

“I AM...



the Door.”

JOHN 10:9



FAMILY LIFE
RESOURCES

I AM: the Door

JOHN 10:9

"I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture." (ESV)



We understand the challenges of busy schedules at home, which is why we offer resources that support you and your family which are easy to use, relevant and most importantly honor God. We pray these resources for your home along with the classes and services at First Church make an eternal difference in the lives of families like yours.

Blessings,
First Church of the Open Bible

Colossians 2:6,7

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord,
so walk in him, rooted and built up in him
and established in the faith, just as you were taught,
abounding in thanksgiving.



**FAMILY LIFE
RESOURCES**

The “I AM’s” of Christ

SEPTEMBER “I Am The Bread of Life” (John 6:48)

- I Am the Living Bread
- I Am the Bread of Life - Eternal
- God the Father - Our Provider
- Our Work is to Believe

DECEMBER “I Am The Light of the World” (John 8:12)

- Star Light (Matthew 2:10)
- A Light in the Darkness (Mark 1:1)
- The Glory of the Lord (Luke 2:9)
- I Am the Light of the World (John 8:12)

**JANUARY “I Am the Resurrection and
the Life” (John 11:25-26)**

- Do You Believe?
- Born of the Spirit
- A Very Bad Day
- Living Our New Life

FEBRUARY “I Am the Door” (John 10)

- What Kind of Door is Jesus?
- Gate to the Pasture Land
- The Door to Eternal Life
- The Door to the Kingdom of Heaven

LESSON 1

What Kind of Door is Jesus?

Parent's Passage: John Chapter 10

Family Reading: John 10:1-18

Key Verse: John 10:9

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

When we read about Jesus, it's helpful to understand what life was like for the people during His time. Knowing a little more about their lifestyles can help us gain more understanding of why Jesus said or did certain things.

So let's take a step back for a moment to learn a bit more about sheep herding. Shepherds and flocks of sheep were common in Jesus' day.

Even the rich and educated Pharisees understood what it meant to tend a flock of sheep. Sheep's wool, meat, milk, and even their tails were considered valuable to the people of Jesus' time. Everyone appreciated what sheep offered, but they weren't the easiest to raise.

Sheep are considered wayward animals. They must be brought to food and water. Their wool must be sheared regularly or it became too heavy for them. Their hooves need to be clipped (just like our fingernails and toenails), and because they require pastures, they were often kept on the outskirts of town. This meant that shepherds were often away from their family and friends.

Although shepherds weren't fully appreciated by the people in Jesus' day, ***they were the most important people to the sheep.***

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The sheep relied on the shepherd so heavily that they even recognized the shepherd's voice. If they heard other voices, sheep were likely to run away, but when they heard the shepherd, they knew they were safe.

In our key verse, Jesus is talking to the Pharisees. The Pharisees were highly educated and considered leaders of the Jewish people. They spent their lives studying God's laws and believed they knew the way to heaven. Yet, Jesus made it very clear that only through Him (Jesus) will anyone be saved.

You see, like the shepherds of Jesus' time, Jesus was not important to people like the Pharisees - those who thought that they knew everything and saw themselves as leaders of their towns. But just like the shepherds, ***Jesus is important to His sheep*** - those who follow Him and recognize Him as Lord. Are you one of Jesus' sheep?

Here are some lessons we learn about Jesus as the door:

- Jesus is the ***only door*** to salvation. ***"All who have come before me are thieves and robbers . . ."*** (John 10:8)
- Jesus is an ***open door*** that offers freedom for those who trust in Him - ***"They will come in and go out, and find pasture"*** (John 10:9)
- Jesus is a ***protective door*** so that when we trust in Jesus, we are safe - ***"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."*** (John 10:11)

Take some time to pray together as a family and thank Jesus for being such a good shepherd! Make this prayer your own:

Jesus, we thank you for being our good shepherd! We know that only through you do we have freedom! Please help me to hear your voice and to turn away from anything that is not of you. We ask for your continued protection, Lord, and pray that you guide us through every part of our lives.

LESSON 2

The Gate to the Pasture Land

Parent's Passage: John 10:9-10

Family Reading: Psalm 23:1-3

Key Verse: John 10:9

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

In John chapter 10 Jesus describes himself as the gate for the sheep (vs. 7) and also as the shepherd (vs. 11). We see in this passage a picture of His provision to His flock.

When we choose to follow Jesus, He becomes both our guiding Shepherd and the gate that leads us to abundant pastures.

