

# Door of the Sheep

Seven times in the book of John, Jesus says "I am ...". These statements are not metaphors about Jesus, but rather Jesus stating that He is God. Each statement reveals part of God's character and who He is in us, making it possible for us to say, "I am new."



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## INTRODUCTION

In the book of John, Jesus calls Himself the Door of the sheep. Pastor David talked about that and ways we can hear Jesus in our lives.

## STARTER QUESTION

What are three things that you need to feel safe? Explain the role each thing plays in making you feel safe.

## INTO THE WORD

1. Pastor David took several minutes at the beginning of the message talking about doors. Think of three spiritual analogies where you can compare who Jesus is to the functionality of a door. Consider the following biblical references if you get stuck: John 14:6, Proverb 18:10, and Galatians 3:26.
2. Pastor David stated that the safest place to be is in a relationship with God. He provided an example of how God protects us with the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in Daniel 3:1-28. What other biblical stories can you think of that demonstrate God's salvation, provision, and protection?

## APPLICATION

3. Think about standing in front of a door. What is your natural posture...to move towards it or through it? Are you bent towards action or curious about what is on the other side? How does your posture compare when you think about your relationship with Jesus?
4. How can we work on recognizing God's voice?
5. Sometimes it can be difficult to hear His voice through all the distractions around us and the things we tell ourselves. How are we to recognize Jesus' voice in today's world?

## PRAYER

Lord, we thank you for the safety you bring to our lives. We are so thankful that Jesus is the Door. You never promised that we wouldn't have problems, but we know, as Christians, that You are there with us and You will help us through our problems. We know You want to speak to us. Please help us to hear You. Lord, we want to hear You and we want to do what You ask of us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## **SUGGESTED ANSWER GUIDE / MORE FOOD FOR THOUGHT FOR SELECTED QUESTIONS:**

### **Question 1:**

1) "I am the way, the truth and the life." John 14:6. Doors generally funnel foot traffic or provide access from one area to another. Jesus does this by providing access to the creator of the universe and allowing us to conquer death and live eternally. Access to eternal life only comes through Jesus.

2) Proverbs 18:10 says that "The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous run to it and are safe." A primary function of a door is to provide protection from the outdoor elements and people or animals that you don't want to have access to your space or things. Jesus is a protector, working on our behalf to allow his perfect plan for each of our lives to play out according to his greater plan for the world.

3) God adorns us with words of affirmation. A front door on a home or business is one of the most featured and decorated aspects of a building. It can be one of the primary architectural features on a structure. God says that we are loved, we are worthy and valuable, we are made new and full of the Spirit, we are transforming, and we are his child and witness. Galatians 3:26 states, "For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus."

### **Question 4:**

Pray and study God's word. Read Psalm 32:7-10. God's word continually tells us that we're important to him, that he loves us, that he forgives us and that he is faithful. We can also recognize God's voice through promptings from the Holy Spirit and Godly counsel from trusted friends and family.

### **Question 5:**

Read "What does John 10:4 mean?" at <https://www.bibleref.com/John/10/John-10-4.html>. Jesus is not only the door to the sheep pen, He is the shepherd as well. In Jesus's time, sheep would respond only to the shepherd's voice because he was with them every day and spoke to them all day. They were his sheep. Conversely, Jesus's critics did not listen to him because they were not his (John 8:42-47). We know it is God's voice as we study his word in scripture and hear from God in prayer. If what we hear from God is consistent with what we hear from God in his word, we can be certain that we are hearing from the voice of God.

As Brittany Yesudasan says in Campus Crusade for Christ's article entitled "How Do I Hear God's Voice?", "God speaks through the Bible. That's why it is often called the Word of God. The God described in the Bible is and always has been the same God that followers of Jesus worship today. His character does not change. So, when God speaks, it is always consistent with what He said to people like Moses, David and Paul in the Bible." (<https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/spiritual-growth/how-do-i-hear-gods-voice.html>)