

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS · HIGH SCHOOL

Introduction to John

The Gospel of John: Why Should I Believe? · Week 00 · September 6, 2026

LEADER SNAPSHOT

Big idea: John didn't write a biography. He wrote testimony, selected on purpose, so that people who never saw Jesus could believe He is the Son of God and have His life now.

Read together: John 20:30–31 · John 1:1, 14 · John 8:56–59

Time: 25–30 minutes. Let them argue. The goal this week is honesty about what they actually believe, not agreement.

WARM UP

1. Pastor said John wasn't writing a biography, because a biography answers "what happened" and John was writing for people asking "so what?" What's the difference? Why would an old man with fifty years of memories choose to leave most of them out?

John 20:30 – he admits he chose. Every story in the book is there to serve one purpose.

THROUGH HIS EYES

2. How much weight should eyewitness testimony carry? What makes John credible – and what would someone skeptical say back?
Let the skeptic's case be heard. Then: John names places, people, and details that could be checked in his lifetime. He was at the table, the cross, the tomb.
3. John 1:14: "we have seen His glory." If the way Jesus treated people is how God feels about you – gracious enough to love you as you are, truthful enough not to leave you that way – which half of that is harder to accept? Why?
4. The seven signs escalate: distance, time, lack, nature, the impossible, death. By Lazarus there's no explanation left except the one John wants you to reach. Do you think miracles are meant to convince people? Why do some people see them and still not believe (see John 11:45–53)?

INTO HIS MIND

5. Read John 8:56–59. Jesus takes the name from Exodus 3:14 and applies it to Himself, and the crowd tries to execute Him for it. Some people say Jesus was just a good moral teacher. Does the text let you say that? What are the actual options?
He was either who He claimed to be, or He was deceived, or He was deceiving. Push them to pick one honestly.
6. Jesus attached God's name to human needs: bread, light, a door, a shepherd, resurrection, a way, a vine. Which need is the one you'd least want to admit to this group – and which "I AM" answers it?

INTO HIS HEART

7. In 21 chapters John never uses his own name. After fifty years, the only thing he says about himself is that Jesus loved him. What do you think it does to a person to believe that about themselves for fifty years?
8. "Jesus didn't come to fix your life. He came to give you His – and His life never ends, never fails, and starts now." Be honest: is your version of Christianity about a better life or about His life? What would change if it were the second one?

9. Two kinds of people were in the room Sunday: people who already believe and people who aren't sure. Which are you, honestly? What would it take for a year in John to move you?

DO IT

The question on the table. Go around the circle. Each person finishes this sentence out loud: “The thing I’d have to see to believe Jesus is who John says He is...” Leader goes first and answers honestly. Write them down. Keep the list. You’ll come back to it in August.

PRAY TOGETHER

“Jesus, we’re not going to pretend. Some of us believe. Some of us aren’t sure. You wrote this book for both of us. Show us who You are – and give us the courage to answer honestly. Amen.”

Next week: In The Beginning was Jesus · John 1:1–5. Ask them to read it and bring one observation.