

Gateway to life

John 10:1-10

Jesus talks about the safety and dangers of caring for sheep. The shepherd calls his sheep by name, and the sheep know the shepherd's voice, but will run away from strangers. The Pharisees do not understand that Jesus is referring to himself. Jesus also says that he is the gate of the sheepfold, and whoever enters by him will be saved.



Read this week's passage:



Make an open sheepfold for teddies, play people or action figures. Add a standing figure to be Jesus at the gate. During the week, add the names of people you want to pray for inside the sheepfold, so that Jesus can keep them safe.

Pray



As you walk past doors or gates this week, pray for people who might pass through them or work behind them.

REFLECT

God speaks to us in many ways, through nature, music, art, books, prayers, conversations with other people... the list is endless! Take time to reflect on how you best hear his voice.

Find more free Roots resources to reflect on this week's theme:



Living Scripture

'The sheep follow him because they know his voice.' John 10:4

Voice is a powerful sound. Have you ever heard your voice recorded and thought it sounded different? Have you heard a voice from the past that brought back memories? We can recognise people from their voice alone. I wonder if we can hear Jesus' voice. He is our shepherd and calls us by name. What might allow us to recognise his voice more? Perhaps prayer, reading Scripture, and talking to other Christians might help us hear his voice.

What about other voices? John points to 'thieves and bandits' (v.8) who are also trying to get to the sheep. Other rival voices might be vying for our attention, even if they are things that are not life-giving, like too much screentime, social media, or other habits that take us away from spending time with God. Society around us has many loud voices vying for our attention, to buy things, follow things, click things... I wonder if, through all this noise, we can stop and listen to the voice of the one who leads us to life. For Jesus is the gate and whoever enters by him will be saved (v.9).

First impressions

- How is this shepherd caring for her sheep?
- How does Jesus care for us?
- How do we care for and protect our church congregations, especially the most vulnerable?



Pray



Lord God, help us to hear your voice. Help us to reach rest and new life in you. Help us to turn away from things that are not life-giving. If we do go astray, help us to hear your voice again and turn back to you. Amen.



Make a Mobius strip from paper, with verse 9 'I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.' Write on both sides, one side upside down. Keep as a reminder that the promise to find pasture and abundant life in Jesus never ends. For instructions, scan the QR code.