

Table Host Discussion Guide

Week 4: I AM: Knowing the Real Jesus

In John 7–10, Jesus doesn't just perform miracles; He *reveals His identity* so we can know Him with confidence. In the atmosphere of Israel's great feasts, Jesus declares that He is the **Living Water** who satisfies our deepest thirst by His Spirit (John 7:37–39), the **Light of the World** who exposes darkness and gives true sight (John 8:12; 9:5), and the **Gate and Good Shepherd** who lays down His life for the sheep and keeps them secure (John 10:7–11, 27–30). Across each scene, the dividing line is not who has the most information, but who has the humility to **hear His voice in God's Word, hold to His teaching, and follow**—because the scariest blindness is confidence without submission (John 8:31–32; 9:39–41).

Discussion Questions

1. What does Jesus mean when He invites the thirsty to come to Him and drink?
 - **Answer:** Jesus is claiming to be the fulfillment of God's promise to provide life through His presence—ultimately by the Holy Spirit given to believers (John 7:37–39). The prophets pictured God's provision as “living water” bringing renewal and life where death ruled (Isaiah 44:3; Ezekiel 36:25–27; Ezekiel 47:1–12; Joel 2:28–29; Zechariah 14:8).
 - **Application:** Where are you most tempted to look for “water” apart from Jesus (comfort, control, approval, entertainment, relationships, money), and what would it look like this week to bring that thirst to Him first?
2. Why is Jesus calling Himself “the Light of the World” such a major identity claim?
 - **Answer:** In the Old Testament, God is described as the Light of His people (Psalm 27:1; Isaiah 60:19). The prophets also promised the Messiah would bring light and open blind eyes (Isaiah 42:6–7; Isaiah 9:2; Isaiah 49:6). So when Jesus says, “I am the light of the world,” He is identifying Himself with God's saving presence and messianic mission (John 8:12; John 9:5).
 - **Application:** Where do you need Jesus' light right now—confusion, fear, hidden sin, bitterness, grief, anxiety—and what's one concrete step you can take to walk *toward* the light instead of managing life in the shadows?
3. According to Jesus, how can you tell whether someone is a true disciple—someone who “can see”?
 - **Answer:** Jesus says true disciples are recognized by this: they hold to His teaching. They remain in it, abide in it, and live under it (John 8:31–32). Spiritual sight isn't just hearing Jesus once; it's continuing with His Word as the defining authority over your life.

- **Application:** What's one area where you are currently tempted to negotiate with Jesus' words (excusing something, delaying obedience, or redefining truth) and how can our group pray for you to hold to His teaching with joy?
4. What does Jesus teach us about spiritual blindness, and why is it so dangerous?
 - **Answer:** Jesus shows that the most dangerous blindness is when people claim they can see but refuse to submit to the truth. The light gives sight to the humble, but it exposes the proud (John 9:39–41). That's why Jesus' warning is so sobering: rejecting what you know to be true leaves guilt remaining (John 9:41).
 - **Application:** If “confidence without submission” is the scariest blindness, where might that show up in your life—Bible knowledge without surrender, church involvement without repentance, convictions without obedience?
 5. What comfort and assurance does Jesus give His sheep in John 10?
 - **Answer:** Jesus says He is the Gate and the Good Shepherd—the only way into salvation and the One who lays down His life for His sheep (John 10:7–11). His sheep are recognized by this: they listen to His voice and follow Him (John 10:27). And His promise is unshakable security: He gives eternal life, and no one can snatch His sheep out of His hand (John 10:28–30). This fulfills the shepherd promises of God for His people (Psalm 23; Ezekiel 34:11–16, 23–24).
 - **Application:** What tends to make you feel “snatchable” this week (failure, fear, spiritual attack, uncertainty, grief), and how would your daily mindset change if you took Jesus at His word about your security?

Prayer Prompts for Table Groups

1. **Thirst & Filling:** “Jesus, show me where I've been trying to satisfy my soul apart from You. Make me thirsty for what is true, and fill me with Your Spirit.” (John 7:37–39; Isaiah 44:3)
2. **Light & Sight:** “Lord, expose any blindness in me, especially confidence without submission. Give me a soft heart that welcomes Your light and obeys Your Word.” (John 8:31–32; John 9:39–41)
3. **Voice & Assurance:** “Good Shepherd, help me recognize Your voice in Scripture and follow You with confidence. Strengthen anyone at this table who feels anxious or insecure, and remind us that we are held in Your hand.” (John 10:27–30; Psalm 23)