

Prayer

Lord Jesus,
we believe that you are the Gate.
Give us the grace
to always enter through you
that we may live and enjoy life to the full.
Amen.



Getting to know Jesus Christ



6. I am the Gate

I am the Gate

John 10:7

Introduction

Jesus Christ tells us that he is the gate. This image appears in the tenth chapter of the Gospel of John just before Jesus identifies himself as the Good Shepherd. In this context Jesus tells us that he is 'the gate of the sheepfold.'

Rather than rely on a gate some shepherds would themselves act as the gate, sleeping at the entrance to the sheepfold in order to guard the sheep. Anyone wanting to come in would literally have to go through the shepherd to get to the sheep.

Reflecting on Our Experience

In many areas of our life we are used to mediators, people that we have to 'go through.' To see a consultant we have to be referred by a GP. To visit a school we have to go through the Head Teacher or some other member of staff. To make an appointment with someone in authority we usually have to talk to an administrator. Jesus is the one mediator between us and God

Listening to Scripture

Choose one or more of the following Scripture passages to read and reflect on.

John 10:1-10 — *I am the gate*

Hebrews 10:19-21 — *A new way, a living opening*

Matthew 27:45-54 — *The veil of the Temple was torn in two*

1 Timothy 2:5-6 — *There is one mediator between God and humankind*

Reflecting and Sharing

Jesus Christ is the living opening through which we can approach God. He promises that whoever enters through him will be safe and will be sure of finding pasture. Jesus is the true gate through which we can find safety and life. As God's sheep we are called to 'enter through him' to find life to the full. We enter into Jesus's life through prayer, the Word of God and the Sacraments of the Church. Baptism is the gateway to the life of God's Spirit and the door which gives us access to the other sacraments of the Church (c.f. Catechism of the Catholic Church 1213).

We now listen to a personal faith sharing where a catechist shares how they have known Jesus as the Gate.

- Am I trying to find life to the full by entering more deeply into Jesus's life or am I looking elsewhere?
- How willingly do I enter into friendship with Jesus Christ in personal prayer?
- Do I spend time entering into the Word of God?
- How willing am I to frequently seek Jesus Christ in the Sacraments of the Church?
- Do I find Jesus in the community of the Church, his Body? Am I entering into fruitful Christian friendships with my sisters and brothers in Christ

Spend some time sharing your reflections as a group.