



STUDY GUIDE – March 22, 2020

Message Title: The Gate
Teaching Pastor: Jeremy Ford

This study guide has been designed for Small Groups in mind, and can be used by individuals as well.

Warm-up/Icebreaker:

Was there ever a time when you stood on one side of a real or figurative fence longing to be on the other side? What was it that you wanted?

Pray:

Dear Lord, as we study together, please give us rest for our souls. Help us to shift our focus on who You are. Please help us enter through your gate and find pasture and understand what an abundant life is in you..

Get Started:

Read John 10:1-21

- Jesus is the gate for the sheep. There is safety in following Jesus and doing life His way. Notice that Jesus said He was *the gate* for the sheep, not *the jail keeper*.
Reread John 10:9. Why should you consider Jesus to be someone who offers you freedom to live a fulfilling life rather than someone who is restrictive?
- How does Jesus' striking statement in verse 10 shed light on His purpose as the gate?

With John 10 in mind, Read Ezekiel 34:1-4

- How did the Pharisees show themselves to be false shepherds?

Watch and Discuss video:

Read Matthew 7:13-14 & Luke 13:3

- How do these scripture references go hand-in-hand?
- Would "the narrow gate" describe the way you are choosing to live? Or are you choosing the smooth way, the way that meets the least resistance?
- Who do you think is on the wide path?

Pastor Jerimy spoke of the following quote from Tim Keller in the video: “To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial. To be known and not loved is our greatest fear. But to be fully known and truly loved is, well, a lot like being loved by God. It is what we need more than anything.”

- How does this quote above and knowing Jesus is “the gate” help connect the dots of your faith?

Reflect and Commit:

Even our cells, the tiniest complete component of life created by God, incorporates the concept of gates on a biological level. The truths discussed here play out on multiple levels both literally and figuratively in amazing ways.

Read Psalm 100:3-5

- What can I praise God for in light of what this teaches me?
- What does it mean to you to have life in abundance? Reflect on your own environment: home, work, community. What would it look like for your life to overflow with God’s abundance in the coming week? In what practical ways can you share out of God’s abundance with those around you?

Pray:

Jesus, help us to know that you are the gate and ready to let us in to where we can be known and loved by You, In being known and loved by you then we are able to know and love others in the way we are called to do. We enter your gate with thanksgiving and acknowledge, accept and appreciate the protection and freedom you give.