
In His Own Words:
“Jesus: The Door of the Sheep”
John 10: 1-10

Thoughts to Shape and Spark Discussion:

“There is no attribute more comforting to His children than that of God’s Sovereignty. Under the most adverse circumstances, in the most severe trials, they believe that Sovereignty has ordained their afflictions, that Sovereignty overrules them, and that Sovereignty will sanctify them all.” - Charles Spurgeon

“If God had perceived that our greatest need was economic, he would have sent an economist. If he had perceived that our greatest need was entertainment, he would have sent us a comedian or an artist. If God had perceived that our greatest need was political stability, he would have sent us a politician. If he had perceived that our greatest need was health, he would have sent us a doctor. But he perceived that our greatest need involved our sin, our alienation from him, our profound rebellion, our death, and he sent us a Savior.”
—D. A. Carson

I would not have the restless will
That hurries to and fro,
Seeking for some great thing to do,
Or secret thing to know;
I would be treated as a child,
And guided where I go.
So I ask Thee for the daily strength,
To none that ask denied,
And a mind to blend with outward life
While keeping at Thy side;
Content to fill a little space,
If Thou be glorified. - Anna Waring

Themes and Questions to Guide Reflection and Response:

- After reading through the passage together, ask your group what makes an impression upon them from the passages and why it strikes them.
- How does this self-portrait from Jesus intersect with you today? Is there anything fresh? Does it resonate with or confuse you at all? When have you felt locked out or locked and longed for a doorway?
- The first aspect of the picture Jesus paints about himself is that he is the door of salvation. How unique and necessary is the provision of Jesus as Savior (see Carson quotation above)? How do you balance the exclusive, only-one-door nature of Jesus’ salvation with the “whoever enters through me” offer? What is difference between walking through the door and simply being able to identify the door? What difference has it made for you?
- Jesus is also pictured as the door of security - that nothing goes from or comes into our lives apart from the filter of his sovereign love and power (see the Spurgeon quotation above). How does this strike you? What is the comfort of this for you? What is the friction of this for you? How can we trust this sovereign care when it cuts across the grain of our lives?
- The last piece of the picture is the sanity and sustenance that come from Jesus - the pasture he offers. Where do you long for the calm and purpose, the sanity and sustenance of being a sheep under Jesus’ care? What are some times when you have experienced this kind of shalom? How are the three aspects of this self-portrait tied together?