

“I am the Gate”

Resources for Preparation beforehand:

- Who is Jesus/Who am I sheet
- Paper and pens for name reflection
- A means of playing the worship song and/or copies of words for everyone

Discussion Starter: Names

Do you know why your parents choose your name? What does it mean? Have you had a nickname? How are you most comfortable when people address you?

God Reveals Himself:

Samuel heard his name being called in the night and assumed that it was Eli speaking (1 Samuel 3 v2-10). This happened several times before they realised that it was the Lord. This is just one of many heavenly encounters where God speaks to individuals by name. Why is this important and what does it tell us about our God?

Experiential exploration of safety: Please allow time for reflection.

What makes you feel safe and secure? What circumstances mean that you are most able to be you?

Background:

To fully understand the passage in John 10 it would be helpful to read John 9 in its entirety.

Reading: John chapter 9v1 – chapter 10v10

Questions:

1. If you connected with one of the services, what did you take away?
2. What does the story of the blind man tell us about him and about Jesus?
3. What do you imagine it is like to be one of the sheep in the first 5 verses of chapter 10?
4. Why does Jesus refer to himself as “The Gate” or “The Door”? Shepherds sometimes slept across the entrance of the sheepfold at night.
5. Who might the “... thieves and robbers ...” be in Chapter 10 verse 8?
6. How might the Pharisees have understood this message (Ezekiel 34 v 1-10)
7. In what way do these verses in chapter 10 help us to understand who Jesus is and who he isn’t?
8. What does “Life in all its fullness” (v10) look like and how are we living this out?
9. In some ways we are all gate-keepers for the Kingdom of God. How might we learn from Jesus in these chapters?

Response & Worship:

Song suggestions:

Speak O Lord [Speak, O Lord - Keith & Kristyn Getty - YouTube](#)

Or *Jesus, Name Above All Names (extended version by Naida Hearn lyrics below)* [480 Jesus Name Above All Names \(Naida Hearn\) - YouTube](#)

Quietly read Psalm 100

Jesus knows his sheep by name, you are known by name. Write your name on a piece of paper (decorate it if you wish) reflect on how intimately the Lord knows you.

“Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends” (Rev 3v20)

Take Away:

- Encourage everyone to record something on their “Who is Jesus/Who am I” sheet and bring it to add to each week.
- For during the week:
 - Reflect on God knowing you by name
 - Do you know the names of people in your community? Maybe get to know a few more.
 - Build margin into your week so that you can spend some time getting to know someone better

“Jesus Name Above All Names” by Naida Hearn

Jesus, Name Above All Names
Beautiful Saviour, Glorious Lord
Emmanuel, God Is With Us
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

Jesus, Loving Shepherd
Vine of the Branches, Son of God
Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counsellor
Lord of the Universe, Light of the World

“Speak O Lord” by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend

Speak O Lord as we come to You
To receive the food of Your holy word
Take Your truth plant it deep in us
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith
Speak O Lord and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory

Teach us Lord full obedience
Holy reverence true humility
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity
Cause our faith to rise
Cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority
Words of power that can never fail
Let their truth prevail over unbelief

Speak O Lord and renew our minds
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us
Speak O Lord till Your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory

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