

FACILITATOR / TEACHER GUIDE

SESSION 4 – I AM THE DOOR

JOHN 10:1–10

PURPOSE OF THIS SESSION

This session explores Jesus' statement, **"I am the door,"** a powerful image drawn from everyday shepherding life in the ancient world. Through this declaration, Jesus presents Himself as the **exclusive point of access to safety, belonging, and true life**. He contrasts His role with false leaders who exploit, mislead, or abandon the sheep.

The goal of this session is to help participants reflect on **who or what they trust for security, guidance, and life**, and to recognize Jesus as the one who protects, provides, and leads into abundance.

INTENDED USE

This lesson is designed for **personal preparation and group discussion**. Participants should complete the Student Guide before the session. The facilitator's role is to **guide conversation, ask thoughtful questions, and create space for reflection**, rather than to deliver a lecture.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this session, participants should be able to:

- **Understand the metaphor of Jesus as the Door**
 - **Recognize themes of access, safety, and belonging in John 10**
 - **Identify false sources of security and life**
 - **Reflect on what it means to enter and live through Christ**
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FACILITATOR PREPARATION

Before leading the session:

- **Read John 10:1–10 slowly and prayerfully**
 - **Familiarize yourself with the shepherd–sheep imagery**
 - **Reflect on your own sources of security and trust**
 - **Prepare to guide conversation around exclusivity without defensiveness**
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SESSION FLOW (60–75 MINUTES)



1. WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

Welcome participants and remind them that this session continues the series on Jesus' **"I AM" statements**, each revealing something essential about His identity and mission.

Open with prayer, asking God to:

- Reveal where we seek safety and belonging
- Open our hearts to Christ's invitation
- Deepen our trust in Jesus as our protector

Suggested prayer focus:

- Trust and surrender
 - Clarity and discernment
 - Openness to Christ's leading
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2. ORIENTING THE GROUP: THE CONTEXT OF JOHN 10 (5 MINUTES)

Briefly remind the group that this teaching follows the healing of the man born blind, where religious leaders failed to care for someone in need.

Key teaching point:

John 10 is about leadership, trust, and who truly cares for the sheep.

Explain that Jesus is addressing people familiar with shepherd imagery and deeply aware of issues of authority and belonging.

3. INTRODUCING THE IMAGE: SHEEP AND SHEPHERDS (5–10 MINUTES)

Invite participants to reflect on the metaphor.

Discussion prompts: • **What do you associate with sheep or shepherds?**

• **Why do you think Jesus uses such an ordinary image?**

Facilitator insight:

Sheep are vulnerable and dependent. Shepherds are responsible for protection, guidance, and care.

4. DISCUSSION: FALSE VOICES AND TRUE ACCESS (10 MINUTES)

Focus on Jesus' contrast between Himself and others.



Key idea:

Not every voice that claims authority leads to life.

Discussion prompts: • **Who are the “thieves and robbers” Jesus refers to?**

- **How do false leaders harm rather than protect?**
- **What voices today promise life but fail to deliver it?**

Encourage thoughtful reflection without turning this into debate.

5. DISCUSSION: “I AM THE DOOR” (10 MINUTES)

Read Jesus’ statement aloud slowly.

Key idea:

Jesus does not show the door—He is the door.

Discussion prompts: • **What does it mean for Jesus to call Himself the Door?**

- **What does a door provide—both positively and negatively?**
- **Why is the idea of one door challenging or uncomfortable for some?**

Facilitator insight:

A door both **invites and limits**—it offers access while excluding what threatens life.

6. DISCUSSION: SAFETY, SALVATION, AND LIFE (10 MINUTES)

Explore what Jesus promises to those who enter through Him.

Key teaching point:

Jesus offers safety, freedom, and abundance—not confinement.

Discussion prompts: • **What kind of safety is Jesus describing?**

- **How is freedom different from limitlessness?**
- **What does “abundant life” mean in contrast to mere survival?**

Help participants avoid equating abundance with comfort or success.

7. DISCUSSION: WHO OR WHAT DO WE ENTER THROUGH? (5–10 MINUTES)

Shift toward personal reflection.

Discussion prompts: • **What doors do people commonly walk through looking for life?**

- **What promises do those doors make?**
- **Which doors have failed to provide what they promised?**



Facilitator note:

Allow silence and honesty. This is a reflective moment.

8. DISCUSSION: BELONGING AND IDENTITY (5–10 MINUTES)

Highlight that entering through the Door means becoming part of a flock.

Key idea:

Jesus offers belonging, not isolation.

Discussion prompts: • **What does it mean to belong to Christ?**

• **How does belonging shape identity and purpose?**

• **Why is belonging often tied to trust?**

9. PERSONAL REFLECTION AND APPLICATION (5–10 MINUTES)

Invite quiet reflection or optional sharing.

Reflection questions: • **Where are you currently seeking security or life?**

• **What would it look like to trust Jesus more fully as your Door?**

• **What step of trust might God be inviting you to take?**

Encourage participants to identify one concrete response for the week.

10. CLOSING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

Close in prayer, thanking God for the protection, life, and belonging found in Christ.

Optional prayer focus:

• **Trust over fear**

• **Discernment between voices**

• **Confidence in Christ's care**

KEY TAKEAWAY FOR FACILITATORS

This session invites participants to examine **where they seek access to life and security**. Jesus' claim to be the Door is both comforting and confronting. Create space for tension, honesty, and trust. The aim is not to pressure agreement, but to invite deeper reflection on the life Jesus offers—and the doors we choose to walk through.

