

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS · MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Light of the World Rejected

The Gospel of John: Why Should I Believe? · Week 02 · September 20, 2026

LEADER SNAPSHOT

Big idea: The light shone on everyone and most still refused Him — including the religious ones. Being near the light is not the same as walking in it.

Read together: John 1:6–13. Memory verse: John 1:12.

Time: 20–25 minutes. Question 6 is the one that lands.

WARM UP

1. Pastor said, “Being near the light is not the same as walking in it.” Where else is being close to something not the same as having it?

Sitting in a garage doesn’t make you a car. Let them play with it first.

SOMEONE WHOSE JOB WAS TO POINT

2. John the Baptist had a crowd, and used it to point at somebody else. Verse 8 says flatly, “He was not the light.” Why is that hard to say when people are looking at you?

People were already making John the main event. He turned down the promotion.

3. Who do people your age treat like the light? What happens when they turn out to be just a person?

THE LIGHT NOBODY MISSED

4. Verse 9 says the light shines on everyone — nobody gets to say “I never heard.” What does that do to the idea that God is hiding?

5. Verse 10 says the world He made didn’t know Him. So the problem wasn’t a lack of information. What was it?

Sin doesn’t just make us do wrong things — it makes us bad at seeing.

HIS OWN WOULD NOT TAKE HIM IN

6. Verse 11 is the low point of the passage — He came home and got locked out. Who missed Him: the ones far from God, or the religious ones?

The religious ones. They were certain they already had Him — which is why this question is for everyone in the room.

WHAT RECEIVING ACTUALLY MEANS

7. Verse 12 says “received” and “believed,” not “agreed.” What’s the difference between believing Jesus existed and receiving Him?

8. Verse 13 rules out your family, somebody else wanting it for you, and your own effort. If none of those make you God’s child, what does — and how does that take the pressure off?

Only God — which also means it isn’t something you can lose on a bad week.

THIS WEEK

Read John 1:6–13 every day and answer one question: “Have I received Him, or do I only know about Him?”

Memorize John 1:12. Next week: Week 3 · The Word Became Flesh · John 1:14–18 · September 27, 2026