



7-WEEK STUDY

on the seven **I Am** statements of Jesus

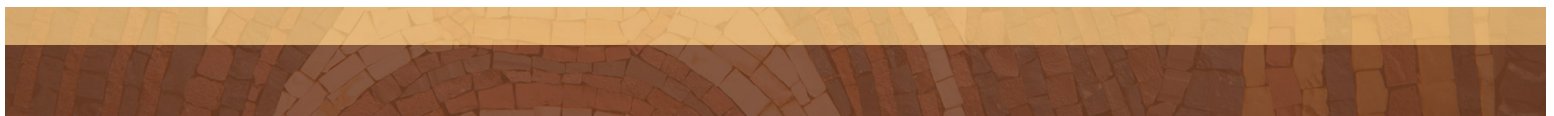
WEEK 3

Discussion Guide

I AM THE GATE

John 10:7

To the outsider, I was an invitation. **I still am.**





WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: John 10:7

Secondary texts from this week: John 9:1-41, John 10:1-10

GETTING STARTED

Goals for this session: To better understand Jesus' statement "I am the gate."

Missed the sermon? Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

Break the Ice: Have you ever owned any animals (as an adult or a child)? What did you own and what was that experience like?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever known a person who was blind? What was life like for them? What was your interaction like with that person? If you have never known a blind person, what do you imagine life would be like for them?
2. The disciples assumed that the man was born blind because he had sinned or his parents had sinned. In other words, they assumed that the man's situation was a direct result of someone's sin. Do you agree with this? How did Jesus respond?
3. In this week's sermon, Pastor Doug said, "if karma is true, we're screwed; but if grace is true, we can be saved." What is your reaction to that statement?
4. Jesus statement that he is the gate (or the door) seems to be an exclusive claim that he is the only way to salvation. Have someone in the group read each of the following passages and discuss what they tell us about Jesus' claim:

Matthew 7:13-14

Acts 4:12

John 14:6

5. The blind beggar had lived on the margins of his community his entire life because of his disability. Jesus, however, treated this man very differently than the Pharisees did. Can you think of any other times Jesus ministered to people on the margins of society? What do those examples tell us about the heart of God?

Note: for examples, see **Matthew 9:10-13, 19:13-14, Mark 1:40-42, 5:25-34, Luke 19:5-9, and John 4:4-26**

6. Jesus often reserved his harshest criticism for the Pharisees (see **Matthew 23** for a scathing example) for being selfish, prideful, judgmental, and hypocritical. Are there any ways in which you tend to be a bit like the Pharisees?



PRAYER

Pray for each other: Pray that each person in your group would have an opportunity to share the message of Jesus with someone this week.

Pray for yourself: Pray that God would give you an opportunity to share the message of Jesus with someone this week.

Pray for your four: Identify four people who don't know Jesus (friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers/classmates), and commit to pray for them consistently. Pray that **(1)** God would reveal Jesus to them, **(2)** that God would turn their hearts towards Him, **(3)** that God would put Christians in their path to represent Christ, and **(4)** that God would give you an opportunity to share with them what Christ has done in your life.

ACTION STEPS

This week, whenever you walk through a door, say a quick silent prayer of thanks for the fact that Jesus has provided a way for us to be saved.

NOTES

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