



#### **Part 4: The Gate**

Into a religious system where religious teachers taught that rituals were the entry way to God, Jesus steps forward and declares, "I am the gate." This is a bold statement that Jesus makes. People in Jesus' time would have understood that statement. Shepherds did it in order to keep their flock secure in the pen - to keep thieves out. Jesus' statement promises that he will do the same for anyone who follows him. If anyone enters by him (Jesus) they will have salvation.

**Bottom Line:** Jesus came to bring salvation and eternal life.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. As a child, what was your favorite pet? How did this pet respond when it heard your voice?
2. **Read John 10:1-10.** The idea of what a "gate" to a sheep pen was explained in the message for this week. What did that new image of what a gate was in Jesus' day help you understand these verses?
3. **Read John 10:3-5.** The metaphor Jesus uses of a shepherd's relationship to his sheep is a very tender one. What encourages you about this metaphor? How does this impact your understanding of your own relationships with Jesus?
4. Jesus says that sheep know the voice of their shepherd. As a follower of Jesus, how can you better discern his voice? How do you respond to other "voices"?
5. **Read John 10:3-4, 9-10, 27-29.** What happens to the sheep who know and follow the shepherd? What is involved for you in enjoying that kind of relationship with Jesus?
6. **Read John 10:9-10.** What does Jesus mean by saying that whoever enters by him will come in and go out, and find pasture? What is "life ... to the full" or "abundant life"? What are its characteristics?
7. Many people believe there are many paths, or ways, to God and include Jesus as one among many. How do Jesus' statements in **John 10:1, 7, 9, and 27-28** counter that idea?
  - a. Why would people want to reject Jesus' claim?
  - b. Why should we believe Jesus' statements?
8. What has been the most helpful thought/idea from the message this week? How has that thought/idea helped you?
9. How can the group pray for or encourage you this week?

\*If time doesn't allow for you to discuss all of these questions, use only the ones you feel would be most helpful for your group.