

Walking With Jesus, the Great I Am

Study Guide for Lesson Two—January 25, 2013

Day One:

"I am the Light of the World"

Last week we focused our attention on Jesus—our Bread of Life! He is the one who can satisfy the deep spiritual and emotional hunger and thirst that we experience. This week—Jesus the **Light of the World!** We will study the *declaration to the crowd* followed by the *attention to the individual*.

Find John 8:12 in your Bible. Underline it in your Bible and write it out here:

What are the promises in this verse:

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What is the condition to the promise:

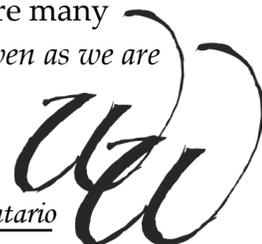
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From John 8:1-2 Where do you think Jesus was when he said this? Who do you think was listening?

John 9:1 begins *"As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth..."* AH! The perfect time to demonstrate exactly what Jesus means by 'light of the world' through 'giving sight to the blind'. **Read John 9:1-7.** From this text list:

- The people involved
- The problem encountered
- The disciples assumptions
- Jesus' explanation
- Jesus' actions
- Blind man's actions

We should take care to not make assumptions about the cause of sufferings or troubles in ourselves or others. Sometimes God does chastise us for our sin because He loves us. But there are many other causes. We may never see the entire picture until we are in Heaven and *"know even as we are known"* (I Cor. 13:12) Sickness and hardships come into all of our lives—what-ever the cause, God will use it for our good and His glory if we trust in Him.



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Day Two:

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Yesterday (**John 9:1-7**) we read about Jesus healing a man blind from birth. Just imagine this man having spent every day of his life in darkness—a blind beggar. And now, encountering Jesus, he is suddenly able to see clearly. The rest of this chapter is about that one day and how the neighbors, the Pharisees, and the man's parents all responded to this miracle. Perhaps you will see familiar parallels with our own journey of stepping out of darkness into light.

Read **John 9:8-17**

Summarize what the neighbors thought/said:

What did the healed man tell them?

Summarize the Pharisees' thoughts/comments:

Read **John 9:18-25**

Have you experienced a situation where, like the healed man's parents, you knew that your beliefs, or conclusions about Jesus were not the accepted philosophy and would cause you to be *thrown out* of the social circle you were in? Prepare to share in your group.

Now, let's summarize how the healed man responded to questions all along the way:

v.11

v.15b

v.17b

v.25

Love, love that last statement. Sometimes I still feel that way *"I don't know, I don't have all the answers...all I know is that I once was lost and now I'm found."* In tomorrow's lesson he will gain more clarity AND more boldness.

To make this personal today look up **2 Cor. 4:6** and write it out below.



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Day Three:

"I am the Light of the World"

Let's continue this amazing, healing, light-filled day: **Read John 9:26-34**

The Pharisees start in again and now the healed man suddenly finds a boldness. You will notice from yesterday's notes that he had already told them three times this day about Jesus healing him. Summarize his response this time:

And...what do the Pharisees have to say to that:

In v.31-33 we see some superb critical thinking on the part of the healed man—who may have never given much thought to such things in his life. Write out three excellent points that he makes:

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The Jews now had all the facts confirmed by neighbors, parents, the man himself. They still **chose not to believe**. Since they couldn't deny the evidence, they attacked the messenger (v.34).

Look up **John 3:19**: How does this explain the decision of the Pharisees (and of people today)?

What a day! The man had started out as a blind beggar and ended the day a sight-restored outcast. And now this is where Jesus steps in. He is always the friend of the outcast—v.35 says "*Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him [he wanted to talk]*" To me, '*when he found him*' implies that Jesus went looking for him.

Read **John 9:35-39**—Jot down your impressions of this conversation with Jesus.



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Day Four:

"I am the Light of the World"

Following the healed man through this passage is an interesting commentary on the stages we all pass through as we are brought from spiritual darkness into light.

- We are all spiritually blind from birth
- God calls us out—he makes the first move in our life
- Jesus does a work of healing us from spiritual blindness
- Jesus calls us to be obedient to what He commands
- We may understand very little about Jesus at first
- People who have known us all our life notice the change—they may not even recognize us
- We may become persecuted by people who are trusting in their own acts of righteousness
- We grow in our knowledge and understanding of Jesus to the point of worship
 - 'A man called Jesus healed me' (John 9:11)
 - 'He is a prophet' (John 9:17)
 - 'A man from God' (John 9:33)
 - 'The Son of God, worthy of worship' (John 9:38)

We never know the name of this man born blind. Jesus is the important One; a true disciple is content to remain anonymous if his Lord gets the glory.

I want us to finish this week with a potpourri of inspiration on Jesus bringing light and illumination to our life. Look up these verses, jot some notes, circle your favorite, prepare to share why.

- Isaiah 9:2
- John 1:9
- Isaiah 60:1-3
- Eph. 5:8
- 1 John 1:5-7

The name of God in the present tense: *I Am the Light of the World*

Write how THIS particular name of God affects YOU personally today. How does God Almighty want to relate to you based on THIS name:

