MAIN POINT: Jesus, the Door, opens the way to God.

BIBLE VERSE: I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. John 10:9

BIBLE STORY: The Sheepfolds and the Door, John 10:1-10

EACH LESSON CONTAINS:

DISCOVERING: FINDING OUT ABOUT THE NAME
- Guess the Junk
- Alex and the Junkyard Gang
- Uncovering the Name
- Discovering the Verse

CONSTRUCTING: PUTTING TOGETHER WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT THE NAME
- Bible Story
- Crazy Game Time
- Imagine the Game Challenge

TESTING: APPLYING THE NAME
- Game Invention Lab
- Craft
- Game
- Bible Memory
- Express Yourself
- Snack
- Trading Cards
- Family Time

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE TEACHING:

Jesus refers to Himself as the Door, a place where sheep must pass through in order to reach the place of safety or the fold. There were two different kinds of sheepfolds. One, in the villages, had a door with a key that only the keeper of the flock would have access. The other sheepfold would be out in the fields. This sheepfold would be an enclosure surrounded by a rock wall, however, without a door. The shepherd would lay across the opening to the sheepfold, thus, becoming the door (or gate).

Kids will learn that Jesus, as the Door, is the only way that they have access to God. It is going through Jesus that we have a relationship with God and have eternal life.
DISCOVERING
GUESS THE JUNK

Supplies: old boot/shoe

Preparation: Hide the boot in the junkyard or place in a box.

Welcome to the Junkyard. This is where all the things that cannot be used in Imagination Factory end up. The Junkyard is always open for people to come in and find things that they can take with them and reuse.

I am going to give you three clues about what our junk find of the day is. Let’s see if you can guess what it is. (Either show the box or indicate that the junk item is somewhere among the other junk items.)

Clue #1: It is made of rubber/leather.
Clue #2: People wear it.
Clue #3: It is worn on the feet either when working outside or when it is cold.

Answer: Boot

ALEX AND THE JUNKYARD GANG

Supplies: old boot

Alex has placed the old boot on his foot and is walking around the junkyard with a pronounced gait.

Junkyard gang enters and watches him. He dramatically and comically takes one step after another. One member clears her throat.

Alex: Junkyard Gang! There you are. I’ve been waiting for you. Look what I found in the junkyard today. One boot! (Takes off the boot.) What in the world are you going to do with one boot?

Do you think anyone is going to take the boot from the junkyard? What do you think? Do you have any ideas? I’ve been trying out different things to do with the boot and as you can see I’m at a loss. A loss, I tell you.
Junkyard Gang starts sharing ideas: **A door stop to keep a door open. Planting flowers in it. Decoration. Kick someone with it.** (After this idea the members all look at the person saying it horrified and say, “I don’t think so.”)

Alex: **You do have some great ideas. And one not good idea.** (Looks sternly at the kid saying the kicking comment.) **I guess we will keep the boot here in case someone does have a use for it.**

The boot reminds me that to go forward, we have to take a step. We have to decide the way we are going and take a step that direction.

Thank you Junkyard Gang. You have been quite helpful to me today. Now, help me figure out where to put this boot. (They huddle around Alex all talking and pointing. One member takes the boot and imitates Alex walking around with only one boot.)

**UNCOVERING THE NAME**

Supplies: sign “Door”, picture of a gate

Each week our name of Jesus is going to have a symbol to help us remember the meaning of the name. We will look at a picture that has part of the symbol up close. More of the symbol will be shown a little at a time. See if you can guess what the symbol is.

(This can be done by having the kids yell out answers, dividing into two teams with a captain or choosing two kids to play in front of everyone.)

The symbol is a gate. Our name today is “Door.” **What do you think the symbol has to do with the name?** (Give the kids an opportunity to guess.)

A gate is the way into an area. A door is also. When the scripture is talking about Jesus being the door, it is referring to the gate on a sheep pen. There were two different kinds of gates that were used. One was an actual door. One was an opening. During our Bible story time we will learn more about these two kinds of gates.

Jesus, as the Door, is the way to God.

**Options:**
*Display: Place the picture of the gate in the display. Make sure to print out the name “Door.”*
DISCOVERING THE VERSE

Read John 10:9 together:

I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. John 10:9

Let’s say the verse again with some motions to help us remember it.

I am (Point to the sky.)
The door. (Pretend to open a door.)
If anyone enters (Put out hand and walk on the hand with fingers from other hand.)
By me (Point to sky.)
He will be saved (Hug self as if safe.)
And will go in (Step forward.)
And out (Step back.)
And find pasture. (Place one hand on top of other in a restful stance.)

