



**ORANGE**

### **Jesus Is the Gate for the Sheep**

***Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. Whoever enters through Me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture (John 10:7,9)***

**PAINT COLOR #4: ORANGE** The colour in this lesson is orange—a colour often associated with safety. You may have seen a highway construction worker wearing an orange vest. Highway workers also use orange cones and barrels to tell the driver which lanes are open and which are closed for repairs. In fact, the shade of orange used is called “Safety Orange.”

So, what does “Safety Orange” have to do with Jesus? In John chapter 10, Jesus described Himself as a shepherd for sheep. It is common in the Bible for kings and priests and other leaders to consider themselves shepherds of the people, their sheep.

**Read John 10:1-10.**

**How does Jesus describe Himself in verses 7 and 9?**

The term Jesus used for Himself as a gate or door may sound weird to us, but it made a lot of sense to the people listening to Him. Every community would have a sheep pen with high walls and one doorway. Some countries today still have these kinds of sheep pens. Several flocks of sheep would go in the sheep pen at night to keep them from wandering and getting lost. The sheep inside the walls would be kept

safe from wolves and thieves who tried to break in and steal them. A watchman would guard the opening all night long.

***Let's imagine we are a sheep.*** In the morning, you and your sheep friends see the shepherds come through the doorway and hear them calling to get their sheep. Suddenly, you hear your name. Yay, you think. So you run on your little sheep legs to him. He leads you and your flock mates out of the sheep pen. Then, he leads the flock to the pastures. You follow close behind him. Once you get to the pastures, you see a small fenced area. The shepherd takes his place in the doorway or entrance of the fenced area and functions as a door or gate. You can safely go out and munch on grass for as long as you want because your shepherd is watching over you. But, if you get tired or frightened, you can go into the fenced area where it is safe and secure. Your shepherd is still watching over you. He is the gate.

**Reread John 10:9.**

**What does Jesus promise to anyone who enters through Him as the gate?**

The Bible teaches that every person needs to be saved because of sin. Remember that God loves everyone. But, every person has sinned and this separates us from God. He didn't want that to happen so He sent His Son Jesus to take the punishment for your sin and my sin so we don't have to be separated from God forever. When you trust in Jesus and what He did to take away your sin, you are saved. You are saved from being separated from God, and you are saved from being punished for your sin. That's what it means to be saved.

When Jesus says, ***“Anyone who enters through me will be saved,”*** He was telling the people that anyone who trusts in Him will be saved from being separated from God forever.

To those who already trust in Jesus and are already following Jesus like sheep follow their shepherd, Jesus promises to keep you safe. Now, people are not really sheep. There are enemies out there who want to hurt Jesus’ sheep.

**Reread John 10:10.**

**What do the enemies want to do to the sheep?** That’s not good for sheep, is it? **What does Jesus promise His sheep?**

**What is your concept of abundant or full life that is rich and satisfying?**

Jesus is the gate for the sheep. Abundant life is life that is so satisfying that it is like a cup overflowing. Better than any sheep could ever dream about. As a follower of Jesus, He promises us a life that is full and satisfying. The Bible calls it eternal life. This does not just start when we die – we have eternal life while on earth too. This life with God that Jesus provides for us is good and satisfying. You only need to follow Him to enjoy it here.

Notice that Jesus said He was the gate for the sheep, not the jail keeper.

**Reread John 10:9.**

**Why should we consider Jesus to be someone who offers us freedom to live a fulfilling life rather than someone who is restrictive?**

Because we can feel safe in Jesus’ loving arms, knowing He cares so much for us and is watching over us while we enjoy the freedom He

provides. Following Jesus' way of doing life can help to keep us safe from enemies in our life.

**What would it look like in your life to choose to follow Jesus as your shepherd rather than anyone who tries to keep you from following Him?**

These "others" could be family, friends, work mates, worldly temptations, secular books that try to confuse you with their own views – disputing God's Word.

**Read John 7:1-24.**