

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS · HIGH 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 came to everyone, and the people with every advantage are the ones who refused Him. Receiving Him is the only thing that makes anyone a child of God — and even that is God’s doing.

Read together: John 1:6–13 · Mark 1:1–4 · John 3:3–8. Memory verse: John 1:12.

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

WARM UP

1. **Pastor said the people who missed Jesus weren’t atheists — they were the religious ones who were certain they already had Him. What makes certainty dangerous?**

Let the honest answer sit. Nobody in the room is standing outside this question, including you.

A WITNESS, NOT THE LIGHT

2. John the Baptist had a movement of his own, and verse 8 exists partly to correct people who made too much of him. Where do you see Christians today treating a person — a pastor, an author, a podcaster — as the light?
3. **John’s entire job description was to point away from himself. What would it cost you to be someone whose job is pointing rather than being looked at?**

THE LIGHT CAME TO EVERYONE

4. **Verse 9 says the true light gives light to everyone. The commentary says that light either saves a person or exposes his sin and coming judgment. Why would the same light do two different things?**

Nobody stands in the light neutrally. Indifference is a response, not the absence of one.

5. Verse 10: the world was made through Him and did not know Him. If the failure wasn’t a lack of evidence, what was it — and what does that do to the argument that people just need more proof?

HE CAME TO HIS OWN

6. **Verse 11 is the sharpest line in the prologue: He came to His own home and His own people would not take Him in. What’s the difference between being rejected by a stranger and being rejected by family?**
7. **They had the prophets, the promises, and a man in the wilderness telling them He was coming. They had every advantage. We have more. Does that make us safer or more accountable?**

Don’t resolve this too fast. The discomfort is the point of the sermon.

RECEIVED, BELIEVED, GIVEN

8. **Verse 12 puts three words together — received, believed, gave. Which one is God’s action, and why does the order matter?**

He gave. John moves us to the front of the sentence so we don’t miss that it’s for us, but God is the one doing the giving. We’re the ones holding out our hands.

9. Verse 13 rules out blood, the will of the flesh, and the will of man. Name the modern version of each — what do people your age actually count on to make them right with God?

10. If your standing with God doesn't depend on your family, on anyone else's effort, or on your performance, what does that change about a week where you've blown it?

SO WHAT

11. Be honest: is your faith right now proximity to the light, or are you walking in it?

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. Bring one honest question back next Sunday.

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