

Facilitator

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Read John 1:6-13 and give a five-minute review of the sermon using Peppy's sermon notes.

Facilitator: Please don't feel you have to cover every question. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

### **CONNECT Group study questions, John 1:6-13**

**January 18, 2015**

**Title: Rejection or Reception**

**Read to the group:** Each year, the Dakota Baptist Convention and a number of churches around the country share the gospel with thousands of people at the Sturgis Bike Rally the first full week of August in Sturgis, South Dakota. The convention sponsors the Sturgis Bike Giveaway, which is a drawing for a new Harley Davidson Road King motorcycle. To register for the drawing, all anyone has to do is listen to a three-minute testimony. Volunteers sit one-on-one at a table with a timer set for three minutes and describe how God changed their life. These volunteers bear witness of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ just as certainly as did John the Baptist in our passage this week. Many who register for the drawing choose to stay beyond the three minutes to ask questions and hear more. From 350 to 500 of them come to faith in Christ each year.

On Sunday, Peppy encouraged us to write our testimonies, briefly telling what life was like before coming to faith in Christ, how we were called to faith and what Christ means to us now that we belong to Him. The three-minute testimony is a great way to witness to someone else. If you would like help developing your own three-minute testimony, visit the Sturgis Bike Giveaway website at [www.sturgisbikegiveaway.com/training](http://www.sturgisbikegiveaway.com/training). Use this to assist you, but write your own. Remember, your witness is yours and yours alone. The decision to receive or reject your witness is theirs and theirs alone.

**Question:** "I saw the most amazing..." is an example of bearing witness. What is the most recent happening you just had to share with someone else? **Facilitator:** Get the group to open up with anything—and as many things—as they can think of. This is the sort of stuff they would post on Facebook or Twitter (My baby took her first step today!).

**Question:** Verse 6 introduces us to the greatest man who ever lived—John the Baptist (Luke 7:28). How did John the Baptist achieve greatness? Did he set out to become great by devising a plan for success and then following it?

**Facilitator:** Note that John did not send himself, but he was "sent from God" for a purpose—to "bear witness." He fulfilled that purpose by being obedient.

**Question:** Metaphors are everywhere in Scripture. Metaphors use the familiar to illustrate or explain the unfamiliar and difficult to understand. In John 1:1 He is "the Word." Now, He is "light." How is Jesus light? What does light do, and what does Jesus do that is light in the life of a believer?

**Question:** Verse 9 says, "There was the true light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man." How is every man enlightened by the "true light?"

**Question:** Read verse 10. Who is "the world?" How is it that the world He made does not know Him? Read verse 11. Who are "His own?" Why do "His own" not receive Him?

**Question:** In verse 12 we learn that some in the world and some who are His own do receive Him, and He gives them the right to become the children of God. What is the purpose in becoming a child of God? How does a child of God fulfill that purpose? What purpose does the child of God have in common with John the Baptist?

**For personal meditation and study:** read more about John the Baptist as he was prophesied in Isaiah 4:3-8 Malachi 3:1 and 4:5. Also, four gospels mention John the Baptist: Look for him in Matthew 3,11,14; Mark 6; Luke 1, 7 and 9. He is referenced several times in the book of Acts. Think about how this greatest man who ever lived can be an example of how you can live (and I don't mean dressing in camel hair and eating locusts dipped in wild honey). Consider how humility and obedience made him great in the Kingdom of Heaven.