Responding to the Incarnate Word

John 1:6–13

Receive the Light, become God's children. John 1:6–13 introduces John's witness, the world's rejection, and the welcome Jesus gives those who believe in His name. This passage calls us to respond personally to Christ, treasure the new birth God gives, and help others see the Savior clearly.

DISCOVER: Understand the Word

John the Baptist enters the Gospel as a man sent by God to bear witness about the Light (John 1:6–8). His assignment directs people's faith toward Jesus. The Creator has come into His own world, revealing God's truth and exposing humanity's darkness. Yet the world fails to recognize Him, and His own people refuse to receive Him (John 1:9–11). The true Light's presence doesn't mean everyone is saved. These responses reveal the seriousness of sin and the need to receive Christ personally.

Receiving Jesus means believing in His name, trusting Him as He has revealed Himself (John 1:12). Those who receive Him are given the right to become God's children. John immediately explains the source of this new life: they are born of God (John 1:13). Family heritage, personal effort, and another person's actions cannot produce spiritual birth. God graciously gives life and brings believers into His family. The passage holds together our call to believe and our complete dependence on God's saving grace.

Dig Deeper

1. What do the repeated references to witness in John 1:6–8 reveal about John the Baptist's assignment?
2. How does the world's relationship to its Creator deepen the tragedy of its response to Jesus (John 1:9–11)?
3. Read John 1:12–13 together. How do these verses explain both receiving Christ and the origin of a believer's new life?

DELIGHT: Treasure the Word

John the Baptist's humility gives us a beautiful picture of joyful service. He understands whose glory matters and gladly directs attention toward Jesus. Later, he rejoices when people go to Christ (John 3:26–30). That freedom is worth treasuring. We can serve people without needing their admiration or making ourselves indispensable. Christ is fully worthy of their trust. When our desire for recognition makes ministry feel competitive, John's example invites us to rejoice that someone is seeing the Savior more clearly.

The privilege of becoming God's children should also stir deep gratitude. We can grow familiar with Christian language while losing our sense of wonder at what Christ gives (John 1:12–13). God's welcome rests on His grace, freeing us from boasting in our background or measuring our worth by our achievements. Receiving the Light also means welcoming His truth when it exposes our sin. We

can confess our resistance honestly, thank Him for giving us life, and respond to His Word with willing obedience.

Draw Nearer

1. When you help someone spiritually, what makes it difficult to be content with pointing them toward Jesus?
2. Where has familiarity with Jesus made you less attentive to what He's revealing through His Word?
3. How does knowing that spiritual birth comes from God reshape what you rely on for a sense of belonging?

DEVOTE: Live the Word

God's grace calls us to welcome Christ's truth and bear witness to Him in everyday relationships. This week, depend on the Holy Spirit as you respond to what Scripture reveals. Bring hidden resistance into the light, rest in the gift of belonging to God, and look for a concrete opportunity to help someone see Jesus more clearly.

1. **Welcome the Light's Correction.** Read John 1:6–13 alongside John 3:19–21 and identify one truth you've been resisting. Write down a specific response of repentance or obedience and act on it this week.
2. **Point Someone Toward Jesus.** Ask another believer to help you identify one person you can encourage toward Christ. Arrange a conversation this week and use John 1:12–13 to explain the gift of becoming God's child through faith in Jesus.
3. **Thank God for New Life.** Pray through John 1:12–13, thanking God that belonging to His family rests on His grace. Ask the Holy Spirit to deepen your trust in Christ and help the person you're seeking to encourage receive His truth.