

Lesson 48



8-1-2021
LEADER GUIDE

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

JOHN 8:12-30

GOAL

To show children what Jesus meant when He said, "I am the light of the world!" In this declaration, He presented Himself as the only source of spiritual light—the light that reveals the truth and exposes lies; the light of the divine presence of God who guides, protects, and delivers; and the light of life and giver of eternal life. Review the various characteristics of darkness and light to help children understand some of the more obvious implications of Christ's claim.

WORDS TO KNOW

Light: Light helps us to see things clearly, and it's essential to life. Light shows the way and exposes potential obstacles. In the context of this lesson, Jesus is the source of light as the creator of all living things, the one who shows the way, and the giver of eternal life.

MEMORY VERSES

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."

John 3:19: And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light, because their works were evil.



OVERVIEW

Read John 8:12-30: Jesus continues to reveal who He is and why He came into the world in this second of seven “I am” statements. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” The path to heaven can only be discerned with the light of His truth; the sinful condition cannot be solved apart from the light of His revelation; and a purposeful life can only be enjoyed with His light as its guide.

SUGGESTIONS

Talk about the benefits of light and how they apply to the Jesus’ statement, “I am the light of the world”:

- 1. Light exposes sin:** Jesus, and His Word (the Bible), illuminates and exposes the reality of our sinful condition and our need for forgiveness.
- 2. Light gives direction:** Jesus illuminates the true path here on earth, which leads to our eternal reward in heaven.
- 3. Light sustains life:** Every living thing requires some amount of light in order to live. Without the energy that comes from light, all living things would die. Jesus is not only the Creator of the light that sustains the physical world, but also the spiritual light that produces eternal life.





PRE-LESSON
ACTIVITY

▶ **Treasure Hunt with Flashlights** | **Supplies:** Small trinkets that are appropriate for your students' age group and flashlights.

Beforehand, hide trinkets and treasure around the room. Usher the children in and have them all sit on the ground. Once they are all safely seated, turn out the lights. From where they are seated, have them tell you if they see any of the treasure hidden around the room. For this next part, be sure to instruct them to proceed cautiously so no one gets hurt. Hand out flashlights and have the children shine the light around the room and look for trinkets until they are mostly found. Discuss how the flashlights made it possible to see and how they were less likely to stumble or bump into one another. Now, turn on all the lights in the room and show how it is even easier to see. Perhaps they will find even more well-hidden treasures. Compare how the flashlights revealed what was hidden, how the classroom lights exposed even more hidden treasures, and how Jesus is the light that reveals the true path and the ultimate treasure.

MEMORY
VERSE
MEANING

▶ **John 8:12**

Jesus is the source of light that helps people see and understand their true condition before a perfectly holy God. The light of His word guides in the path of righteousness.

John 3:19

Jesus did not come to condemn the world, but to offer salvation. The condemnation lies in the fact that many people love sin too much to face the reality of their condition and their need for the forgiveness of God.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 1



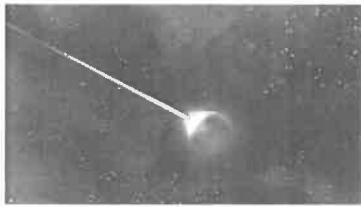
Q1a: What festival had just come to an end?

A1: The Feast of Tabernacles had just ended.

Q1b: Have you ever used a compass?

TN: The Earth is a magnet, and compasses contain magnets attracted to the Earth's North Pole, meaning that a compass always points north. It can be challenging at first to use one, but after a bit of practice, equipped with a compass, we can always find our bearings. Jesus always points us toward good, righteousness, and love. He is the absolute standard by which all good and evil is judged. He is the only source of truth.

SLIDE 2



Q2a: What did Jesus say His followers would have?

A2: Jesus said His followers would have the light of life. *never walk in darkness and*

Q2b: You're left in the middle of the wilderness with only a compass. Could you find your way home?