CONSTRUCTING

BIBLE STORY

The Sheepfolds and the Door, John 10:1-10

Let’s see how much information you know about sheepfolds. I will ask you a question and then give you a choice of answers. You can vote on the answers by __________ (Raising hand, stomping feet, one loud clap, etc. Change the method each time.)

1. A sheepfold is
   a. A place where sheep are folded in half.
   b. A sheep pen

JUNKYARD

ZONE 8
Answer: B

2. Sheepfolds are enclosures intended to
A. Protect sheep from getting lost or killed by predators.
B. Keep sheep together so they will not be lonely.

Answer: A

3. One kind of sheepfold was in the village. It was used by many different owners with only one keeper. At night
A. The keeper would stand watch over the sheepfold.
B. A strong door was shut once the sheep were inside with only the keeper of the door having a key.

Answer: B

4. Another kind of sheepfold was out on the hillside. Instead of coming into the village at night, the sheep were collected into an open space that was enclosed by a wall. The wall might have thorns on top of it. The door was
A. Strong with a lock on it like in the village.
B. The shepherd. He would lay down across the opening that the sheep came through.

Answer: B

5. Several flocks were kept in the sheepfold. This was not a problem because
A. Each shepherd knew his own sheep and they knew him.
B. Each sheep was branded with the shepherd’s name.

Answer: A

Now that we have learned what a sheepfold was we can understand better a story that Jesus told.

Let’s read John 10: 1-6.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee
from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers. This figure of speech Jesus used with them but they did not understand what he was saying.”

Jesus tells it another way. In this story He is talking about a sheepfold that would have been out on the hillside.

**John 10:7-9**

So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep do not listen to the. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.”

Remember that in this type of sheepfold, the shepherd was the door. Jesus is saying here that He is the door.

What did this story mean? Because Jesus is the door, we must pass through Him to get to God. Jesus, as the Door, opens the way to God. Before Jesus came, we could not know God like we do now. Jesus came to show us what God is like and to open the way to Him.

Jesus, the Door, is the way to God. Is it through Jesus that we can know God. We have a choice whether we will walk through that Door or not.

**PRAYER**

Thank Jesus for making a way for us to know God. Take some time to praise God for who He is, listing some of his attributes: loving, good, eternal, all knowing, all powerful.

**CRAZY GAME TIME**

**Supplies:** three plastic cups, three golf balls, three old boots, masking tape

**Preparation:** Make a line with the masking tape. Line up the boots and the balls behind the tape. On the other side of the tape, about 5 feet away, place the plastic cups on their sides with the opening toward the boots.
Believe it or not people use old boot for some interesting things. Let’s look at some pictures.

What do you think this is?

A bird house. So when you get finished with your boots, you can make a birdhouse.

What about this one?

A bird nest.

And this one?

You can use these as a planter. Imagine this hanging from your front porch.

This one is quite unusual.

Does it remind anyone of the Old Woman who lived in a shoe? This is a dollhouse with little miniature furnishings.

And finally we have this.

Old boots can be used for lots of creative fun things. Some people will even redo old boots by painting them or covering them in duct tape.

Boots originally were made for walking. They were made to cover and to protect our feet as we take one step after another.

Jesus as the Door wants us to take a step through Him to the Father. By giving our lives to Jesus and asking Him to forgive us of our sin, we are made right with God. It is through Jesus, the Door, that we have a way to God.

I will need six volunteers for a game. Three of you will be kickers and three of you will be retrievers. (Divide the kids into three pairs with one kicker and one retriever in each pair.)

Each one of you will wear a boot on your hand. It is your job to kick the ball with the boot and get the ball to go into the cup. You may not cross the line on the floor to do so. If the ball misses the cup, your partner will pick up the ball and bring it back to you.

Remember that we have a choice. Just like the ball had to go through the opening to go into the cup, we have to go through the Door to God.
Let’s say our Bible verse together as a reminder:
“I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.” John 10:9

**IMAGINE THE GAME CHALLENGE**

**Supplies:** old shoes, boxes, duct tape, string, paper, markers

Divide the kids into groups of 5-6. Divide the supplies between the groups. Give each group time to imagine a game that illustrates the main point of the lesson (Jesus, the Door, opens the way to God.) or some aspect of the meaning of the name Door.

The game must be able to be played in their small group and everyone must be able to play it.

When they finish planning the game, have them play it. Then, have them verbalize how the game illustrates the point. If time permits, show the games to the other groups.
TESTING
THE GAME INVENTION LAB

Supplies: same supplies from Imagine the Game Challenge

Have the kids work individually to create a game that can be played by themselves. Encourage them to think of a game that would help them to explain to someone the way to God.

