

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

I Am - Part 4 - I am the Gate

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Introduction

In John 9, Jesus heals a blind man on the Sabbath and incurs the disapproval of the Jewish religious leaders. They invoke religious law against the miracle, and focus on the Law instead of leading people to Him.

Introductory Questions

1. Think of someone you know personally who has been a good leader in your life in the past six months. Why are they a good leader?
2. In the Bible, a shepherd is often used as a metaphor for a leader. Read Psalm 23 and Ezekiel 34:7-10. What are some contrasts between these readings?

Read

John 10:1-10

Discuss

1. Read verse 7. Jesus was talking to the Pharisees when He said "I am the gate for the sheep." Who, then, does Jesus mean by thief and robber (v.1); shepherd of the sheep (v.2); the sheep (v.3); and the gatekeeper (v.3)?
2. Tim teaches us that sheep need to be able to recognise the shepherd's voice and follow him. What would be the danger of not recognising the shepherd's voice? As God's disciples in a world full of noise, how do we know which voice to follow?

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3. If we are to take up our call to be disciples, we need to (a) understand that knowledge is not enough, (b) see a living (but not perfect) example, and (c) make room for the Holy Spirit. Which one do you think you are doing well? How can you start to become a living example to someone in your life?
4. For us to make room for the Holy Spirit, Tim teaches us to pay attention to Him through the Bible, what others are saying, and His prompts. Have you had an experience where you are at a life-changing crossroad and you need to follow the leading of the Spirit to choose a path? What did and didn't you do?
5. Obedience requires us to take risks. How can we be become more of a risk-tolerant person in our spiritual journey?
6. Read verse 9. Everyone who comes through Jesus is safe, has access, and will find God's provision. Knowing this, the hope of bringing a friend to Jesus should outweigh the imagined risks, which are often from the enemy. Is there a name in your heart that the Holy Spirit is prompting you to reach out to? What is one simple step of obedience you can make this week?

Respond

Each of us is called by Jesus to become a disciple. However small or big our social circle is, God has strategically placed us there to be a disciple, and to introduce people to Jesus in whom they can find peace and salvation. Jesus is the only way. The name you have in mind (question 6) is there for a reason. A simple step that you can take this week is to invite them to the Easter service. See where God is already at work.