Reading Psalms 23 is a picture of how a good shepherd cares for his sheep.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Read Psalms 23:1-3 out loud to the family. Talk about how Jesus wants to provide good things for your family.

Below is a list of some of His good provisions. Talk about how you as a family can enjoy these provisions:

- **The Bible** (Psa. 119:105)
- **Church Fellowship** (Acts 2:42–47)
- **Fruit of the Spirit** (Gal. 5:22–23)
- **Our Beautiful World** (Rom. 1:20)
- **Gifts of the Holy Spirit** (1 Cor. 12:1–11)
- **The Love of God** (1 Cor. 13)
- **Corporate Worship** (1 Cor. 14:26–33)
- **Prayer** (Matt. 6:9)

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CONCLUSION

Jesus wants to lead us and bring us to His abundant life. As we come into His beautiful pastureland, we can live in His peace and abundance.

ACTIVITY #2

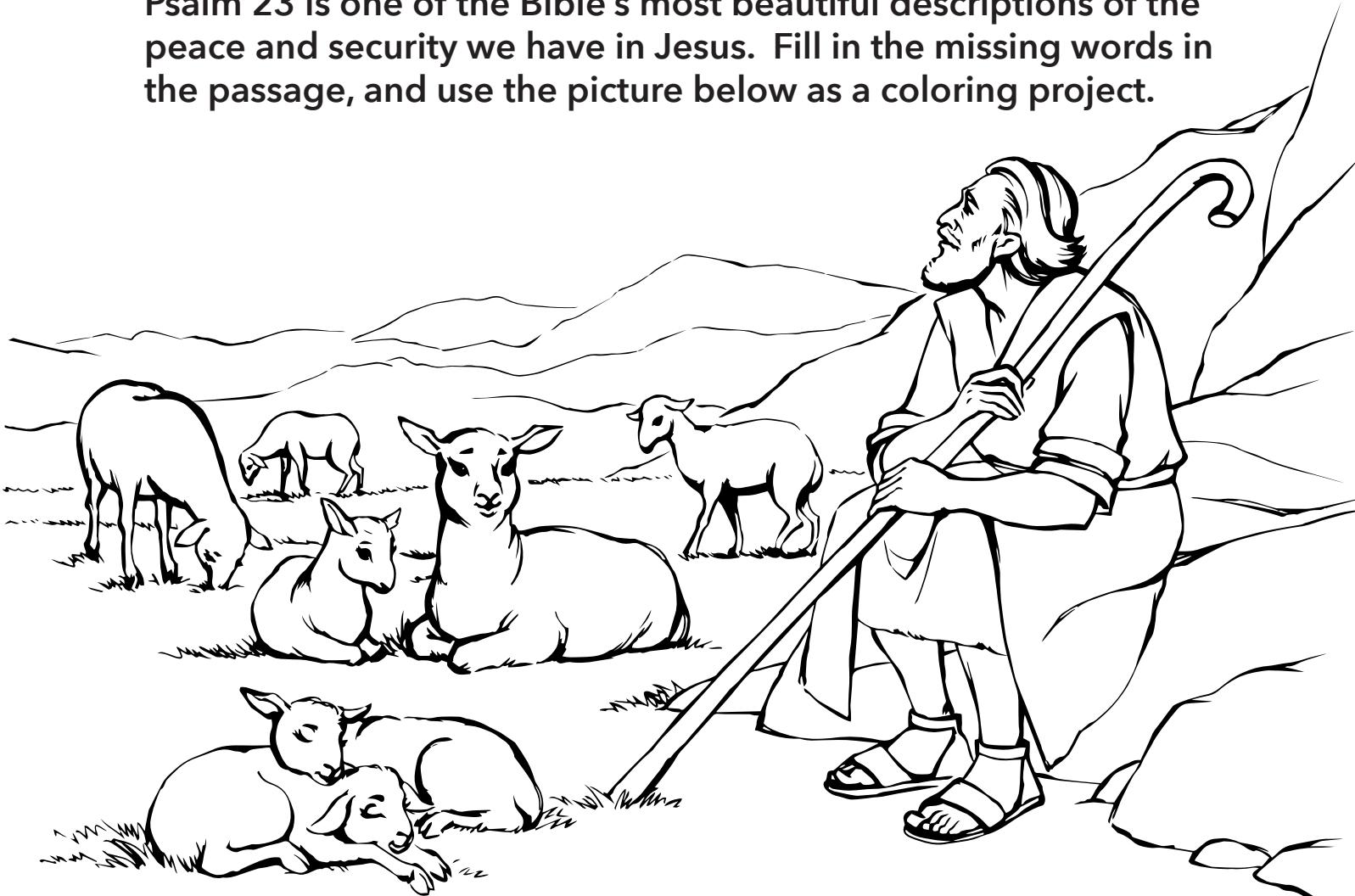
Psalm 23:1-3

*The Lord is my _____, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green _____,*

*He leads me beside quiet _____,
He refreshes my _____.*

*He guides me along the right _____
for _____ name's sake.*

Psalm 23 is one of the Bible's most beautiful descriptions of the peace and security we have in Jesus. Fill in the missing words in the passage, and use the picture below as a coloring project.