TN: If we have no idea where we are, knowing which way is north is of little use. If we are north of home and we keep walking north, we're in for a very long walk. In this situation, what we really need is a compass and a map. In life, Jesus is our moral compass, helping us to make good choices, all the while directing us on the path toward eternal life.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 3



Q3a: What did Adam and Eve experience in the Garden of Eden?

A3: They experienced joy, happiness, and perfect fellowship with each other and God.

Q3b: What things are necessary to grow a garden?

TN: Soil, water, and light. Without any one of those ingredients, the plants will fail. Humans are similar in that we have basic needs, such as food, water, and shelter; however, we have more advanced needs. We were created to worship God, and without His light, we wither.

SLIDE 4



Q4a: Why were Adam and Eve driven out of paradise?

A4: They were driven out of paradise because they rebelled against God and sinned.



SLIDE 5



QUESTION & ANSWER



Q5a: What did Adam and Eve's sin bring into the world?

A5: Their sin brought shame, hopelessness, anxiety, and separation from God.

Where is the best place to hide the last cupcake?

TN: The best place to hide something is somewhere out of sight—usually someplace dark where people are less likely to be able to see it. If that cupcake is left out in the open, everyone can see it, making it known that there is one more cupcake left. In the open, it's no longer a secret that this is the last cupcake.

The thing about sin is we try to keep it secret—we hide the evidence or push the memories way back in our minds, hoping that no one ever finds out about what we've done. Sinning causes us to feel shame. We don't want other people to know what we've done. We don't want others to judge us, making us feel even worse than we already do. We hide our sins, and keep them in the dark. When we sin, we should confess it rather than hide it because honestly, we cannot hide our sins from God. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross gave us forgiveness for our sins, and we should not be afraid to confess and repent. Jesus shines a light on our sins, leads us away from them, brings us into the light, and illuminates the path we are to walk with Him.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 6



Q6a: What announced that the Messiah had come to break through the darkness?

A6: The brightest star shone, announcing that the Messiah had come.

Q6b: How did the first people who sailed across the oceans find their way without maps?

TN: They used the position of the sun and stars to guide them. The wise men used the star that appeared after Jesus' birth to find Him and worship Him. While we may not have anything quite as obvious to follow on our journey through life as we make our way on the path God has set for our lives, we do have a guide. His directions are not as obvious as those of a GPS telling us when to turn right or left, but directions have been and will be given every step of the way. Jesus illuminates the path of righteousness that leads to Heaven and eternal life.

SLIDE 7

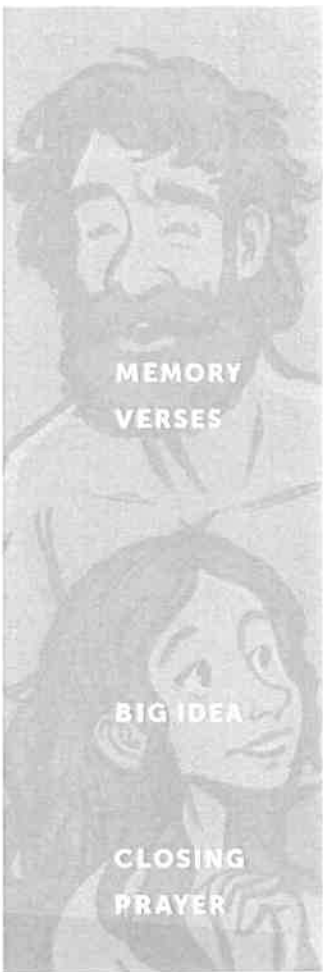


Q7a: What proved the success of Jesus' mission against sin and death?

A7: Jesus' resurrection proved He was successful in overcoming sin and death.

Q7b: Answer this riddle: How are you like the moon?

TN: The moon doesn't shine at night because it produces its own light; it reflects the light from the sun. As Christians, we experience the love and truth of God. This is such a huge force in our lives that it shows in our words and actions. If we live our lives for Jesus and in His example, we are shining His light in this dark world full of sin and sorrow. By following Jesus, we become beacons to others struggling with sin, helping them to realize their need for Jesus.



