THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN HIS NAME

John 1:6–13

Key Verse: 1:12

1. Who is introduced in verse 6? What does it mean that he was “sent from God”? What does it mean to “testify”? (7a) What was God’s ultimate purpose in sending him? (7b) What can we learn here about God and his ways of working?
2. How and why are John and Jesus contrasted? (8–9; 5:35) In every generation, why should we keep the focus on Jesus himself, not on his witnesses, regardless of how great they might seem? What does it mean that Jesus is “the true light”? (9b; 8:12) What are the implications that he can give light “to everyone”? (Isa49:6)
3. How did the created world respond to Jesus, and why was this so unreasonable? (10; Isa1:2–3) Who were “his own,” and why didn’t they receive him, either? (11; Isa53:3) Who did receive Jesus? (12; 17:6–8)
4. Read verse 13. To what does “natural descent” refer? (Ro9:8) “Human decision”? (Ro 10:3) “A husband’s will”? (Ro9:16) Why can we not rely on any such outward things or human efforts in becoming God’s children? (Ro2:17,28–29)
5. Read verse 12 again. What does it mean to “receive” Jesus and “believe in his name”? (Ac4:12; 1Pe2:6) What “right” (also can be translated “power”) is given those who receive Jesus? What does it mean to become a child of God? (Ro9:25; 1Jn3:1a) To be “born of God”? (13b; 3:3; Ac2:38)