

# **First Century Fellowship**

## **Lesson: The Narrow Gate**

### **Summarized Content:**

- The Bible speaks of two gates/two paths or ways: a narrow way and a broad way.
- These paths do NOT lead to Heaven or Hell as some people think.
- The reward for entering by the narrow gate is the crown of eternal life with God on Earth...serving a king/priest under Jesus in God's coming kingdom.

### **Scriptures:**

- **Matt. 7:13-14**
- **Matt. 7:22-23**
- **John 14:6**
- **Isaiah 35:8**
- **John 10:1-5**
- **John 10:7-9**
- **2 Cor. 11:13-15**

### **Activities:**

#### **Exploring God's Word:**

- **Picture Discussion of the Narrow Gate:** Explore student understanding of the narrow and wide gates/paths noted in the Bible by reading Matt. 7:13-14 and then discussing a variety of images of this scripture. This is a good time to think critically out loud with the children, examining which pictures are Biblical and which are not and examine clues about what the narrow road may be like.
- **How We Can Fit Discussion:** Read the remaining scriptures in the list above to listen for characteristics and actions of those on the narrow path versus the wide path. Discuss with students what they think they need to do in order to fit through the narrow gate.
- **The Camel & the Needle:** Read Mark 10:25. Talk with children about why it is so difficult for rich people to fit through the narrow gate. Have children color the camel and needle coloring page as you discuss this scripture.

## Understanding God's Word (choose from the activities below):



**Discerning the Wide & Narrow Paths:** Provide each child with a copy of the Path to the Narrow Gate worksheet showing 2 paths. Copy the cut outs that accompany this sheet on colored paper. Children can cut out the variety of actions/beliefs, sort them, and glue them on the correct path. This leads to good discussion and concept review as they sort them out. A variation to this activity can be to have children make a narrow and wide gate out of popsicle sticks and draw narrow and wide paths leading to the gates on poster board. The cut outs can then be glued to the correct paths.



**Walk with Good Check-Up:** Ask children to rate how they are doing in regard to walking with God. While this is a review of the Enoch lesson in how to walk with God, it can help them to make the connection between walking with God and fitting through the narrow gate. Copy the 18 Ways to Walk with God Check-Up and ask the children to rate themselves.



**Walk with God Personal Goal Setting:** Based on the children's ratings on the Check-Up, ask them to set 2 personal goals for themselves – how they want to walk closer with God in the next week or month. Children can write a letter to God with these goals or draw pictures to illustrate their goals. Follow-up in a month by re-doing the Check-Up and help them to track their personal growth with God. These results can even be graphed.



**Keys to the Narrow Gate:** Make giant keys with the children out of card stock (2 for each child). On each key, write: Cleansed by the Blood of Christ or Justified by Keeping God's Laws. The keys can be decorated with glitter, a magnet placed on the back, or attached to a key chain of some kind. Emphasize the need for BOTH keys in order to enter the narrow gate and receive the crown of life.



**Foam Shape Activity:** Give each child a small box of bead foam (available at many dollar stores). Allow them 5 minutes to use the foam to create a variety of shapes. Then challenge them to create a shape in less than 3 minutes that they think would fit through the narrow gate. Most of the time, children will not bother to ask how big the narrow gate will be. At the end of 3 minutes, bring out a small pip-cleaner shaped into a circle the diameter of your thumb! See how many shapes will fit through it. Point out to students that we tend to measure the narrow gate based on OUR WAYS rather than GOD'S WAYS and the measuring tool of Jesus Christ. Remind them that only with God's power (Holy Spirit) in us will we be able to fit through the narrow gate.



**Jigsaw Puzzle Paths:** Print, laminate, and cut out the jigsaw puzzle pieces representing ways indicating which path different Christians may be on based on their practices. The 8 pieces create 2 separate squares, one illustrating Christians on the broad path, and one illustrating Christians on the narrow path. Children may find this challenging, but discussion along and way can help clarify their questions.



**Narrow Gate Picture Frame:** Use cardboard, card stock, or pre-prepared foam frames to help the children to create gates on either side of the frame. Popsicle stick can be used for the shutters/gate and painted. Inside the frame, place the child's picture. Children can even create glittery crowns of life to wear for the picture, representing entering the narrow gate.



**Key to the Narrow Gate Magnet:** Use wooden shapes that children can decorate. On the wooden shape, have children glue a small wooden cross and a raised key sticker (both bought at craft stores). Add Matthew 7: 13 & 14 to the shape and attach a small magnet.



**Walk with God on the Narrow Path Bookmark:** Use foam bookmarks for this activity. Have children glue the outline of a footprint (or use footprint stickers) to the bookmark and decorate it with other foam shapes. Add the Matthew 7:13 & 14 scripture to the bookmark.