

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS · HIGH SCHOOL

A Voice in the Wilderness

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

LEADER SNAPSHOT

Big idea: John the Baptist defined himself by who he wasn't so everyone could see who Jesus is. You're not the Savior either. Your job is to point people to the One who saves.

Read together: John 1:19–28 · Isaiah 40:3 · Malachi 3:1 · John 3:30. **Memory verse:** John 1:23.

Time: 25–30 minutes. Let them wrestle with question 9. The goal is an honest name and a real next step, not a right answer.

WARM UP

1. **Pastor said, “You don’t recognize a person you’re not expecting.” Have you ever walked right past someone you knew because you didn’t expect them to be there?**

That's Israel in verse 26. Four hundred years of silence, and people stopped looking.

WHO ARE YOU?

2. **The priests were the people you went through to get right with God, and the Pharisees were the most respected religious leaders in Israel. Why would a man with no title, baptizing at a river, threaten them?**

John was calling people back to God outside their system. The crowds left the temple for the river, and the temple noticed.

3. **John was offered three titles (the Christ, Elijah, the Prophet) and refused all three. A lot of people our age build an identity around being seen. What would it be like to build one around what you're not?**

4. **Jesus later said John was the Elijah who was to come (Matthew 11:14), yet John says, “I am not.” How do both fit?**

John wasn't Elijah come back from heaven, as they expected. He came in Elijah's spirit and power (Luke 1:17), the way Malachi promised.

JUST A VOICE

5. **When they pressed him, the only thing John would say about himself was a quote from Isaiah 40:3. What does it say about John that his identity came straight from Scripture?**

6. **Later John said, “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30). Where are you more interested in being seen than in Jesus being seen?**

7. **Untying a master's sandals was a slave's job, and John said he wasn't worthy of even that. Is humility attractive or weak in our culture? Why?**

Push past the easy answer. John's humility is exactly what made his testimony believable.

ONE YOU DO NOT KNOW

8. **“Among you stands one you do not know.” The experts walked 20 miles and still missed Jesus in the crowd. Can someone know a lot about God and still not know Jesus? What does that look like today?**
9. **Pastor said, “It’s not your job to save anyone. We just point people to the One who saves.” Does that take pressure off or add it? What actually keeps you from talking about Jesus?**

Fear of rejection, not knowing enough, not wanting to seem weird. Name it honestly; that is where the prayer starts.

SO WHAT

10. **Who is one person God has put in your life who doesn’t know Jesus yet? What is one thing Jesus has done in your life that you could tell them?**

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 by name every day, then take the bold step to share what 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