

I AM

From Worship To Weekday - January 17

I AM is our seven-week sermon series that explores each of the seven “I Am” statements that Jesus makes in the Gospel of John starting with John 6:32-51. Each “I Am” declaration illustrates a specific revelation of Jesus’ character and testifies to his divinity. Also, each of the “I Am” announcements reveal our spiritual needs and how Jesus perfectly meets each and every one.

CONNECT WITH ONE ANOTHER

- 1) How did you see God at work this past week?
- 2) What has God been teaching you in his Word this week?
- 3) Recall a time when you entered the house in a way that was not through the door. Why is a door so much easier to use?

I AM the Door

“I am the door” (John 10:7 and 9, ESV). This “I am” statement stresses that no one can enter the kingdom of heaven by any other means than Christ Himself. Jesus’ words in this passage are couched in the imagery of a sheepfold. He is the one and only way to enter the fold. “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber” (verse 1, ESV).

CONNECT WITH GOD'S WORD - John 10:1-10

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. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

GOING DEEPER

"You do you" is a phrase that is sometimes used to acknowledge the individuality and uniqueness of a person. When it comes to our relationship with Jesus how is saying "you do you" dangerous?

In this portion of scripture, Jesus is making it clear that there is only one way for the sheep to enter the sheep pen, one way for people to enter eternal life. How difficult is it for people to accept that there is only one way to heaven? Why?

In Jesus' time, the religious leaders had been steering God's people, his flock, away from the truth. They made everything about following the rules, staying in line, and practicing all the right rituals every time. Like so many that came before them and would come after them, they were trying to point people to look inward at themselves instead of outward at God's son. What do God's people experience today that can rob them of the truth?

The world tries to offer us all sorts of doors to "salvation." They point us away from Jesus and towards either ourselves or something else in this world that doesn't stack up. These things are constantly pulling at our hearts, trying to get us to climb over the fence instead of entering through the door. What alternate approaches to salvation have you tried or considered? What voices, other than Jesus' have you listened to that detract from the truth?

We want to think that those who are good are saved, but the reality is that we are all so infiltrated by sin that we fall short of salvation. We cannot be good enough. You can try as hard as you want. You can try to do everything perfectly, but it won't happen. How does Jesus complete what we cannot do through being good enough?

Jesus is saying he himself is the door for the sheep to enter. If the sheep want to get to the pasture, they can only enter through the door. Likewise, for life abundant, eternal life, there is only one way. Jesus. Jesus went through the gate first, making way for others to follow. What about Jesus makes him the way? (John 11:25)

At Bethlehem, we have a mission statement built on this portion of scripture where Jesus says "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." What does fullness of life in Jesus look like?

CONNECT WITH GOD IN PRAYER