



## LEADERS GUIDE – September 22

**Leader Note:** In this week’s passage, Jesus’ claims to be The Gate and that only those who enter through him will be saved. Your discussion may veer into a conversation about pluralism (Is Jesus really the only way? What about a man on the island who has never heard?). This is an important doctrinal truth that we don’t shy away from, but we want to have this discussion in the right environment. As the leader, we trust your judgment and discernment on how to navigate this conversation. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- We believe that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. (John 10:7, John 14:6, John 3:14-15). This truth compels us share the good news of Jesus Christ on the campus, in the city, and around the world (Rom. 10:14-15; Matt. 28:18-20) until all have heard (Matt. 24:20).
- Your group conversation should be more focused towards the heart, than the head. More focused on how Jesus’ words impact the person in the room, not the hypothetical person across the globe. The discussion guide focuses on where our life doesn’t line up with this truth and how we may be missing out on eternal life or the abundant life Christ promises.
- Consider the people in the room when you decide how much to discuss the pluralism topic. If it is your third week of meeting, you most likely don’t need to get into a discussion until you build a trust amongst the new members. If you have a more experienced group, then just lay some ground rules on how to discuss respectfully.
- As the leader, it’s okay to redirect the discussion if you feel that it is going in a direction that is not helpful for the group. One of the simplest ways to do this is by saying something like, “Those are great questions and a really important discussion to have. I definitely want to discuss that further, but for our discussion tonight, let’s stay focused on....”
- Here are some links that guided Kevin and Andrew as they prepared for their sermons:
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6RWyIzhB7k>
  - <https://www.tvcresources.net/resource-library/articles/what-if-i-believe-in-god-but-not-in-jesus>
  - <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/humbly-handling-the-offense-of-the-gospel-with-non-christians>
  - <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-most-controversial-claim-jesus-made>

**PRIMARY PASSAGE**

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### **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. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” <sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The 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?** Do this before you jump into the passage and questions. It's a little goofy, but a great way for groups to get to know one another.

### 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.** In these interactions, Jesus is trying to explain that the Pharisees are not who they think they are. The Pharisees were the religious elite of the day and in their eyes, they believed that they were in good standing with God, but Jesus' firmly tells them that their faith is in the wrong place. Their confidence must move from their performance to Jesus' performance.

### WHAT DOES JESUS CLAIM?

**2.) In v.6-10, What does his claim mean? What does he warn against?** Jesus claims to be the Gate. He claims that it is through him alone that we can have access to the Father (be saved). Not only is he the only way to *eternal life*, he also is the only way to provide *abundant life* in the here and now. It is only through Christ that we find true life and fulfillment. He warns against those who promise similar things as they are imposters and their claims are lies.

**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?** Success, Power, Money, Relationships, Good Works, Theological Knowledge, etc.

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR US?

**4.) In your life, what are some examples of how believing Jesus' claim has brought you abundant life?** You may have to give a few examples and guide this discussion, but help them see how understanding that it is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone brings *eternal security, rest, and abundant life* here and now.

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

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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