

Believe and Have Life
The Gospel of John
John 1:6-18

Read John 1:6-18.

1. John, the writer of this Gospel and disciple of Jesus, is not the same John introduced in verse 6. This second John is often referred to as John the Baptist. (Luke goes into greater detail; see Lk. 1:5-17)
 - a. By whom was John sent? (v. 6)
 - b. Why do you think this is important to mention? (Lk. 1:76-79; Ex. 3:10-15 (Moses); Is. 6:8 [Isaiah]; Jer. 1:4-7 [Jeremiah])
 - c. What specific task was John given? (vv. 7-8)
 - d. What was the goal of John's testimony? (v. 7b; Lk. 1:77)
2. What do both John the writer and John the Baptist want to make clear? (vv. 8, 15)
3. Each of the Gospel writers (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) used different methods to introduce us to Jesus. John chose to describe Jesus for 16 verses before identifying him by name. Review verses 1-9 and list all the ways Jesus is described and why you think they are significant.
4. Why do you think light is a fitting description for Jesus? (v. 9; 12:44-46; Heb. 1:3a; 1 Jn. 1:5)

Albert Barnes on 1 Jn. 1:5: **“That God is light** - Light, in the Scriptures, is the emblem of purity, truth, knowledge, prosperity, and happiness - as darkness is of the opposite. John here says that “God is light” - not the light, or a light, but light itself; that is, he is himself all light, and is the source and fountain of light in all worlds. He is perfectly pure, without any admixture of sin. He has all knowledge, with no admixture of ignorance on any subject. He is infinitely happy, with nothing to make him miserable. He is infinitely true, never stating or countenancing error; he is blessed in all his ways, never knowing the darkness of disappointment and adversity.”

5. Verse 9 says, “The true light...was coming into the world.”
 - a. What event does this describe? (v. 14)

- b. Why is this so shocking? (vv. 1-3; Matt. 1:23; Heb. 1:1-2)
6. In the midst of such good news, what tragedy does John introduce? (vv. 10-11;)
7. What right do those who do believe in Jesus' name receive? (vv. 12-13;)
8. John's phrase, "made his dwelling among us" (v. 14), literally means "tabernacled among us." This phrase recalls the image of God dwelling with the Israelites in the Tent of Meeting, or Tabernacle (Ex. 29:42-46). What is the difference between the way God lived with his people in the Old Testament and the way Jesus came to live with us? (compare Ex. 40:1,2; 34-35 with Jn. 1:14;)
9. Read verses 14, 16 and 17 and write down what characterizes Jesus.
10. In the Old Testament, God revealed himself in a partial way through the law of Moses. What is John announcing now in his gospel? (v. 18; 14:9b-10a)
11. Why can't we know the Father apart from Jesus? (Matt. 11:27; 1 Jn. 2:23; 2 Jn. 1:9;)
12. Read verse 16. What are some of the blessings that we have received from the "fullness of his grace"? (vv. 1)

