

## Small Group Study Guide, Week of March 23, 2025

John 10:7-10. "I AM the Gate"

Question: Why should anyone trust Jesus with their lives?

Big Idea: Jesus is the gate of salvation who alone gives abundant life.

**Ice Breaker:** How secure do you consider the doors on your house? Why?

### Dig:

1. For context, read John 10:1-21. There is some uncertainty among scholars regarding Jesus calling himself the "Gate" in the context of calling himself the "Good Shepherd." A possible explanation is that Jesus was referring to a common shepherding practice at that time. During good weather, instead of bringing his sheep back to the public pens in town, a shepherd would sometimes stay out in the open pasture with them all night. He would herd the sheep into a simple rocky enclosure, open on one side, then sleep on the ground across the opening, to keep the sheep from getting out and predators from getting in. If this explanation is correct, how would you describe the relationship of "the gate" and "the good shepherd"? Do you find any problems with this interpretation?
2. What is the purpose of the gate? What are the privileges and blessings of those who enter in?
3. In v8, who are the "thieves and robbers" Jesus is talking about? What is their purpose? Contrast that with Jesus' purpose. How was that playing out at the time Jesus spoke in this passage?

### Apply:

4. How have you experienced the Lord as your Gate?
5. Who do you know that is seeking the blessings Jesus describes in #2 above? How can you come alongside them in their quest?

Adapted from Serendipity Bible (1988), This Morning with God (1978), Search the Scriptures (1978)