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."

John 3:19: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light, because their works were evil.

Jesus is the light that illuminates the truth, gives us life, and leads us toward eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for being the light that saves us from sin and guides us toward You and eternal life. Help us to reflect Your light to those in our lives. We ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

"I AM" THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD CROSSWORD ANSWER KEY

Across

- The perfect sacrifice of Jesus broke the curse of **(Sin)** and death.
- The **(Feast)** of Tabernacles had just been concluded when Jesus stood to make His claim as the Light of the world.
- Who convinced Eve to eat the fruit? **(Satan)**
- Jesus said, "Whoever **(Follows)** me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
- What creature was Satan posing as in the Garden? **(Snake)**

Down

- All those who belong to Jesus are also called to be a **(Light)** in a dark world.
- Salvation is through **(Jesus)** Christ, alone.
- "And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the **(Darkness)** rather than the light because their works were evil."
- After Adam and **(Eve)** rebelled against God, sin and death entered into the world for the first time.

"I AM" THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

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."



Family Devotional



UNLOCK
CODE!

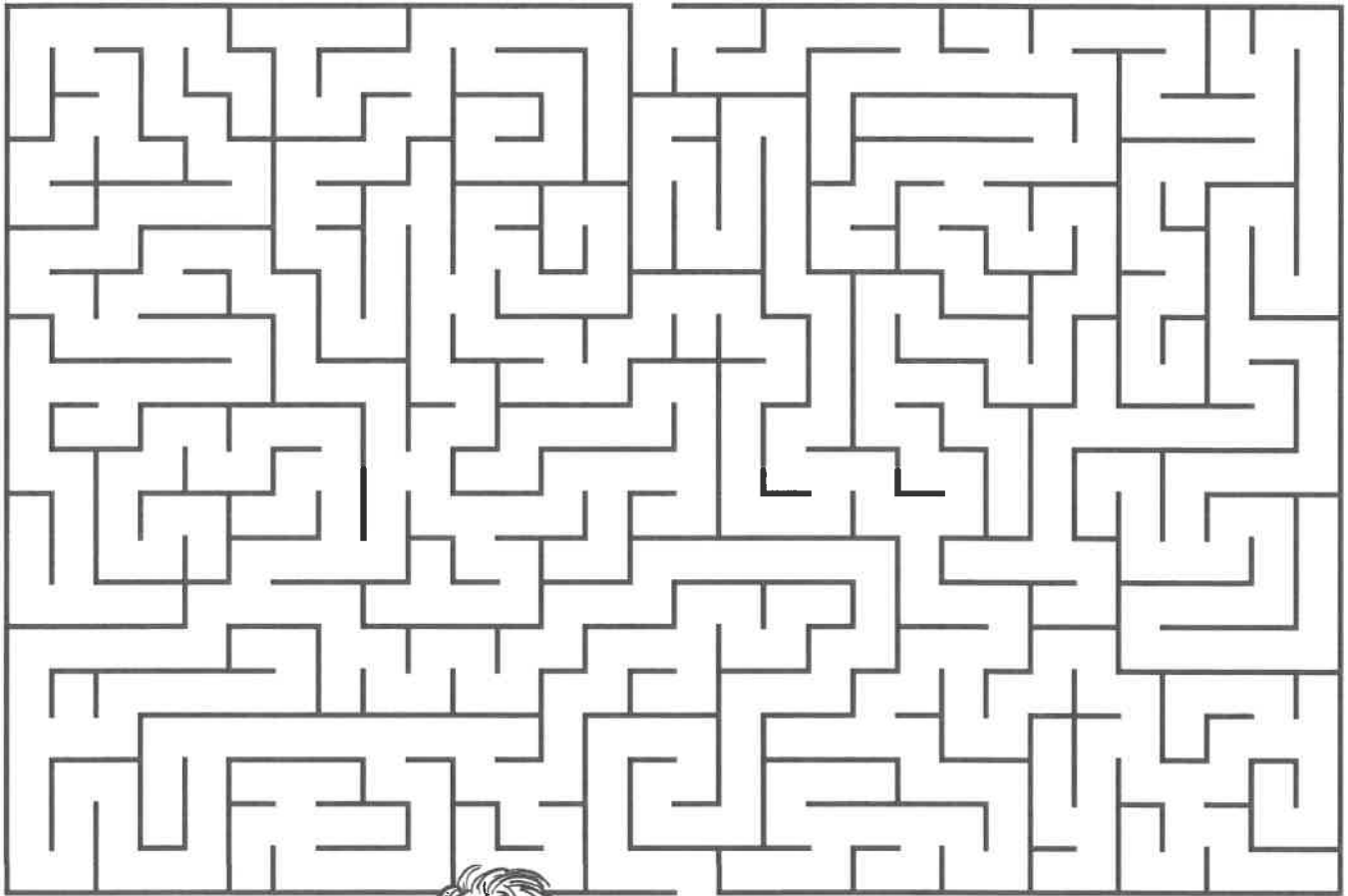
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families.sharefaith.com

