

# The Unbearable Brightness of Humble Obedience

## Leader's Guide

*John 8:12-18; 25-30, Philippians 2:1-11*

5 September 2021

### Read John 8:12

1. What is the significance of Jesus' use of the phrase "I am"?  
*"It was a deliberate reference to the holiest and most intimate name of God - most specifically the story of Moses' encounter with God at the burning bush. And it was a not so subtle claim to some form of divine status."*
2. In the sermon James mentioned 3 ways that Jesus could be seen as light. What were they? Can you think of any other ways Jesus could be said to be light?  
*The light of illumination of our understanding; the light of guidance; the light of life.*
3. Will we always understand if we're close enough to God?  
*No. Sometimes God is trying to teach us to trust even when we don't understand.*

### Read John 8:27-30; Philippians 2:1-11

4. What are the implications for us that Jesus consistently chose a position of humble obedience to the Father?  
*We are to have the same attitude toward each other (Phil 2:3-4).*
5. What are the social implications of the call to humble obedience?  
*"There can be no virtue or value in forcing someone else into a position of humble obedience! Humble obedience must be a choice - which means a person must have sufficient personal liberty to have the freedom to make such a choice.... If we want everyone to be able to choose to serve one another in humility we must first do everything in our power to clear away the systems and circumstances that currently oppress people based on their gender, race, religion and economic status so they have the freedom to choose that humble obedience and service that Jesus modelled for us and called us to emulate."*
6. How was and is Jesus the light of **the world**?  
*By being "lifted up" on the cross. By following the path of humble obedience "to the point of death, even death on a cross."*
7. If we, too, are to be a light to the world how would our lights shine most brightly?  
*By following Jesus' example of humble obedience. Read also Matthew 5:4-16 (there wasn't enough time to look at this in the sermon).*