



I AM  
THE  
GATE

*John 10:1-10*

Week 3

*Psalm 118:20, Matthew 7:13-14, Hebrews 10:19-20*



# Day 1 - Monday

*John 10:1-10, John 10:7, Ezekiel 34:1-16, John 14:6*

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## He is the Gate

"I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep" (v 7). Here we see Jesus' third I AM statement. He tells us that He is the gate for the sheep, but what does this mean? Like most of Jesus' I AM statements, he ultimately highlights how He is the fulfillment of what has been longed and hoped for in the Old Testament. To understand this fulfillment statement, we have to look at Ezekiel 34:1-16. God speaks through Ezekiel to the people (specifically the leaders and priests). He tells them that they have abandoned or led their sheep (their people) astray because of their selfishness, laziness, and cold-heartedness.

Ezekiel is telling the people to return to God and be good shepherds to their people. He is telling them to help the people, keep them safe, be a protection. Of course, they fail. We all do. Jesus' revelation that He is the Gate fulfills what the priests, rabbis, and leaders could not do. Jesus is making it clear that He is the protection, salvation, and safety for all of us, His people, the sheep.



## Reflection

Jesus is the gate for our souls. He closes us in His protection, love, and goodness. We are safe with Him, and we are safe by walking through the gate of His love and salvation. Identify an area where you need to trust Jesus as the "Gate."

- Is there a decision where you need His direction?
- Is there a habit that is pulling you away from Him?
- Is there an area of fear or doubt you need to step through in faith?

Wherever you struggle to believe in Him as your protector and salvation, take time to write a prayer of trust in Jesus in that area today.

# Day 2 - Tuesday

*John 10:1-10, 1 Peter 5:8, 2 Corinthians 4:4, Matthew 24:43*

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## The Appeal of the Thief

Jesus makes clear in verse 10 that a cosmic battle lies before the people of this world. He says, "The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life" (v 10). The thief is a metaphor for Satan. He is the cosmic and spiritual opposition to Christ and His work of protection and love in our lives. The ways of the thief are powerful. Biblical commentator David Guzik describes the enemy's work in this way: *"Thief implies deception and trickery; robber implies violence and destruction. These take away life but Jesus gives life and He gives it abundantly. These are the con men and muggers of the spiritual world."*

Satan works to deceive us into thinking that our safety and salvation are found in wealth, possessions, and selfishness. He manipulates us into thinking that culture or the world is meant to define our actions and morals. He deceives and manipulates through what appeals to our hearts. Ultimately, when he has worked and led us astray, he destroys us. His work is the work of leading us away from the gate of protection that is found in Jesus Christ.

The good news of Jesus' declaration that He is the Gate is that He is the protector of our souls. When we enter the gates of Christ, we find protection, direction, and salvation. He steers us back into His love and safety when the thief tries to take us away. He is our guardian, and nothing can be more appealing once we enter his gates than the sound of His comforting voice.



### Reflection

One of the most important things with any Bible study or spiritual examination is to allow the truth the Lord is putting before you to be received with an open heart, reflected upon honestly, and applied faithfully in your life. That is why these reflections during this study are so very important. With that understood, make two columns in a journal if you journal. If you don't, just reflect on these two questions:

- **Column 1:** What are the "thieves" in my life? (fear, anxiety, sin, distractions, unhealthy relationships, materialism)
- **Column 2:** How is Jesus inviting me to live abundantly? (peace, joy, purpose, freedom, love)

Next, end your time by asking: What do I need to surrender to Jesus to experience His fullness?

# Day 3 - Wednesday

*John 10:1-10, Psalm 23*

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## The Sheep

Sheep wander and are easily led astray. David and the Lord knew this, which is why they both refer to God as a shepherd. A shepherd herds, guides, and protects his flock by bringing them through a gate into a protected pen. Jesus's role as the gate complements His status as shepherd because it reminds us that He steers us into protection while also actively protecting us.

In the devotional study, *I Am: Who Jesus is Changes Everything* the visual that David gives in Psalm 23 of God steering us and protecting us is explained beautifully. "God's rod and staff also remind us how He is with us. A shepherd's rod and staff were used for both defense and control. These objects describe security. When God's presence is with us, we can rest securely, even in places of darkness..."

Jesus is the Gate. He is our protector. He is the One who steers us towards His love and goodness. Psalm 23 reminds us that He is both the Gate and the Good Shepherd (more to come on that next week).



