



Today, on this Summer Friday:
Jesus said, "I AM the Gate for the sheep."

Gather your children together and read John 10:7:

"... Jesus explained it to them, "I tell you the TRUTH, I AM the gate for the sheep."

Application: Jesus uses the analogy of a shepherd and his flock because the people of His day understood the culture and the importance of livestock, particularly sheep. Today, when we read the words of Jesus, the TRUTH stirs in our hearts as well.

A good, responsible shepherd would work diligently to care for his flock. Nightfall brought with it some of the greatest challenges in his endeavor to keep his sheep safe. The Sheepfold was the place of refuge for a wandering shepherd and his flock. The Sheepfold was a circular rock wall, with an opening in the wall, large enough for the sheep to enter, as they would file in one by one or two by two. There was only one door or gate in the Sheepfold. Inside, there was room for the whole flock to lie down and to rest.

In the evening, the shepherd would herd his sheep into the Sheepfold to protect them from predators of the dark, and to prevent them from them wandering off, from becoming lost, or injured, or stolen. Then, the shepherd, would lie across the entrance, the door, the gate to prevent his flock from getting out and to prevent an enemy from getting in.

Jesus told people the TRUTH... He spoke the words, "I AM the gate for the sheep." He goes on to say, "Those who come in through me will be saved... but the thief, a false shepherd, comes to steal, kill, and destroy..." (v.10) Jesus identified Himself as the true Shepherd and the gate for the sheep... those who enter through His gate, will be safe... and well-cared for, and have life abundantly. (V.9-10)



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Discuss with your precious ones the TRUTH that Jesus loves them and cares for them. Like the shepherd who lies across the door or the gate to the sheepfold, the place of safety, Jesus leads His people, His children, you and your precious ones, to a place of safety with Him, and then He lies across the opening, so that not one can be lost. . . and no one can enter to cause them harm.

God has given parents this job to protect their children, as good shepherds. . . telling their children about JESUS. . . I AM. . . So THEY WILL KNOW!

Memory Verse:

"I tell you the TRUTH, I AM the gate for the sheep." John 10:7

Pray to GOD, I AM. . . Thank Him for who He is. . . Thank Him that He sent Jesus to be the gate. . . the door for His people. Thank Him that He loves, cares for, and protects His children.

