

# Light in the Darkness

## MOVING BEYOND EXCUSES

Is the \_\_\_\_\_ I am using the \_\_\_\_\_?

Excuses are the \_\_\_\_\_ we use to \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves.

Lies and deceit are \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.

Self-deception blocks our \_\_\_\_\_ of what is true.

John 8:12 (NIV) *When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

John 8:13 (NLT) *The Pharisees replied, "You are making those claims about yourself! Such testimony is not valid."*

John 8:31 (NLT) *Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings."*

John 8:32-33 (NLT) *And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."* 33 *"But we are descendants of Abraham," they said. "We have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean, 'You will be set free'?"*

John 8:34 (NLT) *Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin."*

James 4:17 (NLT) *Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it."*

John 8:35 (NLT) *A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free."*

Jesus offers a \_\_\_\_\_ of our excuses.

John 8:59 (NLT) *At that point they picked up stones to throw at him."*

Excuses sound \_\_\_\_\_ but make us \_\_\_\_\_.

1 John 1:5-10 (NLT) *This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. 6 So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. 7 But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. 9 But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts."*