

# JOHN 10:1-10 – Discussion Guide

## Jesus: The Door

If you are familiar with the television game show “Let’s Make a Deal”, what is your reaction when a contestant chooses to give up a prize they have won for the opportunity or chance to win an even bigger prize? How does the fact that they might choose a door behind which there is a prize that is much lower in value than what they already have affect your reaction?

Many people approach life as if it were a game show like “Let’s Make a Deal” – especially when it comes to what Jesus offers. Many people view Jesus as just one of many viable options when it comes to what they will trust or what they will live for. However, as we see in the Bible verses we will consider today, Jesus is the “only Door” through which we must go if we are going to find real life.

In the ninth chapter of John’s gospel we read about Jesus performing the incredible miracle of giving sight to a man who had been blind since birth. This miracle – an act of mercy and a validation of Jesus’ claim to be the “Son of Man” (the Messiah), could not be explained away by the Pharisees, religious leaders within Judaism. Despite the mounting evidence that pointed to Jesus being their promised Messiah, many of the Pharisees persisted in their unbelief and they did everything they could to keep others from following Jesus. This is the background for the Bible verses we are considering today. Read **John 10:1-6**.

*Note: Depending on the season and where they lived, shepherds in Israel would keep their sheep in different kinds of sheep pens. If grazing their sheep out in the countryside, they might keep them safe at night in a cave or in an enclosure made of rocks out in an open field. If grazing their sheep close to home, they might lead their sheep back to the village and often keep them at night in a common sheep pen – along with sheep belonging to other shepherds. These sheep pens would have an actual door that was guarded by a doorkeeper.*

What does Jesus say in **John 10:1** that emphasizes the importance of what He is about to say?

- Who does Jesus say is a “thief and a robber”? To whom do you think Jesus is referring?

Who, according to **John 10:2-3**, enters the sheep pen by the door? And, what does he do? How do his sheep respond?

What is further emphasized by Jesus according to **John 10:4**?

What has John already recorded Jesus saying in the following verses that reinforce the truth of what Jesus is saying here in **John 10**?

- **John 5:46-47** –
- **John 8:46b-47** –

How does what Jesus says in **John 10:5** explain why the people were following Jesus and not the Pharisees?

What does John tell us in **John 10:6** about how well the Pharisees were “getting” what Jesus was saying?

Because of their failure to understand, Jesus shared a second figure of speech which John records for us in **John 10:7-10**.

- *Note: It seems that this second figure of speech assumes that the shepherd has led his sheep away from the village and out to the countryside.*

What Jesus says in **John 10:7** is spoken with emphasis. What claim does Jesus make? *Note: The shepherd out in the countryside would also serve as “the door” – sitting or lying across the opening of the sheep pen!*

- How do the following Bible verses reinforce what Jesus claims in **John 10:7**?
  - **John 14:6** –
  - **Acts 4:12** –

To whom is Jesus referring in **John 10:8**?

Read **John 10:9-10**. What does Jesus claim and what does He offer?

In conclusion, read **Psalms 23:1-6** and note how these verses can help us better understand what Jesus is promising in **John 10:9-10**.

Can you say that Jesus is your shepherd? Or, are you “taking your chances” on “another door”?