

1. Describe a time when you had to make a difficult choice. What about it was difficult? What criteria did you use to decide?
2. Read Matthew 7:13–14. What two options does Jesus put before his listeners? Why does he choose these specific metaphors?
3. Read John 10:9. Who is the gate here? How would you explain to someone how to enter through the gate?
4. Read Psalm 1. How does this passage correlate with Matthew 7:13–14? In what ways does Jesus' exhortation here continue in the spirit of Psalm 1? (See also Deuteronomy 30:19; Joshua 24:15; Acts 2:38.)
5. Why does Jesus describe the road (the way) *after* his description of the gate? Why must one enter through the gate before traveling on the road? What does the road represent in the Christian life and why is it difficult?
6. Reflect on your own spiritual journey. Have you entered through the gate? If not, what are the necessary steps for you to do so? Have you entered the gate, but are you drifting from the road? Invite the Spirit of God to bring you back on course.
7. Jesus says that the narrow gate and the hard road lead to life. Take a moment to write down why the promise of life can help you be joyful in walking the narrow road. Then, thank God for what is to come.