

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS · MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Voice in the Wilderness

The Gospel of John: Why Should I Believe? · Week 04 · October 4, 2026

LEADER SNAPSHOT

Big idea: John wasn't the Christ, and neither are you. Your job isn't to save anyone. It's to point people to Jesus.

Read together: John 1:19–28. **Memory verse:** John 1:23.

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

WARM UP

1. If you had to introduce yourself using only three things you are NOT, what would you say?

Have fun with it first. John the Baptist does exactly this in verses 20–21.

WHO ARE YOU?

2. The priests, Levites, and Pharisees came from Jerusalem to check John out. He had no title and no temple, but the crowds were following him. Why would that make the religious leaders nervous?

People were leaving the temple for the river. The temple noticed.

3. They offered John three big titles: the Christ, Elijah, the Prophet. He turned down all three. What would have been tempting about saying yes?

Attention, respect, followers. John wanted none of it for himself.

JUST A VOICE

4. John called himself “the voice of one crying out in the wilderness.” A voice isn't the point; the message is. What would it look like for your life to point to Jesus instead of to you?

5. Untying a master's sandals was the lowest servant's job, and John said he wasn't worthy to do even that. Why does humility matter for someone who wants to point others to Jesus?

People can't see Jesus clearly if you're standing in front of Him.

ONE YOU DO NOT KNOW

6. John said, “Among you stands one you do not know.” Jesus was in the crowd and people missed Him. Who in your world is around Christians every day and still doesn't know Him?

Friends, teammates, family. Don't ask for names out loud unless they want to share.

7. Pastor said, “It's not your job to save anyone.” Does that make talking about Jesus feel easier or harder? Why?

THIS WEEK

Read John 1:19–28 every day and answer one question: “Who is one person God has put in my life that I can point to Jesus?” Pray for them every day, then share one thing Jesus has done in your life. Memorize John 1:23.

Next week: Week 5 · Behold the Lamb of God · John 1:29–34 · October 11, 2026