

Lent 2024 – I AM: the Gate
Suzy Bates
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Reflection & Discussion Questions

The I AM statements are the self portrait of Jesus

When we understand the true picture of Jesus, it changes everything about us.

*What picture of Jesus have you been seeing this week?

Jesus declares, “I am the gate”

Read and discuss John 10:1-9(NIV)

10 “Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.

*What does this passage say about the picture Jesus paints of himself?

*How does the context of this statement – after the treatment of the healed blind man by the Pharisees (ch 9) -lend understanding to what Jesus is saying?

*Why do we need Jesus as our gate?

The Pharisees thought they were doing the good work of guarding for God

They felt a need to protect an authority that was not theirs.

*Does your picture of God include your need to protect Him in some way?

*How have you tried to BE the gate instead of letting Jesus be it?

The correct painting of Jesus will show him as a compassionate Savior and protector

Only Jesus can be this gate, not ourselves and not others.

*How has Jesus as the gate given you freedom and allowed you to flourish?

*Around what things do you need to trust Jesus as the gate instead of trying to be the gate yourself?

*How is the Holy Spirit inviting you to lean into the truth that Jesus is the gate? Where is he providing you access to himself?