

## The Door | John 10:7-10 Sermon Discussion Participant Guide

**Purpose of Discussion:** To remind ourselves that trusting Jesus is the one way we'll be able to experience a truly abundant life.

**Sermon Reminder:** Continuing in our series, Jesus is More, Dave preached from John 10:7-10, focusing on Jesus' statement: "I am the door." In Jesus's metaphor, he's the door his sheep go through to experience an abundant life (John 10:9-10). While we may get caught up in lesser narratives that promise us various things, Jesus is the only way we can experience lasting beauty, glory, and joy.

**Icebreaker:** Can you think of a humorous story from your past when you were excited about something that turned out to be a major disappointment (examples: a vacation, a meal, a party, a job, something you bought, etc.)? Describe how the reality didn't live up to your expectations.

**Transition:** We've all probably experienced times in which our failed expectations produced humorous results. But thinking on a larger scale, how do we avoid orienting our lives around the wrong things—things that will only prove to be a disappointment in the end? Today's passage and sermon will help us think about the only way that we can ultimately experience an abundant life, a life full of meaning, beauty, joy, and glory.

### Discussion

1. Dave mentioned that, in the absence of the true, biblical Christian story, we try to create other narratives that explain and guide our lives. What are some of the ways that people in our culture try to find meaning and satisfaction?

### Read:

[2 Corinthians 11:3 \(NIV\)](#)

But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

# THE **crossing** **small groups**

2. What is Paul concerned with in this passage? Why do you think he's warning his readers in this way?

**Read:**

[John 10:7-10 \(ESV\)](#)

<sup>7</sup> So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

3. Jesus often uses everyday imagery to point to things of larger significance. Looking at what he says in this passage, what is Jesus communicating by calling himself the "door" for the sheep?
4. The alternative to the "door" in Jesus's metaphor is the "thief." According to him, what does listening to/following the thief lead to?

**Read:**

[John 15:11 \(NIV\)](#)

<sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

[John 17:13 \(NIV\)](#)

<sup>13</sup> I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.

[John 17:21-24 \(NIV\)](#)

Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us.... <sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. <sup>24</sup> Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

5. How do these passages help fill in the picture of the kind of life that Jesus offers?

# THE **crossing** **small groups**

6. If Jesus really is the only real door through which we can experience an abundant life, what's one way your life might need to change to reflect that truth?

## **Sharing and Prayer:**

- Silently, confess to the Lord the things that you tend to look to as offering a better life than Jesus does.
- Together, pray that he would help us all remember that Jesus is the only door to having a truly abundant life: a life of love, beauty, and joy.