



Discussion Questions

John 1:6-9, 19-28 *The Testimony of John the Baptist*

John witnesses to who he is not. He is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah or a prophet. John humbles himself to point to Jesus. Is it hard for you to be humble? When have you had to turn attention away from yourself for the sake of someone else?

Pastor Diane repeats John's words to the people, "Among you stands one whom you do not know" (John 1:26). Jesus was among the people, and they missed it. When is it easy to recognize Jesus? When is it hard?

Pastor Diane tells us about a book called *Christmas in Harmony* by Philip Gulley. In the story, townspeople display parts of the Christmas story at their homes, and people go from home to home to enjoy a progressive pageant. In the story, the people are so enthralled with the angels and lights at one house that they never make it to the most important scene, where the Holy Family is. What was your response when you first heard this story? Do you think such a thing could happen today? Why or why not?

Pastor Diane makes the point that Jesus is to be found among the lowly, in the stranger, in unlikely places. Considering this, where do you imagine Jesus is to be found today?