After creating the game, have them play each other’s games and have them explain their meaning to one another.

CRAFT: DOORHANGER

Supplies: Door hanger resource page, markers, stickers, fun foam stick ons

Decorate the door hanger using the stickers and fun foam. Write “Jesus, the Door, opens the way to God.

GAME: CRAB SOCCER

Supplies: soft playground type ball, four chairs

Preparation: Position two of the chairs at the end of the room approximately five feet apart. Do the same on the other side of the room. Clear an area for play.

Divide the kids into teams. Assign each team one of the “goals,” the space between the chairs. Each team must crawl on all fours with their back facing the ground- resembling a crab. The goal is to roll the ball between the chairs. Only the feet may be used. No hard kicking is allowed. The team with the most goals by the end of the set time period wins.

Review how Jesus is the Door. What does going through the Door, like the ball going through the goal, result in?
BIBLE MEMORY

I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. John 10:9

Divide the kids into teams of 4-5. Have each team work together to act out the Bible verse while one team member says it. Encourage them to be overdramatic in their actions. Give an opportunity for each team to act out the verse for the other teams.

EXPRESS YOURSELF

Supplies: Copy of questions for each small group

1. Describe the two kinds of sheepfolds that were used in the New Testament. How were the shepherds like a door?
2. What does the name The Door mean?
3. What does it mean to go through Jesus?
4. What are some ways not through Jesus that people try to know God?
5. Some people think that there are many different ways to God? Does the Scripture you learned today support that idea?
6. What difference does it make in our lives to know God?

SNACK: CRACKER SHEEPFOLD

Supplies: Small square crackers, small marshmallows, green grapes

Preparation: Cut the grapes in half.

Make a sheepfold using the crackers. Leave an opening for the gate. Inside the fold, place the halved grapes for grass and marshmallows for sheep.

Review the meaning of the name, Door.
TRADING CARDS

**Supplies:** printed card for each child, markers or crayons (optional)

**Name:** The Door  
**Symbol:** Gate

**Verse:** I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.  
John 10:9

Give each child the card. If using the coloring cards, use markers or crayons to decorate them. Go over the verse together and review the symbol.
## Supply List

**Guess The Junk:** ☐ old boot/shoe  
**Alex and the Junkyard Gang:** ☐ old boot  
**Uncovering the Name:** ☐ sign “Door” ☐ picture of a gate  
**Bible Story:** ☐ None  
**Crazy Game Time:** ☐ three plastic cups ☐ three golf balls ☐ three old boots ☐ masking tape  
**Imagine the Game Challenge:** ☐ old shoes ☐ boxes ☐ duct tape ☐ string ☐ paper ☐ markers  
**The Game Invention Lab:** ☐ same supplies from Imagine the Game Challenge  
**Craft:** ☐ door hanger resource page ☐ markers ☐ stickers ☐ fun foam stick ons  
**Game:** ☐ soft playground type ball ☐ four chairs  
**Bible Memory:** ☐ 22 pieces each of two different colored paper ☐ flashlights  
**Express Yourself:** ☐ copy of questions for each small group  
**Snack:** ☐ small square crackers ☐ small marshmallows ☐ green grapes  
**Trading Cards:** ☐ printed card for each child ☐ markers or crayons (optional)
JUNKYARD GAMES

MAIN POINT: Jesus, the Door, opens the way to God.

BIBLE VERSE: I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. John 10:9

BIBLE STORY: The Sheepfolds and the Door, John 10:1-18

FAMILY DISCUSSION:
1. How were the shepherds in the New Testament like doors or gates to the sheepfolds?
2. What does it mean that Jesus is the Door?
3. What difference does it make in people’s lives to know God through Jesus?

FAMILY IMAGINATIVE THINKING:
Make a sheepfold using items around your house. (Open area with a circular rock wall surrounding it. The opening to get into the area does not have a gate or door.) Take turns pretending to be the shepherd laying across the opening. What was the shepherds job during the night? What kinds of problems might the shepherd have encountered?

FAMILY GAME:
All family members go on one side of the door except one. He/she goes on the other side of the door. Shut the door. The family members take turns knocking on the door. The member on the other side tries to guess who is knocking.
EXPRESS YOURSELF

Supplies: Copy of questions for each small group

1. Describe the two kinds of sheepfolds that were used in the New Testament. How were the shepherds like a door?
2. What does the name The Door mean?
3. What does it mean to go through Jesus?
4. What are some ways not through Jesus that people try to know God?
5. Some people think that there are many different ways to God? Does the Scripture you learned today support that idea?
6. What difference does it make in our lives to know God?
DOOR

DOOR
Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”

John 8:58