

JESUS - AMAZING?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world"

(Suitable for use within a group over two studies approximately one hour long each, or for an individual's personal Bible reading)

Thinking about life as a student in healthcare

As a health professional (and one in training!), consider how valuable it is that you can see.

1. Discuss together what life would look like for you if you were blind. Consider:
 - a. Your studies
 - b. Your practice

It is not over exaggerating to say that you would not be functional as a doctor/dentist if you were blind.

But the problems would extend beyond this wouldn't they.

If you added arsenic into the dinner meal instead of turmeric, you wouldn't know you had done this *significant wrong*.

If you asked someone the way to the shops (because you couldn't read the sign) and they lied, you would *go the wrong way*.

You wouldn't be able to navigate yourself around to access basic necessities (picture yourself as a blind person in a country not like our own – one where no help/services are available). You couldn't access your own water, food, or even find your own house without someone helping you. Your very life therefore would be *vulnerable*. You might even feel a bit like a prisoner sometimes...oppressed by your complete dependence on others, and your inability to see any beauty at all.

A blind person is a person in need – a person in need of sight.

A blind person is a person in darkness – a person in need of light.

Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world'.

What does God have to say?

In John 8:12, Jesus says, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life".

Read John 9:1-7, 24-25.

Jesus claims to be the light of the world. But what does this mean? To learn more of the significance of Jesus' words, further reading is required.

Whilst Jesus lets this phrase just roll off his tongue, this claim is amazing...and soon we shall see why.

Read Psalm 43:3, Ephesians 5:8-10, Ephesians 5:13-14.

1. What do these verses reveal about the significance of Jesus' statement, 'I am the light of the world'?

Just as Jesus light brings sight to the blind man, this same light brings spiritual sight to the spiritually blind. As these spiritual eyes are opened, it is truth that His light reveals.
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2. Can you identify philosophies you have lived by/do still live by that have been/are lies? If yes, have you allowed Jesus' light to bring you out of these, and into His Truth? How has His light made these lies more visible to you (Ephesians 5:13-14)? Share with one another your experiences.

Read Job 12:22, Psalm 90:8, Isaiah 10:17, John 3:19-20.

1. What do these verses reveal about the significance of Jesus' statement, 'I am the light of the world'?

Jesus, as the Light of the World, brings **justice and accountability** into the world.

2. Have you ever been conscious of Jesus' Light exposing your own sin...to yourself? If you feel comfortable share with one another your experiences.
3. Consider what the world would be like if Jesus Light did not bring accountability. (To help you do this, consider countries beyond our own that exist in anarchy). How does Jesus' promise to bring all things, all people, all deeds to light, bring hope?

Read Isaiah 42:6-7, Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18-19), Colossians 1:12-13, 1 Peter 2:9.

1. What do these verses reveal about the significance of Jesus' statement, 'I am the light of the world'?

It is not difficult to see the darkness that exists in this world. The way we might use this term colloquially ('The Dark Side' - Star Wars) is not far off what the Bible intends the metaphor to mean, though is most certainly a softer version of the reality that exists. The darkness in this world – the 12 year old daughter who is sold into prostitution by her mother, the drug lord who lives in the resort-style mansion funded by the addiction of the once ambitious, talented 15 year old boy, or the marriage that exists in perpetual conflict as the wife strikes with her tongue and the husband with his fist. Darkness exists because of sin.

It is, however, more difficult to see the *blindness* that exists in the world – because it exists *within us*. The problem doesn't just exist 'out there', it exists 'in here' too. It is realising, years after the event, that you really were the one in the wrong, or it is that sin that you swore to yourself you would never do again but you have - many times...it is knowing that deep down you have your own 'dark side'. Our 'dark sides' don't only harm others...they harm ourselves too. Blindness exists because of sin.

How can we escape the darkness that we find ourselves in when the darkness prevents us from navigating our way out?

How can we escape the blindness that we find in ourselves when our inability to see prevents us from such? When we really stop to think about it, the situation is despairing. No wonder the Bible likens it to being locked up in a prison (Isaiah 42:6-7, 61:1).

Or the situation would be despairing...if there was no one to light the darkness, or restore sight.

Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world'. He is the only one who can **rescue** us out of darkness and **free** us from blindness.

2. Consider your classmates. How do you think they might define 'freedom'? From your observations, do you think they really are free? If you can, be concrete in your reasoning.
3. Have you ever felt despairing to the sin in the world or the sin within yourself? How does knowing that Jesus is the Light bring you comfort?

Read Nehemiah 9:12, Job 29:2-3, Psalm 119:105, Isaiah 42:16.

1. What do these verses reveal about the significance of Jesus' statement, 'I am the light of the world'?

Picture someone stumbling around in the dark (pitch dark). Without a light, this person does not know where to go, and even if they did, they do not know how to get there. They are directionless, and so also purposeless. They face certain danger, as they are unable to avoid stumbling blocks, or indeed anything that will cause them harm.

The person stumbling around in the dark, is you and me living in this world. We don't know where to go, how to get there, what direction to take, what our purpose is or how to avoid danger without a light.

Jesus, the *Word of God*, is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Psalm 119:105). His Light provides all the **direction, guidance and wisdom** we need to navigate our way through life successfully.

Read 2 Samuel 22:29, Isaiah 9:2, Isaiah 60:19-20, Ezekiel 1:26-28, Revelation 21:23.

1. What do these verses reveal about the significance of Jesus' statement, 'I am the light of the world'?

In light of these verses, Jesus claim to be the Light of the World is stunning.

As the Light, Jesus is the fulfilment of a prophecy made hundreds of years before his time (Isaiah 9:2).

As the Light, Jesus is indeed the Sovereign LORD himself (God's name in the Old Testament).

Amazing!!

In closing this study, give praise to God in prayer together that Jesus is the Light of the World!

Bible Bites

(Suitable to be completed over two sittings approximately 20-25 minutes each – Own Bible needed for these studies)

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