

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS · HIGH SCHOOL

The Word Became Flesh

The Gospel of John: Why Should I Believe? · Week 03 · September 27, 2026

LEADER SNAPSHOT

Big idea: The God who seemed far away came near in Jesus — fully human, full of grace and truth, and the only one who can show us what God is actually like.

Read together: John 1:14–18 · Philippians 2:5–8 · Exodus 33:18–23. **Memory verse:** John 1:14.

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

WARM UP

1. **Pastor said most religions are about keeping an angry god happy. Before you knew much about Jesus, what did you assume God was like — near or far, angry or kind?**

Let the honest answers sit. Most of us carry a picture of God we never chose.

THE WORD BECAME FLESH

2. **Verse 14 says the Word “became flesh” — Jesus became fully human without ever stopping being God. Why do both halves matter? What would we lose if He were only one?**

Only God can save us, and only a human can stand in our place. Jesus is both.

3. **Philippians 2 says Jesus set aside His divine privileges — heaven’s glory, His riches, even His favorable relationship with the Father on the cross. Which of those surprises you most, and why?**

4. **“Dwelt” means “pitched His tent” — the same picture as the tabernacle, where God’s glory lived in the middle of Israel’s camp. What does it say about God that He’d choose a tent over keeping His distance?**

GRACE UPON GRACE

5. **Grace is a gift you don’t deserve and can’t earn. Verse 16 says we’ve received “grace upon grace.” Where are you living like God’s grace has a limit?**

Usually it’s the thing they keep repeating. That is exactly where grace upon grace applies.

6. **The law is like a check engine light — it shows what’s wrong but can’t fix it. Does that make the law bad? What was it actually for?**

The law was good and a gift (Romans 7:12). It just can’t save. It points to the One who can.

7. Be honest: do you treat God more like a mechanic you call when something breaks, or someone you actually want to be near?

G O D M A D E K N O W N

8. Moses asked to see God's glory and only saw His back (Exodus 33). John says that in Jesus we've seen His glory, full of grace and truth. What difference does it make that God showed us His face and not just His rules?

9. The Greek word for "made him known" is where we get "exegesis." Jesus is God's explanation. If someone asked you what God is like and you could only point to Jesus, what would you say?

10. People build their picture of God from a lot of places — parents, church experiences, the internet, their own guilt. Which has shaped yours the most, and does it look like Jesus?

If a picture of God is harsher or more distant than Jesus, the picture is wrong.

S O W H A T

11. Be honest: where are you keeping God at a distance right now?

T H I S W E E K

Read John 1:14–18 every day and answer one question: "What am I trying to fix on my own that I need to bring to Jesus?" Memorize John 1:14. Bring one honest question back next Sunday.

Next week: Week 4 · A Voice in the Wilderness · John 1:19–28 · October 4, 2026