

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Meet the God/Man, Jesus Series, Lesson 36

Lesson Title: Jesus—The Light

Take Home Point: Jesus is the light of the world who shines through us.

Warm-Up:

My family and I recently vacationed in the Black Hills of South Dakota. While we were there, we toured one of the large caves in the area. Once inside, the artificial lighting in the cave was sufficient for us to follow the path downward. Deep underground our group entered a large room. Our guide gathered us to the room's center to experience something. He turned off the lights. Never have I been in such total darkness. After a few seconds he switched on his flashlight. How welcome that light was! You could sense the relief in our group. It's not that the room was suddenly flooded with brilliance, but now there was this beacon offering direction and drawing us close.

Read: Mark 4:21-25; Matthew 5:14-16

Observation (What happened?):

What are we supposed to do with our light?

Why are we to let our light shine?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What is the darkness in which we shine our light? How do we know it is darkness?

What is the "light" to which Jesus refers?

Insight:

In John 8:12, Jesus said he is the light of the world. Did you know Jesus used many other titles to describe his character and mission? Most of the references Jesus made to himself are captured in John's gospel, where Jesus called himself the bread of life (6:35); the gate for his sheep (10:7); the good shepherd (10:11); God's Son (10:36); the resurrection and the life (11:25); the way, the truth, and the life (14:6); the true vine (15:5); and the king (18:37). In the book of Revelation, Jesus called himself the First and the Last; the Beginning and the End (22:12); and the Root and Offspring of David and the Bright Morning Star (22:16). Those are all deeply meaningful names. But particularly important was his pronouncement in John 8:58 of "I AM." That name, I AM, is the personal name God declared to Moses in Exodus 3:15 when Moses asked God's name. So when Jesus said, "I AM," he declared himself to be God. No wonder he is the light of the world!

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What darkness do you face around you in your everyday life?

Where do you need to shine your light? List some ways you can shine the light God has given you.