

Sunday August 16, 2026

SERMON NOTES:

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced horizontal grey lines across its entire width, providing a template for handwriting practice or general note-taking. The margins are consistent on all sides.

POP QUIZ

1. What was John the Baptist's primary role as the one sent from God?

- A. To introduce and testify about Jesus Christ
- B. To replace the Old Testament prophets
- C. To establish an earthly kingdom
- D. To perform signs proving his prophetic authority

2. In the sermon's courtroom illustration, what does John's role as a "witness" teach Christians about evangelism?

- A. Christians should avoid discussing their faith unless asked
- B. Only Christians with the gift of evangelism should speak about Christ
- C. Every Christian must become an expert debater
- D. Every Christian is called to testify truthfully about Christ

3. What does the sermon's illustration of the moon teach about John the Baptist and Christian ministry?

- A. Christian witnesses reflect the light of the Son
- B. Christians produce spiritual light through good works
- C. John's light eventually became equal to Christ's
- D. Only pastors and missionaries reflect Christ's light

4. In the sermon, what is emphasized by calling Jesus the "true light" in John 1:9?

- A. Jesus was one of several equal sources of divine light
- B. Jesus is the ultimate Light to whom the prophets pointed
- C. Jesus brought a truth completely unrelated to the prophets
- D. Jesus replaced a previously false revelation from God

5. What spiritual truth is illustrated by sunlight revealing dust and fingerprints in a hotel room?

- A. Only unbelievers have sins that need to be exposed
- B. Christ's light reveals sin that was already present
- C. Sin disappears automatically when it is exposed
- D. Christ's light creates the sin found in human hearts

6. According to John 1:10, why did the world fail to “recognize” Jesus?

- A. Humanity’s problem was spiritual blindness rather than merely physical recognition
- B. Jesus physically looked completely different from other Jews
- C. Jesus purposely concealed his identity
- D. The world had received no revelation about a coming Messiah

7. What is especially tragic about John 1:11, “He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him”?

- A. The people who were expecting the Messiah refused to receive him when He arrived
- B. Israel had never been told that a Messiah would come
- C. Jesus arrived in Israel without demonstrating compassion
- D. The Gentile nations received Jesus while every Israelite rejected him

8. According to John 1:12, what does God give to those who receive Christ and believe in his name?

- A. The right to become children of God
- B. The right to inherit salvation from their parents
- C. The right to demand earthly prosperity
- D. The right to earn salvation through obedience

9. What point does the birth-certificate illustration make about spiritual rebirth?

- A. Physical and spiritual birth are identical in every respect
- B. Just as we did not initiate our physical birth, God initiates our spiritual birth
- C. People choose their spiritual birth in the same way they choose their physical birth
- D. Spiritual birth depends primarily on a person’s religious family

10. What responsibility follows from God bringing his people from darkness into life and light?

- A. Christians should withdraw from unbelievers to protect their witness
- B. Christians should leave witnessing primarily to trained evangelists
- C. Christians should prove their faith mainly through theological debate
- D. Christians should live as faithful witnesses to Christ in words and conduct

REFLECTION AND APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Monday — Sent to Be a Witness | John 1:6–7

1. John understood that he was **“sent from God.”** How would viewing your daily life as being “sent from God” change the way you approach your family, workplace, and relationships?
2. God doesn't call every Christian to be an expert evangelist, but He does call every Christian to be a **witness**. Who has God placed in your life who needs to hear the truth about Jesus?
3. What fears or excuses keep you from being a witness, and what practical step can you take this week to become a more faithful witness?

Tuesday — Reflecting the True Light | John 1:8–9

1. Like the moon reflecting the sun, Christians don't produce the Light—we **reflect the Son**. What areas of your life currently reflect the Lord clearly, and where is that reflection being obscured?
2. John knew, **“He was not the light.”** In what ways have pride, the desire for recognition, or being concerned about what others think of you— become more important than sharing Jesus day-by-day?
3. When the Lord's light exposes sin in your life, do you respond with repentance and gratitude—or defensiveness and blame? What has His light exposed recently that you need to address?

Wednesday — Loving the Light | John 1:9–10

1. The sermon compared the Lord's light to sunlight revealing dirt in a hotel room: **the light doesn't create the dirt; it reveals what was already there**. What sin might you be tempted to keep hidden from God's light?
2. John 3:19 says people loved darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. What does your daily life reveal that you presently love most—The Lord or something competing with Him?

Thursday — Receiving the Messiah | John 1:11–12

1. Israel had the prophets, promises, covenants, and Scriptures—and yet rejected its Messiah. Is it possible that you possess tremendous biblical knowledge while resisting something that the Lord is commanding you to do? What is it that you're resisting?
2. In the soldier illustration, the returning soldier came home only to find his own family refusing to open the door. Are there areas of your life where you gladly acknowledge Jesus as Savior but resist receiving His authority as Lord?
3. John 1:12 says those who receive Christ are given **“the right to be children of God.”** What should change in my thinking, priorities, fears, and relationships because God has made me His child?

Friday — Born of God | John 1:12–13

1. The birth-certificate illustration reminds us that we contributed nothing to our physical birth. How does knowing that your spiritual birth ultimately comes from God affect your pride and deepen your gratitude?

Saturday — Living as a Witness

1. Jesus told His disciples, **“you will be my witnesses”** (Acts 1:8). If someone observed your life this past week without hearing you speak, what conclusions might they draw about the Lord you represent?
2. The sermon reminds us that we witness through our **demeanor, attitude, body language, words, and tone**. Which of these most needs to change in you so that you represent the Lord more faithfully?
3. Consider the people you will encounter tomorrow at church and throughout the coming week. What would it look like to display **“love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control”** so that others see the True Light reflected through you?