



## John

**Anchored - Feb 1, 2026**

### Message Recap

Most of us are comfortable with a picture of God that keeps Him safely at a distance...holy, powerful, but unreachable. A distant God can be admired without being obeyed. But John's Gospel refuses to let us keep God far away. John does not begin with a manger or shepherds, but with eternity itself, revealing Jesus not as a part of the story, but as the very One the story has always been about. God did not remain distant, but He stepped into our world, into our darkness, close enough to be known, trusted, and even rejected. And once the light arrives, there is no neutral response. We either receive Him and are changed, or we turn away and remain in the shadows.

### Icebreaker / Personal Reflection

- **Icebreaker:**

Share about a time you won a contest or an award.

- **Reflection:**

What part of the message resonated with you the most?

### Discussion Questions

- **Pastor Byron described how a "distant God" can feel comfortable. Why do you think distance from God can sometimes feel safer than closeness?**
- **John presents Jesus as Creator, not just teacher or guide. How does that change what it means to follow Him rather than simply admire Him?**
- **The light of Jesus doesn't create problems, it reveals them. What is the difference between exposure that brings shame and exposure that brings healing?**
- **Jesus forces a decision to step into the light or step away. What might stepping fully into the light look like in your life right now?**
- **John emphasizes that receiving Jesus leads to becoming part of God's family. In what ways does our identity in God's family go deeper than our earthly family?**

## For Additional Study

### **John 1:9–12 (NIV)**

*The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world... Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.*

- What does it mean to “receive” Jesus rather than simply believe facts about Him?
- How does seeing yourself as a child of God reshape your identity and decisions?

### **John 3:19–21 (NIV)**

*Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light...*

- Why do you think people often resist the light even when it offers healing?
- What does it look like to live openly in the light rather than managing appearances?