

Who Are You?

The Gate of Heaven/ Dec 10, 2017

Ice Breaker:

Have the members form up into groups of 4 to 5 (or the nearest multiple. Example: If 6, than one group of 6; if 11, than one group of 5 , one group of 6.) The/Each group needs to have a note taker. The objective is to come up with a list of 10 things everyone in that group has in common - NO listing of clothing, body parts (hand, leg etc) and nothing to do with church. Each of the 10 items all have in common must begin with one of the 3 statements below: (examples provided). In the list of 10, each I AM/HAVE/WILL statement must be used at least once.

I AM _____ (afraid of the dark)
I HAVE _____ (spent time in the hospital)
I WILL _____ (be dieting after the New Year)

(LEADER NOTE) Allow the members to compare and share when forming the list. When the exercise is over, point out that while we all are very different, look at how many things we can have in common.

Encouragement:

Pastor Miles said God is not in the building where church is held; He is in the people. Coming to church on Sunday, most of us have a different attitude and behavior when compared to the rest of the week. What would help extend that attitude of "opening the gate of heaven" more often?

Pastor Miles talked about moments being in the presence of God and not knowing it. Share about a time you were not aware of God's presence.

Now share about a time you were very aware of God's presence. What was it that made you more aware of His presence?

Scripture:

(Consider being in groups of 2 or three)

READ Genesis 28:12

This is a very important time in Jacob's life. There was fear, anticipation, loneliness and excitement. Jacob now knew the closeness of God and the access to heaven was opened.

READ John 1:51. Compare these two passages. Does Jesus *show* us the way to heaven or *is* He the way? Why?

Jesus often used the term "Son of Man" because it was free of a title indicating a political or military savior. "Son of Man" represents that Jesus comes from heaven and possesses its glory and yet at the same time He assumes the lowliness of man.

READ 1 Cor 6:19. Now, quietly reflect back on the last time you did NOT treat your body like a temple.

In your smaller groups of 2 or 3, finish the following sentence: The last time I did NOT treat my body like a temple was _____(how long ago). NOTE: It is not necessary to share the details - just the time ago.

Pastor Miles talked about renewing your mind. When we allow negative thoughts to come into our mind, is that treating our body like a temple? Why or why not?

Prayer:

READ 2 Cor2:12. Paul was interested in ministering at places where God opened doors.

Pastor Miles discussed that in Matt 3, when Jesus was baptized, the heavens opened up and the Spirit of God descended like a dove upon Him. (Matt 3:16). A dove will land only where it feels safe.

Pray to become a safer place for the Holy Spirit to land.

Pray to be more aware of God's gates of an open heaven.

How can we be more aware of places and times God opens doors.

Next Steps:

Listen and pay attention to what is feeding your mind throughout the week. Is it from the Kingdom of God or the kingdom of the devil?

Quote from Pastor Miles:

There is something inside you that is not of this world. Do you keep what God put inside hidden or do you let others see it?

Notes:
