



Sermon Discussion Guide

"I am the Gate" - Tim Knipp

10.25.2020

Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key questions by bolding them.**
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!



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Hook - Getting to know one another

How is everyone doing this week? This could also be an icebreaker question related to the topic for discussion.

1. Take a few minutes to think of modern examples of gates in our lives. (Ex. Costco memberships, gym memberships, security badges, etc.) What gates do you walk through, and what function do they serve?
2. Take 60 seconds to try and describe what “the good life” is to you. Let multiple people take a stab at it! Point out if you see any themes.

Book - Scripture

Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.

3. Read John 10:7-10.
4. What functions does Jesus say he serves as the gate? What needs do the sheep have that we learn about in these four verses?

Look - Connections to our world today

This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what’s wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.

5. PRACTICE TIME: Jesus says that he came that we might have life, life to the full. Split into breakout rooms or partners if you feel comfortable and role play a situation where you are explaining to a non-Christian friend at work how Jesus wants to give us the life that is truly life, AKA life to the full. Feel free to use examples from your life in your explanation. Come back together and share - was it easy/ hard? What important things came up?



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6. One of the crucial questions of the modern world is "Why does it have to be Jesus?" People say "Can't a person get to the good life through any means/ religion/philosophy they choose?" Jesus' claim that he is the gate is absolutely essential for answering this pressing question. List as many reasons as you can think of from the truth in this passage for why "it really has to be Jesus".

Took - Personal Application

This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.

7. What would happen if you deeply believed in your heart of hearts that Jesus is the doorway (gate) to the good life?

Time of Prayer