

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS · MIDDLE SCHOOL

In The Beginning Was Jesus

The Gospel of John: Why Should I Believe? · Week 01 · September 13, 2026

LEADER SNAPSHOT

Big idea: Everyone has an opinion about Jesus. John 1:1–5 says who He actually is – eternal, God, Creator, and the light the darkness has never put out.

Read together: John 1:1–5. Memory verse: John 1:1.

Time: 20–25 minutes. They'll tell you what they actually think if you don't correct the first honest answer too fast.

WARM UP

1. Pastor said most people keep a Jesus who is “big enough to admire, small enough to ignore.” What versions of Jesus do your friends carry around?

Good teacher, good vibes, a lucky charm, someone who agrees with me.

HE WAS BEFORE YOU

2. John opens with the same three words as Genesis 1:1. What is he claiming about Jesus by starting that way?

That Jesus wasn't born into the story. He was there before the story started.

3. Nobody knows what you're thinking until you say it. If Jesus is “the Word,” how much guessing about God is left?

HE IS ABOVE YOU

4. Verse 1 says the Word was WITH God and WAS God. Why both? What would we get wrong with only one?

With God – He isn't the Father. Was God – He isn't less than God. Both, or it's a different Jesus.

5. A Jesus you build yourself can never be bigger than you are. What is the appeal of designing your own Jesus – and what is the problem with him?

HE MADE YOU

6. Verse 3 says nothing was made without Him – including you. What does that change about how you see yourself on a bad day?

HE IS THE WAY OUT

7. Verse 5 says the light shines – present tense – and the darkness has never put it out. What kind of dark do people your age carry that they don't talk about?

They don't need to solve it out loud – they need to hear the light is already in it. Knowing about Jesus and coming to Jesus are two different things – ask which describes them.

THIS WEEK

Read John 1:1–18 every day and ask God, “Who do You say You are?” Memorize John 1:1. Next week: Week 2 · The Light of the World Rejected · John 1:6–13 · September 20, 2026