

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS · HIGH SCHOOL

In The Beginning Was Jesus

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

LEADER SNAPSHOT

Big idea: John 1:1–5 makes four claims about Jesus that are true whether anyone agrees or not: He is eternal, He is God, He is Creator, and He is the light the darkness has never overcome.

Read together: John 1:1–5 · Genesis 1:1–3 · Colossians 1:16–17. Memory verse: John 1:1.

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

WARM UP

1. Pastor said these opinions keep Jesus “controllable and adaptable” – good teacher, good man with bad followers, whoever you need Him to be. Which of those is closest to how the people around you actually talk about Jesus? Which is closest to how you talk about Him?

Let the honest answer sit. The whole passage is aimed at the gap between the Jesus we describe and the Jesus who is.

HE IS ETERNAL

2. John deliberately opens with the first words of Genesis. What is he doing to his reader before he makes a single argument?

He is putting Jesus on the wrong side of the Creator/creation line – on purpose. Everything else in the book depends on it.

3. Verse 1 says the Word “was.” Verse 3 says everything else “was made.” Two different verbs, two different categories. Why does that distinction matter more than it sounds like it does?

HE IS GOD

4. The Word was WITH God and WAS God. People have gone to war over that sentence. What does each half protect, and what error creeps in if you drop either one?

Drop “with” and Jesus collapses into the Father. Drop “was God” and He becomes a very impressive created being. John refuses both in eleven words.

5. Pastor said, “A Jesus you create can never be bigger than you are – and a Jesus built in your image dies the same day you do.” Where do you see people building a Jesus who conveniently agrees with them? Where do you catch yourself doing it?

HE IS CREATOR

6. Read Colossians 1:16–17 next to John 1:3. If everything holds together in Him, what does that mean about the parts of your life you’d rather He stayed out of?

HE IS THE WAY OUT OF THE DARKNESS

7. Verse 4 says life is IN Him – not distributed by Him. If life is located in a person rather than in an experience, an achievement, or a relationship, what does that say about where people your age are actually looking?

8. Verse 5: the light shines – present tense – and the darkness has not overcome it. The word John chose means both “understand” and “defeat.” The darkness could not figure the light out, and could not put it out. Which of those two failures do you see more of in the people around you?

S O W H A T

9. Knowing about Jesus has never given anybody life. Life is in Him. Be honest: is your faith right now mostly information about Jesus, or is it Him?

T H I S W E E K

Read John 1:1–18 every day and ask God the same question every time: “Who do You say You are?” Memorize John 1:1. Bring one honest question back next Sunday.

Next week: Week 2 · The Light of the World Rejected · John 1:6–13 · September 20, 2026