## Reflection

Psalm 23 is one of the most powerful and healing chapters of all scripture. It is a song, a word of power, and a message of hope for our hearts. Take time right now to read Psalm 23. Then read it again, slowly. Take in each word. Read it and try to memorize certain verses, phrases, or even just the overarching ideas. Today, go back to Psalm 23, either by reading it or remembering its words. At the end of the day, read it again before you sleep. Let this be your day's driver and your heart's lullaby as you sleep.

# Day 4 - Thursday

*John 10:1-10, Matthew 7:13-14*

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## The Challenge of the Sheep

The image of Jesus as this open gate welcoming us in for protection and salvation is naturally appealing. Our hearts ultimately long for it, but then the question arises: Why isn't the pen full? In other words, why aren't our churches overflowing? Why isn't obedience to God the way of the land? Why is culture more influenced by self than sacrifice reflective of Christ? The answer is found in Jesus' words in Matthew 7:13-14: *"You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it."*

As we've already studied, the appeal of the thief (Satan) is great. He is a master manipulator and deceiver. He presents us the rotting treasures that our sinful, selfish nature craves. We know, and have experienced, that this way never brings us to what is good, but only to destruction, but that doesn't deter our foolish hearts from still pursuing its broadly appealing pleasures more than the narrow gate of righteousness found in Jesus.

The challenge of the sheep (us) is the work of letting us be led toward the Good Shepherd to the Gate (both being Jesus and His protection). This work requires us not only to let go and follow but also to make sure that we do this in the direction of the One who is the Gate, not the thief. The thing with sheep that we have discussed is that they are easily led, and they are followers, but the sheep who follow the thieves find only heartache, death, and destruction. The sheep who follow the Good Shepherd find The Gate and His good and loving embrace and salvation.

The challenge of the Sheep is to continue to follow the sweet voice of Jesus back home.



### Reflection

Our hearts are drawn to many things, some good, most self-serving. Today, reflect, keep inventory, and be willing to journal where you feel your heart is drawn. What are the things you are thinking about? What are the things you long for? What are the destructive things you find yourself thinking or tempted to do?

At the end of the day, reflect on these things and ask God to help you continue pursuing Him and His gate of goodness. Ask Him to shepherd you through the narrow gate.

# Day 5 - Friday

*John 10:1-10, Revelation 3:20*

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## The Gate Will Be Opened

Throughout the week, our study of Jesus' declaration "I AM the Gate" has pointed to one unfailing truth that stands out. The ultimate reminder of Jesus' metaphor here is that there is a way to Him, which requires knocking on the door or gate, which is to say: the way to Him is to seek Him. He promises to always be at the door waiting for us and opening wide to let us in. One glorious day, we will be invited into His kingdom and embrace forevermore.

As discussed in this study, Jesus' I AM statements point to how He fulfills the Old Testament promises of a Savior. His statements also fulfill the future that awaits us all. He has won the war against sin and death. We are invited to the victory celebration of eternity, where we are rewarded with the goodness of His presence forever. The good news that Jesus offers us in His I AM statements is that we can begin to experience a taste of these things even now.

When we seek Him, we find Him. As hard as it may be to believe, Jesus is at the gate of our hearts at all times, holding the door open for us to experience His healing presence. We have to be willing to walk through. To seek is to enter the Gate of His love. When we seek Him, we fulfill a promise since creation, and we taste of a future that awaits us all.



### Reflection

What is it you hope for? Think deeply about this question. Don't answer with simple earthly platitudes like more money, influence, a better job, etc. These things are important and matter to Jesus too, but they're small compared to what is ultimately at the foundations of our hearts' desires. What does your heart ultimately hope for? Peace? Love? Rest? Joy? Understanding?

Reflect on how seeking Jesus gives us a taste of this. How do you think this is true and reveals itself through what we have learned about Jesus? Finally, pray and ask God to help you see your future home with Him. Ask Him to help you pursue the path to the Gate of His love and goodness.

# Day 6 - Saturday

*Reflection Day*

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## Reflection Notes and Questions

As we wrap up this week's study, reread John 10:1-10

Reflect on these words that Jesus spoke, "I am the Gate." and what they mean about His character, His work on the cross, and how it should change how we see Him and how we live.

Reflect/journal your thoughts on this or these following prompts:

- Write down what you learned about who God is this week.
- What is something you learned this week that you want to remember? Why?
- How can you begin to posture your life to receive more from the Lord?

# Day 7 - Sunday

*Rest Day*

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## Reflection Notes and Questions

Join us for worship today and prepare your heart to engage with next week's study of God and His word. Use your time today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's readings.