Why?

God said, "do this" and they said, "no!" God told them to believe certain things, to live a certain way, and they rejected it. They chose darkness. Ever done that? Have you chosen darkness? God says, "do this" and you say, "no." He tells you to believe what is true, to live what is truly life, and you reject it. Have you chosen darkness?

Who will not walk in darkness? Jesus says, "Whoever follows me." You do the math. That means those who don't follow Jesus will walk in darkness. As a Jesus follower, the light of the world is yours. Is there any course correction that needs to happen in your life because of that?

Jesus says, "I am the light of the world." And, at first, that light exposes the things done in the darkness, and that doesn't feel good. But it is a necessary step in not only giving forgiveness to us, but working forgiveness in us. What is the difference?

There is a "record scratch" moment in this reading. In the sermon, a "record scratch" moment described as an abrupt stop where something unexpected happens. Right before Jesus says, "I am the light of the world," he says "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." Shouldn't Jesus always be the light of the world? Why would he say "as long as I am in the world" and what does that mean for us today?

Did you catch the pronoun Jesus uses in vs. 4?

Read Matthew 5:14. Jesus hands off his calling to be light, to his followers. If you come under the influence of the one who is the light of the world, his light begins to shine in and through you. Talk about how his light shines through his followers.