

I AM

Jesus in His own words

I Am the Light of the World

John 8:12 (NLT) 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.

Exodus 13:20-21 (NIV) After leaving Sukkoth they camped at Etham on the edge of the desert. **21** 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.

Zechariah 14:6-7 (NIV) On that day there will be neither sunlight nor cold, frosty darkness. **7** It will be a unique day—a day known only to the Lord—with no distinction between day and night. When evening comes, there will be light.

John 8:7-8 (NRSV) When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." **8** And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground.

1. The LIGHT reveals our own DARKNESS.

Acts 26:17-18 (NLT) And I will rescue you from both your own people and the Gentiles. Yes, I am sending you to the Gentiles **18** to open their eyes, so they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. Then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and be given a place among God's people, who are set apart by faith in me."

John 12:46 (NLT) I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the dark.

1 John 1:5-7 (NRSV) This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. **6** If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; **7** but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. In the beginning the Word already existed.

2. The DARKNESS can never EXTINGUISH the light.

John 1:1-5 (NLT) In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He existed in the beginning with God. **3** God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. **4** The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

Matthew 16:18 (MSG) You are Peter, a rock. This is the rock on which I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out.

3. SHINE your LIGHT where you are.

Matthew 5:13-16 (NIV) You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. **14** "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Psalms 119:105 (NLT) Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.

scriptures that relate

Monday: Genesis 1:1-5 Wednesday: Psalm 43 Friday: Mark 4:21-25
Tuesday: Esther 8 Thursday: Matthew 4:12-25 Saturday: 2 Corinthians 4:1-15

small groups—talk it over

1. When was one time you tried finding something in the dark? How much longer did it take to find it compared to when you searched with the lights on?
2. What comes to your mind when you hear Jesus is the "Light of the world"? How do your thoughts compare and contrast with Jesus' own descriptions in John 8:12-30?
3. God always wants to reveal Himself to us and we see Him most clearly through Jesus. What is one thing you learned about God by observing what Jesus did and said?
4. God said, "Let there be light" and transformed everything. What is one part of your life you want God to shine a light on? What is one thing in the world that you want God to shine light on and transform?
5. Jesus came to earth to give light to everyone. Who is one person you want to see Jesus more clearly? What can you do to help that person see Jesus clearly?

pastor mark's prayer requests

Monday: Pray for the City of Westminster, its city officials and residents.

Tuesday: Pray for neighboring churches and their communities. We're on the same side!

Wednesday: Pray for our students that they may be a light in their schools.

Thursday: Pray for our first responders that they are granted God's protection as they protect us.

Friday: Pray for a passion in our personal walk with God.

Saturday: Pray for our church's communities, our small groups, our staff and volunteers.