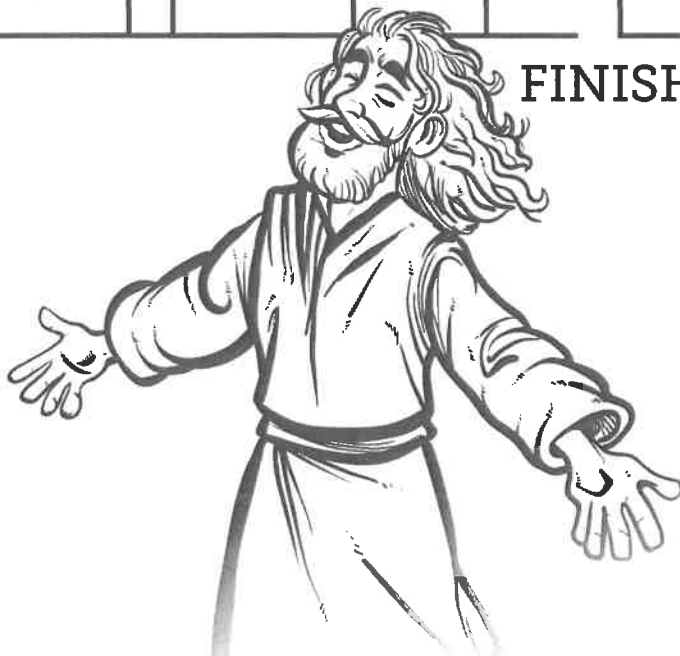
"I AM" THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Follow Jesus, the Light of the World

