

LEADER'S NOTES FOR THE "I AM" SERIES

I AM the Gate

Week of March 19, 2017

NOTES TO LEADERS: This week's study is a bit more challenging. Because of the cultural shift, we don't live around sheep. Jesus' point about being the gate is that he is the way into and the flock of God's family and that he doesn't allow anyone to steal His sheep.

Share it

Last week we encouraged you to watch and listen to people in your world and how they view Jesus. What are you seeing and hearing? How does this match with His "I AM" statements?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Please allow time for people to share an update on their involvement with people in their world.

Study the Bible (John 9:40-10:11)

Who is Jesus addressing? What occurred with them in 7:28-32; 8:12-13; 9:16?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Jesus is addressing the Pharisees. They continued to be rejecting and hostile. These are the people in our passage who would be the "thieves and robbers."

What were the roles of the gate / gatekeeper? What were the concerns for the sheep?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Jesus guards the sheep from thieves and robbers. These are religious rule keepers who put false demands on the people that cannot give them life. Jesus' role is to "save" and give them "life."

What concerns does Jesus have about these religious leaders?

NOTES TO LEADERS: They aren't there to help the sheep. Rather, they want to steal God's sheep. They end up destroying the people - not saving or giving life. They will not and cannot give them life.

According to 10:10, why did Jesus come (from the Father)?

NOTES TO LEADERS: This is the central message. Jesus can give us true life - life in fullness means life as Jesus can give that is both eternal (full) and complete (full). Throughout the Bible, only God can satisfy the true longing of our souls. (Psalm 63:5).

How does this connect with Jesus' other statements of why He came? (see Matthew 5:17; Luke 5:32; 19:10; John 12:46)

NOTES TO LEADERS: Each of these statements are "I have come" statements of Jesus. There are many more beyond this sampler.

Discuss Together

What needs did Jesus address here that are common to all people?

NOTES TO LEADERS: In this passage, Jesus addresses our needs for the security of our salvation, the true life that God meant for us to experience that satisfies our souls, to know the voice of God and be known by God, and to know the way to God (cf. John 14:6).

What is Jesus' role in meeting those needs?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Jesus provides the way to God – to salvation, to life, to security, and to know the voice of God.

What is the “superabundant life” that Jesus offers? How is that possible through Jesus? How can we live in it?

NOTES TO LEADERS: This could be a deep discussion. The life that God wants for us far exceeds “bread” and the things of this earth. Rather, the fullness of what Jesus offers is eternal life in the glorious presence of God. (See also Colossians 2:9-10).

Do you think that people in your world understand why He came and what He offers?

NOTES TO LEADERS: This is a good topic to discuss. Until people turn to Jesus, they don't realize the truth about Him. Jesus invites us to know Him and the fullness of what He offers.

I PRAY THAT GOD WILL ENCOURAGE AND STRENGTHEN YOU AS YOU SHEPHERD GOD'S FLOCK.

Steve