



Lesson Title: The I Am's of John—I Am the Door and the Way



Key Concept: Throughout the Book of John, Jesus used the Old Testament declaration “I Am” to reveal the different facets of his relationship with us. By revealing himself as the door and the way, he provides safety.



Scriptures:

I am the door. If anyone enters through me, he will be saved, and will come in and go out, and find pasture.

(John 10:9 *New English Translation*)

Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”

(John 14:6 *New Living Translation*)

Context Scriptures: John 10; John 14; John 13:38; Matthew 7:13–14; Luke 11:9–13



Lesson Thoughts:

Throughout the gospel of John, Jesus used the phrase “I Am.” This referenced his declaration centuries before: “I Am that I Am.” But while that original statement effectively meant, “I am whatever I am,” in John, Jesus began to truly reveal what he is.

While Jesus’ “I Am” statements covered many aspects of himself, two are similar. In John 10, he said, “I am the door,” and in John 14, he said, “I am the way.” These statements are exclusive, exiling to the outside those who won’t enter the door and walk in the way. These statements feel cold, harsh, rejecting. So why did he say them?

In John 10, Jesus said that whoever doesn’t enter by the door is a robber. Yet whom was he addressing? He was addressing those he wanted to enter the door. When you enter the door, robbers aren’t there. They’re scrabbling over the wall,

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the hard way. Jesus promised that entering by him instead leads to safe places. The robbers want to steal the sheep. Jesus protects us as the door, setting boundaries so we know where they won't be.

In John 14, Jesus said he is the only way. No one can come to the Father except through him. But look at what happened before. Only six verses earlier, Jesus told Peter he would deny him. This was crushing. Peter was going to fail horribly. It was so horrible that even as Peter had spent the night steadfastly staying close while Jesus was tried and beaten, this failure broke him, and he finally abandoned Jesus. Seen this way, Jesus' exclusive claim is a comfort. If Peter could save himself, Peter could and would damn himself. But Peter couldn't save himself. So even when Peter betrayed Jesus, Peter was still safe *in* Jesus.

The door and the way are claims of ownership, claims that we don't get to decide how we do things. And while those are harsh claims for people living in such a freedom-obsessed country, they are a gift to us. As the door, Jesus protects us from the dangerous world. As the way, Jesus protects us from our own failures. Even when those around us hurt or mock, we know where the door is so we can be safe. And even when we fail, and fail abysmally, we know that *we* are not the way. *He* is the way.

**Discussion Questions:**

- 1) One of God's Old Testament titles was Jehovah Jireh—"The Lord provides." How does this aspect of provider relate to the door and the way?
- 2) What are some harmful things Jesus as the door guides us away from?
- 3) Have you ever felt like you've failed too badly for God to save you? If so, how did you get past it? If not, how did you avoid that feeling?
- 4) How do you view the fact that Jesus—not you—has the power?
- 5) How do you view the fact that Jesus—not you—has the duty to protect you?

Next Lesson: The Bread of Life

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Notes and Reflections

- 1) Ask God if there are any places you're going that he as the door wants to keep you safe from. If there are, stop going there!
- 2) Ask God if you are letting *him* be the way. Ask him how to let go of any areas where you're still trying to keep control.
- 3) Are there any other statements of God that have always felt harsh to you? Try rereading those passages while looking at the context: who he was speaking to, when, where, and what else he was saying at the time. Then ask God what HE thinks about those passages.

Notes and Reflections, cont.