START

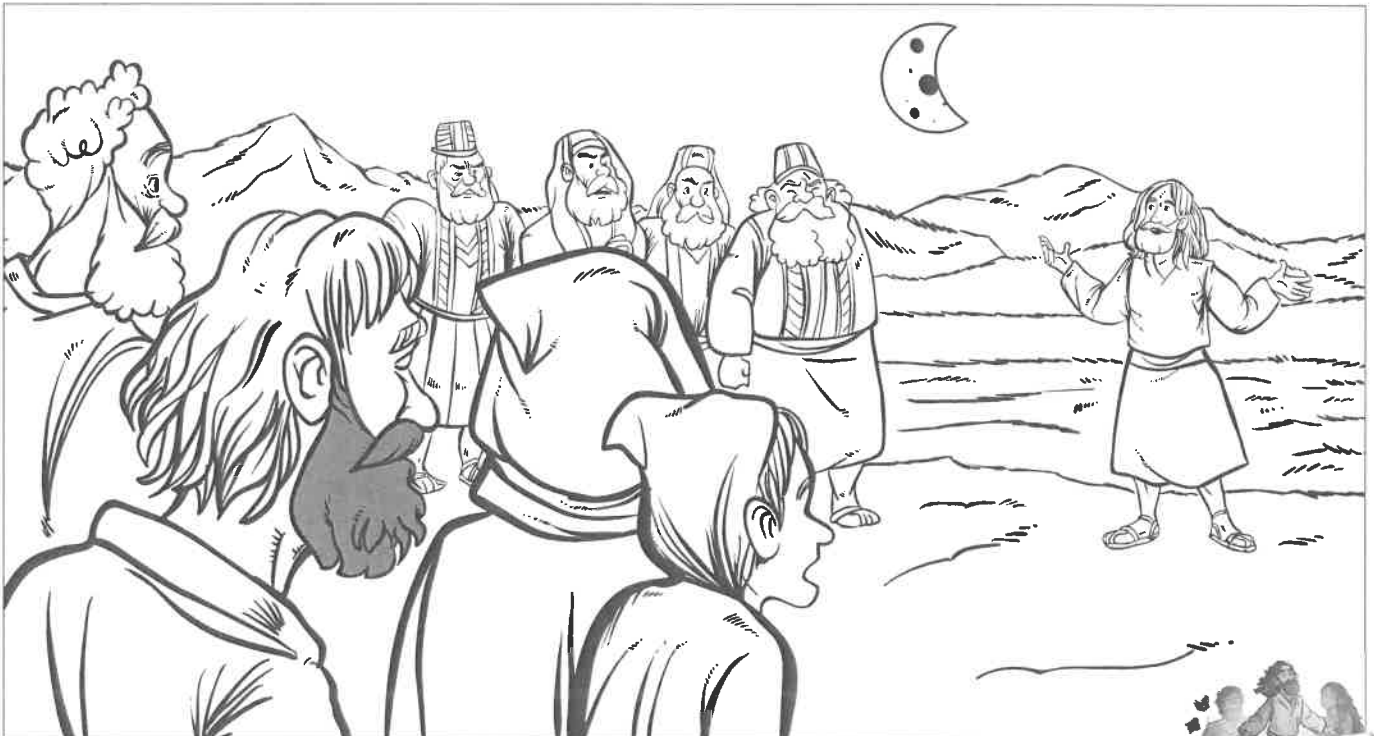
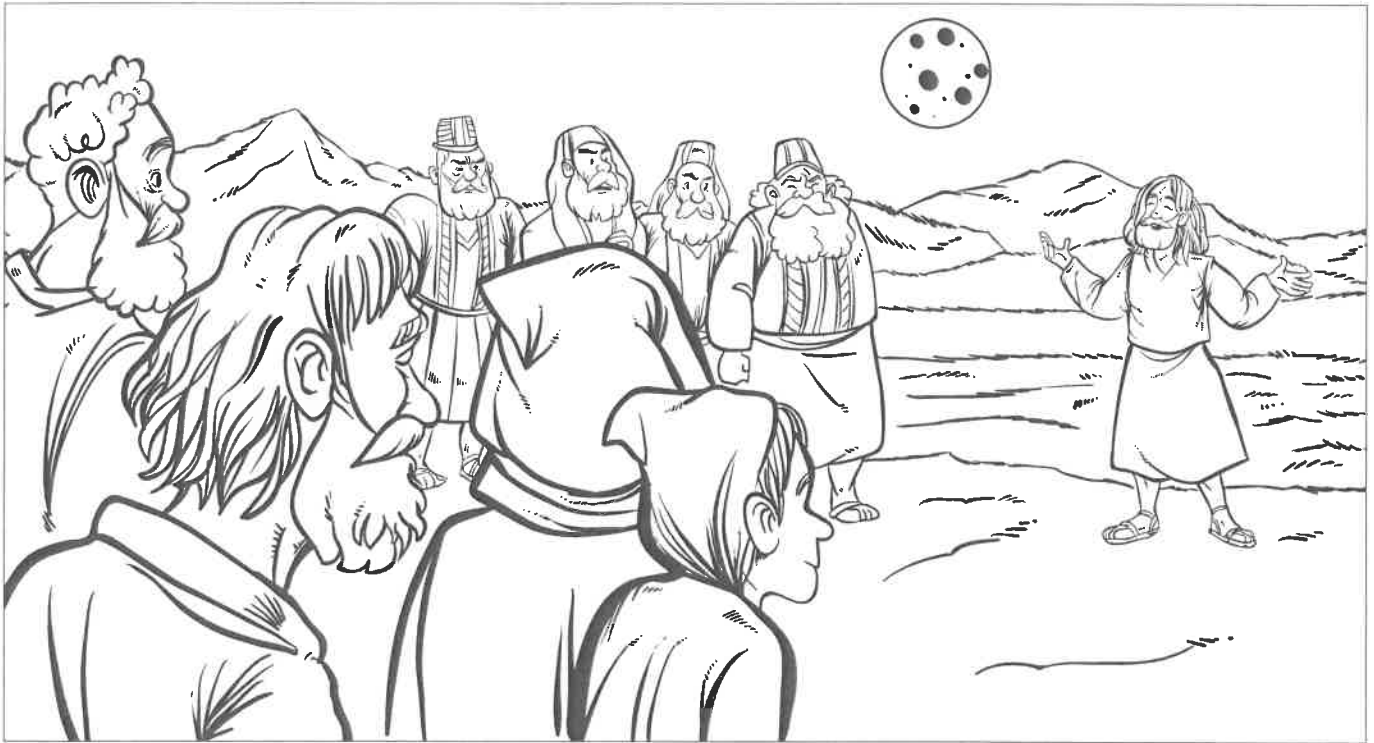