LESSON 3

The Door to Eternal Life

Parent's Passage: John Chapter 10

Family Reading: John 10:17-30

Key Verse: John 10:28

"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand."

Remember what we've learned about shepherds and sheep herding during Jesus' time? Well, there's one more interesting tidbit I'd like to share with you now.

At night, when wood for barns was scarce, the shepherds in Jesus' time had to find creative ways to enclose their sheep ensuring they wouldn't wander. Often, this meant the shepherd would find a cave or make one by digging an area out of a hillside. The shepherd would herd his sheep into this cave or dugout and would wall them in, leaving only a single opening. The shepherd would then lie over that opening so that nothing could get by him without going through the shepherd first.

What a beautiful picture Jesus used to illustrate how much He loves us! Even greater than the shepherds of Jesus' time, Jesus also laid down for His followers (His sheep), even to the point of death!

Jesus was not forced to die.

In fact, Jesus had to willingly give up His life - it could never be taken. Jesus tells us beginning in verse 17:

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"The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life - only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.

**I have authority
to lay it down and authority to take it up again."**

(John 10:17-18a)

This shows us that Jesus has authority over death. He also has authority over eternal life because in our key verse, Jesus promises eternal life to those who enter through Him.

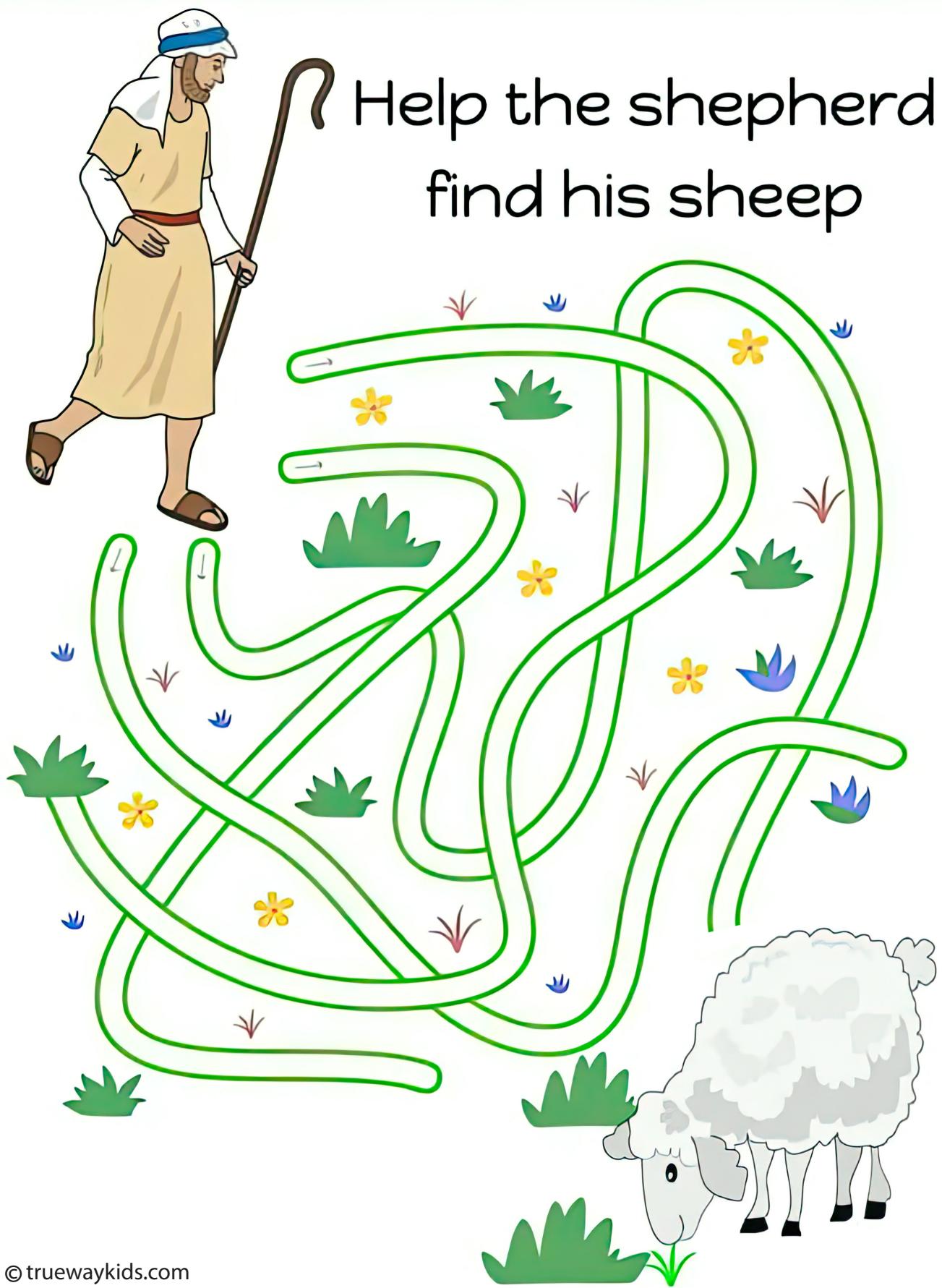
Again, Jesus is the only door through which we can be saved (remember - John 10:9!) And more good news: It isn't hard to find the Door! Matthew 7:8 tells us **"For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."**

