

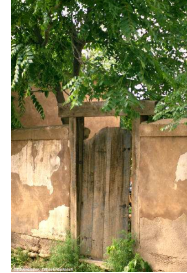
Gateways

Adapted from a program by Mrs. Frazer Banfield
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Song: I'll go in the strength of the Lord

Prayer: Pray especially for those who have gone astray,
that they may enter the gateway of eternal life.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 7: 7-14



A Glance at Gateways Here and There:

Gateways are familiar to people all over the world, and have been so for many centuries. In ancient times most cities were protected by surrounding walls, and the gateway provided the only way of entering. At night the gates were usually closed and strengthened by bars of brass and iron, making it difficult for an intruder to enter. The gateway also provided a place for public concourse, partly because it was an open space not usually found elsewhere in the city. Much of the legal business of the city was done at the gateway.

Entrance to the Forum or marketplace of early Rome was by means of a gateway, with heavy iron gates which were closed at night. Iron gates were also used at the amphitheatre, to keep the wild beasts in their place!

If you were to travel to Japan and China, you would see many beautiful memorial gateways. These often lead to a shrine and are full of dignity and beauty. As a rule these structures are extremely picturesque, although not often large.

Crowds throng the gateway leading to the grounds of Buckingham Palace, when it is known that the sovereign will pass through the gates on state occasions. The gates, facing the Mall, are protected by four guards wearing scarlet tunics and bearskin hats.

A familiar sight to many Canadians is the Princes' Gate, in Toronto, through which thousands of people flock each year to attend the Canadian National Exhibition.

In the days when Jesus lived He often used familiar objects and situations to teach spiritual lessons. On one occasion He issued this warning to His listeners: "*Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it*" (Matthew 7: 13-14 NIV).

We are reminded of the gateway leading to the Celestial City in the refrain of a song found in the “Life to Come” section of The Salvation Army Songbook, #910 *Sweeping through the gates of the new Jerusalem* (Sing the song, if your group is familiar with it).

The Gateway to Education:

Perhaps you have attended various educational classes as a student, but have never thought of yourself as an educator. Let’s think about the Christian educator, remembering that our actions greatly influence our family and friends. I want you to do a personal private investigation into the question “How good a Christian Educator are you?”

How good a Christian Educator are you?
Instructions: Place 3 in ‘completely’, 2 in ‘sometimes’ and 1 in ‘not at all’.

1. How far do you encourage others to carry out the biblical injunction on tithing—giving back to the Lord a tenth of their earning?
Completely ____ **Sometimes** ____ **Not at all** ____
2. Do you attend church or the Army regularly each Sunday, setting an example for your family?
Completely ____ **Sometimes** ____ **Not at all** ____
3. Do you conduct family worship in your home?
Completely ____ **Sometimes** ____ **Not at all** ____
4. Do you say “grace” before meals?
Completely ____ **Sometimes** ____ **Not at all** ____
5. Do you take your children/grandchildren to Sunday School?
Completely ____ **Sometimes** ____ **Not at all** ____
6. Do you know your Christian beliefs so that you can interpret it to others?
Completely ____ **Sometimes** ____ **Not at all** ____
7. Do you try to “live” your religion at all times, in all circumstances?
Completely ____ **Sometimes** ____ **Not at all** ____

Total score _____
If your score is 19-21—excellent; 15-18—good; 15-0—time to improve.

The Gateway to Service:

If your group has a member who is unwell or is a shut-in, then this would be a good time to get attending members to sign a get-well or thinking-of-you card. This card can be hand-delivered along with a fruit basket or flower basket to the sick member/s.

Reading: Service at Home

Author Unknown

If you cannot span the ocean
You may walk across the street;
There are strangers in your city
That your Lord would like to meet.

If you cannot go to China
You may go a half-a-mile;
There are lonely souls awaiting
One real Christian's friendly smile.

If you cannot preach a sermon
You can warm a bowl of soup
For some sick or shut in mother
Or a child who has the croup.

There are sorrow-stricken persons
Friendless folk on every side
We may represent the Master
If we put away our pride.

Jesus washed the feet of Peter
Just to teach humility;
We can serve Him in the homeland
If we cannot cross the sea.



The Gateway to Fellowship: Game

Have a selection of grocery items in a basket. Allow members time to look at the items. After the packages have been replaced in the basket and placed out of sight, ask ten questions such as:

1. What was the brand name of the beans?
2. How many tea bags were in the tea package?
3. What was the recipe on the side of the corn starch box?
4. How much did the spaghetti cost?

Answers can be written down. Score one point for each correct answer. A small prize can be given to each member in the group with the highest score.