FINISH



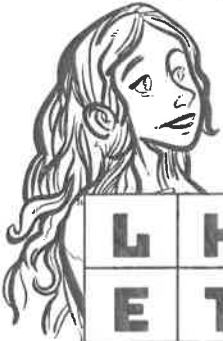
"I AM" THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.



"I AM" THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Discover the hidden words.



L	H	J	O	S	E	M	F	F	A	U	R	M	U	D
E	T	E	A	W	K	X	J	G	O	T	L	R	I	N
Y	G	T	R	Q	M	I	N	O	F	L	H	B	R	S
D	A	R	K	N	E	S	S	D	E	W	L	G	U	J
N	J	D	S	R	J	F	E	J	A	I	X	O	I	X
C	M	M	Z	L	T	T	F	X	S	L	B	R	W	L
X	O	P	P	P	G	I	K	O	T	M	O	B	R	S
A	I	Q	S	I	N	O	S	Q	E	A	R	D	Q	J
T	H	C	L	L	A	L	W	B	R	E	Z	H	T	E
Z	P	H	M	G	G	V	V	O	C	J	I	S	S	S
P	S	A	U	D	L	V	R	D	W	Q	Y	E	K	U
E	D	O	E	Z	V	T	F	E	N	C	C	B	P	S
A	V	C	V	V	M	E	T	Y	V	F	U	V	O	F
I	P	E	E	N	C	M	J	W	J	V	W	A	M	D
Z	K	A	M	S	N	A	K	E	I	W	Y	D	A	X