Have you knocked on the one and only true Door? Have you sought Jesus as your only way to eternal life? If you want to do that now, pray with your family, your Sunday School Teacher, or one of the pastors at church. Your prayer doesn't need to be fancy and you don't have to say specific words, you just have to mean it! If you'd like some help, though, here are some words you can pray:

Jesus, thank you for loving me. Thank you for dying for my sins. I know that my sins are forgiven only through you. Jesus, I love you and I want to follow you. I ask that you be the Lord of my life. Please show me how to follow your voice.

Once you go through Jesus' "door", share with others! It would be an honor to share that with you!

"My Sheep Know My Voice"



LESSON 4

Jesus - The Door to the Kingdom of Heaven

Parent's Passage: Rev. 3:7-13

Family Reading: John 10:25-30

Key Verse: John 10:30

"I and the Father are one."

Jesus uses stories to help His followers understand Him better. In John chapter 10, He is trying to describe the Kingdom of Heaven in terms of sheep, a shepherd, and a gate. We are the sheep who need Jesus as our Shepherd.

John 10 also describes Jesus as our door. Our door to what? Jesus describes Himself as the door to eternal life, good pasture, abundant life.

In John 10:30, Jesus says,

"I and the Father are one."

And in John 10:36 He claims to be the Son of God.

Jesus wraps up this discussion with His followers this way,

"That you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father." (John 10:38b)

These were difficult ideas for His followers to understand.

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Jesus is the Doorway to His Father's Kingdom. He is the only way for us to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

In Revelations 3:7-13, Jesus writes a letter to encourage the Church at Philadelphia, He encourages them with these words-

"I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut." (Revelations 3:8)

Jesus wants us in His Kingdom! He has set Himself before us as the doorway into that Kingdom. He wants us to come in!

We enter the Kingdom of Heaven by believing in Jesus. John chapter 10 ends with this verse,

"And in that place many believed in Jesus" (John 10:42).

We want that same verse to be true for us today. We believe that Jesus is our door to all the abundance in the Kingdom of Heaven.

OUR PRAYER

***Our Father in Heaven,
Holy is your name,
Your Kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as it is in Heaven.***

(Matthew 6:9-10)

A Bold Family Activity

This week as you find a time to gather as a family, invite the Kingdom of Heaven into your home. Let your prayer reflect the prayer that Jesus taught His first disciples in Matthew 6:9-13.

It could go something like this:

***Our Father in Heaven,
Holy is Your Name!***

***Let Your Kingdom come
into our Home today.***

***Let Your Will be done
in our home today,
Here as it is in Heaven.***

***Give us today our daily needs,
and forgive our sins
in the Name of Jesus.***

***Help us to forgive one another, and lead us
not into temptation, but deliver us
from the evil one.***

***In the name of Jesus our Shepherd,
Amen.***

John 10 is a beautiful description of the care Jesus gives us when we are in His flock. Our Church family and our individual families can depend on Him to care for and protect us. Let's learn to listen to the voice of our Good Shepherd and follow close to Him.

Follow the Voice of the Good Shepherd

(JOHN 10:27)





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