

John 10:1-10

“I AM The Door”

Scripture: John 10:1-10

Memory Verse: John 10:9a *“I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved...”*

Lesson Focus: Jesus uses simple illustrations that everyone can understand to get His points across. Continuing in our “I AM” series, today we will look at how He uses something everyone is familiar with, a door, to communicate that we must trust in Him to be saved and be restored to God.

Activities and Crafts: Coloring Picture of Cross Doorway, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring It Home Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st & 2nd: Door with Memory Verse

Starter Activity: What’s Missing?

Bring in an animal cage or kennel. If you don’t have one consider finding some fun images of pets or farm animals in cages or pens that you can use for some discussion prior to the lesson.

First display the cage or kennel and ask the kids what is missing? Encourage the kids to think through what kind of animal might live in it! If your own pet uses this, share a little bit about that pet! * Then have some discussion:

Q: What is the purpose of the door on this cage?

Q: What might happen if the door was not latched correctly or if the door came off?

Then share some of these key concepts:

- 1) Animal pens need secure doors so that the animals are safe while inside.
- 2) It will not only keep predators from coming in, but it will also keep the animal from wandering out and into trouble!

For the past few weeks, we have been learning about the “I AM” statements Jesus made. Each time Jesus said “I AM,” we are reminded that He is God. Each I AM statement also helps us better know Who Jesus is.

This kennel or cage is going to help us better understand the “I AM” statement from today. Let’s see why!

Bible Study:

John 10:1a: Jesus begins by grabbing our attention with his “most assuredly I say to you” phrase. This is like when your preschool teacher would say, “*I, 2, 3 eyes on me.*” Then you would say? A: *I, 2, eyes on you!*

Jesus says this when He is being serious and He really wants people to listen and understand. We heard Him say this three weeks ago in **John 8:58** when He said, “MOST ASSUREDLY I SAY TO YOU, before Abraham was, I AM.” (SERIOUS STUFF!)

John 10:1b: Jesus often uses sheep to teach lessons * and here He identifies those who do not enter the sheepfold by the door.

Q: What does He call them? A: Thieves and robbers!

Q: Why might they enter this way? A: They are trying to steal or destroy them!

John 10:2: But the one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. This is the one who is going to take care of them!

Q: How many of you have been to the zoo? How does the zookeeper enter? A: By the door!

Q: But if someone wanted to sneak in and steal them, how might he enter?

John 10:3: It says here that the shepherd calls them out by name! This shows how much the shepherd really cares about His sheep knowing each one of them by name. *

John 10:4: So the shepherd is calling the sheep out of the sheepfold.

Q: Do they just stay there in the sheepfold? No, they follow Him out!

Q: Why would the sheep need to leave the sheepfold? A: They need to go find some grass to eat, water to drink, etc. And they follow the shepherd out because they trust Him and know that He is going to take care of them.

John 10:5: The more that the sheep know and trust their shepherd, the more they will be able to recognize the voice of strangers and impostors and AVOID them!

John 10:6: Even though Jesus got their attention with His “*I, 2, 3 eyes on me,*” they still didn’t get it!

Sometimes we don’t get it either and we need to be taught again. Or maybe you are wondering, “What do sheep have to do with me?” Thankfully, Jesus is patient and He explains this illustration to them (and us) again.

John 10:7a: Notice he says “*I, 2, 3 eyes on me*” again. He really wants them to understand this!

John 10:7b: And here is our next I AM statement. He says I AM the door!

Jesus uses the illustration of a door or a gate to describe that people (the sheep) enter God's favor ONLY through Him (the door).

Teachers: Refer back to your cage or kennel and hone in on the door. If you didn't bring one in, consider using one of the doors in your room. Point out that just as animals can ONLY enter into the safety of the kennel/cage through the door, people can ONLY enter into the safety and blessing of being right with God through belief and trust in Jesus.

Let's talk a little bit more about this. **Read Romans 3:23.** Then ask a volunteer to share what this means.

- All of us have sinned. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that disobeys God. Even just one sin separates us from God Who is perfectly holy.
- **Teachers:** At this point lock the cage or kennel and point out that our sin keeps us "locked out" of being in relationship with God. *

Next **Read Romans 5:8.** Then ask a volunteer to share what this means.

- Even though our sin separates us from God, He made a way for us to be brought back to Him!
- God the Father, in His love, sent Jesus to take our punishment that we deserved!

Finally **Read Romans 10:9.** Then ask a volunteer to share what this means.

- We don't become right with God by going to church or doing good things.
- We must trust in Jesus, making Him our Lord and Savior. Then the door opens!
- **Teachers:** At this point unlock the cage or kennel and point out that Jesus brings us into relationship with God! WOW!

John 10:8: There have been impostors, or false saviors, that have come before Jesus. There are impostors and false saviors today as well! Don't listen to them! The more you know Jesus, the more you will recognize and avoid the phonies out in the world.

John 10:9: Jesus repeats again, I AM the door! Enter by Me and you will be what? **SAVED!**

Q: Saved from what? From sin and hell!

John 10:10: But not only will you be saved from sin and hell, but you will have life and have it **abundantly**.

Q: Do you know what this word abundant means? It means satisfied and full!

Key Point: Satan wants to steal, kill, and destroy you by getting you to put your trust and hope in things of this world: video games, fame, money, phones, etc.

Those things aren't evil in themselves, but **THEY WILL NOT MAKE YOU HAPPY!** *

Jesus wants to call YOU by your name. Believe in Him for the first time today. Or if you already believe in Him, believe in Him more so that you will grow in your love for Him!

Bring It Home

(Devotional for the Family)

Lesson Theme: “I AM The Door”

Scripture: John 10:1-10

Memory Verse: John 10:9a *“I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved...”*

Teachers/Parents: We talked a lot about doors in our lesson today. How many doors does your home have? Go around your home and count all the doors that lead outside as well as the doors that lead to a room. Have you ever had a time when you were locked out of your home? What happened and how did you feel?

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Twice in the passage we covered today (**John 10:1 and 10:7**), Jesus said, *“Most assuredly, I say to you.”* This was the phrase He used repeatedly when He really wanted His audience to focus on what He had to say. What are some ways that you get the attention of others?
- 2) Read **John 10:3**. How does the shepherd call the sheep? As a believer in Jesus Christ, how does it make you feel that Jesus would call you by your name?
- 3) Read **John 10:4**. What does it say that the sheep do in this verse? If Jesus is our shepherd, what do you think it looks like for us, as His sheep to follow Him? Give some examples.
- 4) In **John 10:7**, Jesus makes it very clear that He is the door by which we enter into right relationship with God. What are some other ways that people might think they can be in right relationship with God?
- 5) In class we looked at **Romans 3:23** and talked about how all of us are sinners and that this is a problem for us. Read **Isaiah 59:2**. What does this verse say our sins do to us?
- 6) But there is hope! Read **John 10:9**. Twice now Jesus says that He is the door. What happens to those who approach God through Him?
- 7) Read **John 10:10**. What did Jesus say He came for? What do you think this abundant life looks like?