Word Bank

SIN

FEAST

SATAN

FOLLOWS

SNAKE

LIGHT

JESUS

DARKNESS

EVE

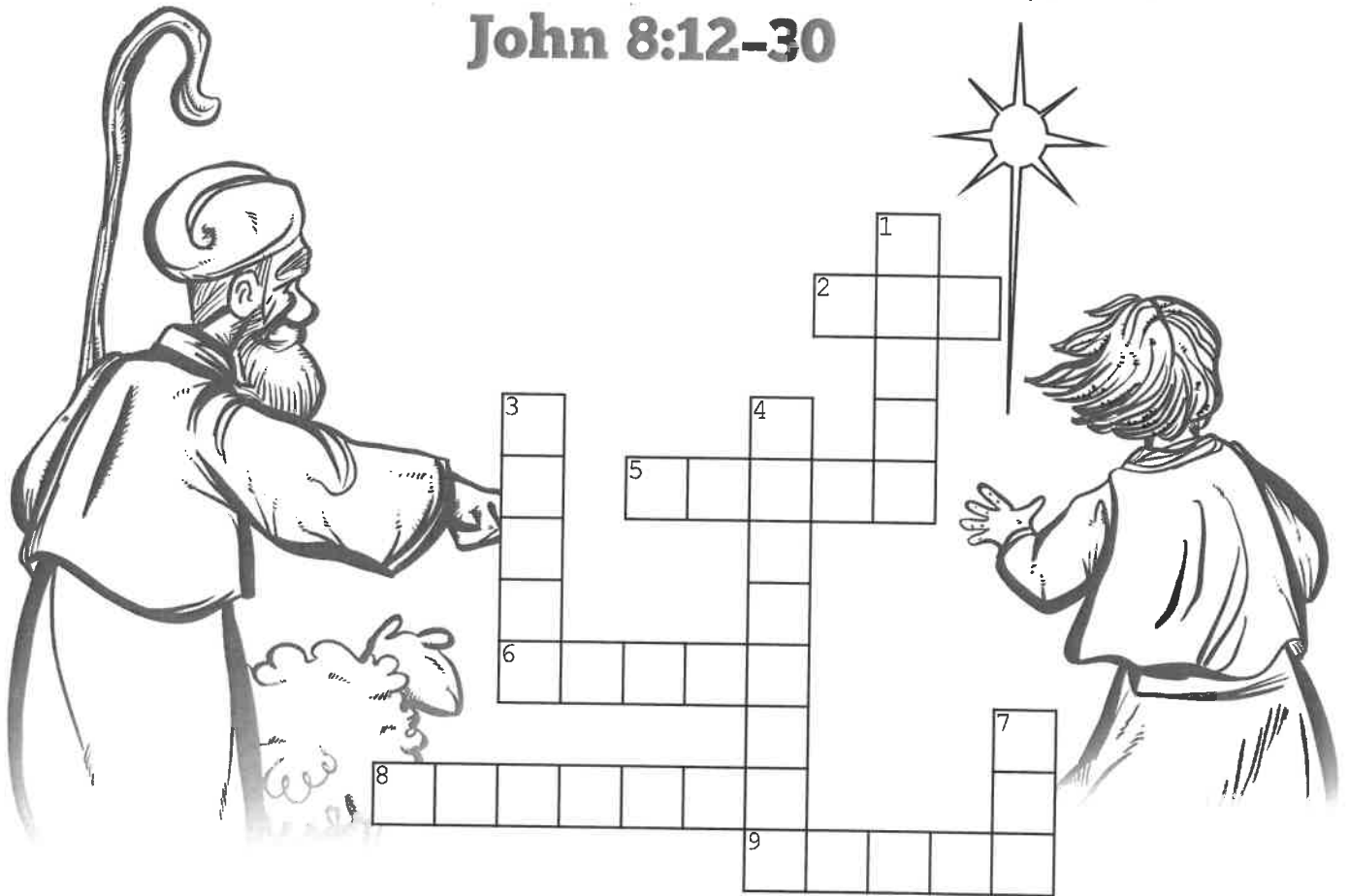
ADAM

GOD



"I AM" THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

John 8:12-30



Across

2. The perfect sacrifice of Jesus broke the curse of ____ and death.
5. The ____ of Tabernacles had just been concluded when Jesus stood to make His claim as the Light of the world.
6. Who convinced Eve to eat the fruit?
8. Jesus said, "Whoever ____ me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
9. What creature was Satan posing as in the Garden?

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1. All those who belong to Jesus are also called to be a ____ in a dark world.
3. Salvation is through ____ Christ, alone.
4. "And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the ____ rather than the light because their works were evil."
7. After Adam and ____ rebelled against God, sin and death entered into the world for the first time.

