

The image shows the words "I am" written in a dark brown, brush-stroke style font. The letter "I" is a simple vertical line, while "am" is more fluid and cursive. The background is a light, pale green color.

PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE – September 22

PRIMARY PASSAGE

John 10:1-10: I Am The Gate

“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

ICEBREAKER: If a movie was being made of your life and you could choose the actor/actress to play you, who would you choose and why?

WHAT IS GOING ON?

1.) Look at Jesus' interactions with the Pharisees in chapter 9:35-10:6. What does Jesus' words reveal about the Pharisees beliefs and attitudes.

WHAT DOES JESUS CLAIM?

2.) In v.6-10, What does his claim mean? What does he warn against?

3.) Jesus refers to other people claiming similar promises for eternal and abundant life. In our life today, what doors does the world (consider society, religion, etc.) tell us that abundant and/or eternal life are behind?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR US?

4.) In your life, what are some examples of how believing Jesus' claim has brought you abundant life?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

Jesus' statement, "I am the Gate," tells us that we have eternal life and abundant life through Christ's performance, not our own. This is a truth that we must embrace to begin a relationship with God and one that we have to remind ourselves of daily as our relationship with Jesus deepens. If you are comfortable, share your answers to the questions below with the group. You will be surprised how many people have a similar story and struggle as you do. Also, the resource at the bottom is a great book to read that will help you investigate further the questions below.

- **Which "false doors" have you gone through in your life and how were you disappointed with what you didn't find?**
- **How would Jesus Christ and his promises fulfill that desire?**

Resource Recommendation: *This Is Our Time* by Trevin Wax