# Entering Through the Narrow Gate: Jesus' Teachings on Salvation and Discipline



Explore Jesus' call to salvation through the narrow gate, emphasizing discipline, faith, and the path to eternal life in this 7-day study.





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#### Introduction

Welcome to a transformative journey through the words of Jesus in *Matthew* 7:13–14, where He presents the profound teaching about the narrow gate—a call to a disciplined life and the true path to salvation.

In these two verses, Jesus contrasts two ways: the broad gateway leading to destruction and the narrow gate leading to life. This imagery challenges us to evaluate our spiritual walk seriously. Although many follow the broad road because it seems easy and unrestricted, it ultimately leads to loss. The narrow gate, however, requires intentionality and commitment—qualities embodied in a disciplined walk with Christ.

Over the next seven days, we will explore the heart of Jesus' teaching on salvation, the significance of spiritual discipline, and what it means to enter life through Him. This study will invite you to reflect deeply on your personal faith journey and encourage you to embrace the challenges and rewards of walking the narrow path.

Whether you're new to faith or have walked with Jesus for years, these lessons will provide clarity and inspiration to live in alignment with His call. Let your heart be open as we dive into Scripture, seeking wisdom and courage to embody the teachings of our Savior.

Let's prepare our hearts to hear, understand, and apply the message of the narrow gate—because true life is found in Christ alone.









Day 1: <a>I</a> The Two Gates









Day 1: 📕 The Two Gates

#### Your Verse

Matthew 7:13 - "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- John 10:9 "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved."
- Psalm 1:6 "For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction."







Day 1: <a>\_</a> The Two Gates

# Devotional: Understanding the Narrow Gate and Its Meaning

Jesus begins His teaching by urging us to 'Enter through the narrow gate.'
This powerful metaphor highlights a deliberate choice every person must make: to follow the path that leads to life or the one that leads to destruction. The broad gate is easy, popular, and unrestricted, yet it leads to ruin. The narrow gate demands intentionality, sacrifice, and discipline.

When Jesus calls Himself the gate in John 10:9, He reveals that the only way to salvation is through Him. The gates represent choices that ultimately define our eternal destiny. We are invited to examine the road we travel today. Are we walking a wide, easy path influenced by the world, or are we choosing the disciplined, sometimes difficult way that leads to Christ?

Psalm 1 reminds us that God's eye watches over the righteous. Though the narrow gate requires vigilance and commitment, it guarantees divine protection and blessings. As you reflect today, consider where your heart is leading you and the value of choosing Jesus' narrow path.







Day 1: <a>\_</a> The Two Gates

## Reflect and Apply

1.	What are some 'broad gates' or easy choices in your life that may lead you away from God's purpose?
2.	How does knowing Jesus is the gate influence your understanding of salvation?
	What steps can you take to start walking the narrow path with greater focus?







Day 1: <a>\_</a> The Two Gates

### **Journaling Prompts**

	Write about a time you faced a difficult choice between following God or an easier path.
2.	Describe what the narrow gate means to you personally.
3.	List practical ways you can pursue discipline in your daily spiritual life.







Day 1: 📕 The Two Gates

#### Prayer for Today

**Lord Jesus,** thank You for being the gate to eternal life and for calling me to walk through the narrow path. Help me recognize the choices that lead away from You and the strength to choose Your way even when it is hard. Grant me discipline and courage to follow Your footsteps daily. Guard my heart and guide my steps towards salvation and true life. *In Your holy name, Amen.*















#### Your Verse

Matthew 7:14 - "But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Luke 13:24 "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to."
- Hebrews 12:11 "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace."







# Devotional: Embracing the Challenge of the Narrow Road

Jesus highlights the exclusivity of the narrow road—it is 'small' and 'narrow', and only a few find it. This today challenges the popular idea that salvation is guaranteed or easy. The narrow road is intentionally restrictive. It calls for focused commitment and acknowledges the reality of spiritual warfare and distractions around us.

Luke 13:24 urges us to make every effort to enter the narrow door, recognizing that the path demands perseverance and diligence. This is not about earning salvation but responding to God's invitation with wholeheartedness.

Discipline plays a crucial role. Hebrews 12:11 acknowledges that though discipline may be unpleasant, it results in righteousness and peace. Walking the narrow road requires spiritual discipline such as prayer, obedience, and resisting temptation. It is a lifelong journey marked by continual growth and perseverance.

Ask yourself today: Am I making every effort to pursue the narrow road? What disciplines do I need to cultivate to stay on this path?







### Reflect and Apply

	In what ways can you actively pursue the narrow path rather than passively hoping to find it?
	How do you respond when spiritual discipline feels difficult or unpleasant?
3.	What biblical disciplines can you commit to developing this week?







## **Journaling Prompts**

	Reflect on how God has disciplined or corrected you in the past and what it produced.
2.	Write about what 'making every effort' means in your spiritual walk.
3.	Identify areas where you need more perseverance and strength.







#### Prayer for Today

Father God, help me not to grow weary or discouraged in seeking the narrow road You call me to walk. Teach me to embrace discipline and to rely on Your strength in moments of trial. May I hold fast to Your promises and walk daily in obedience and faith. Equip me to encourage others to find and follow Your narrow way. Thank You for Your unfailing love and guidance. Amen. (1)













#### Your Verse

John 14:6 – "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

#### Supporting Scriptures

- Acts 4:12 "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."
- Ephesians 2:8 "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."







#### Devotional: The Exclusive Path to Eternal Life

Jesus explicitly states the core truth of the Gospel: He is the only way to the Father. This exclusive claim leaves no room for alternate routes or compromise when it comes to salvation. The narrow gate and road symbolize the singular pathway through Jesus Christ.

Acts 4:12 underscores this reality by affirming that salvation is available through no other name. This means that no belief system, moral code, or good works apart from trusting in Christ can secure eternal life.

Our salvation is a gift of grace, not something we earn or achieve. Ephesians 2:8 reminds us that this gift is received through faith. Entering the narrow gate involves trusting Jesus fully, repenting of sin, and embracing Him as Lord and Savior.

Today, reflect on the assurance and hope found only in Christ. Are you resting in His finished work, or trying to find your own way?







## Reflect and Apply

	What does Jesus being 'the way, the truth, and the life' mean for your spiritual journey?
	How can understanding salvation as a gift by grace impact your relationship with God?
3.	Are there any tendencies to seek alternate paths or earn favor with God in your life?







## **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write a personal response to Jesus' claim as the only way to the Father.
2.	Recall how you first came to understand the gift of grace through faith.
3.	List ways you can deepen your trust in Jesus daily.







#### Prayer for Today

**Jesus, my Savior,** thank You for being the way to the Father and for offering salvation as a pure gift of grace. Help me to fully trust in You, turning away from self-effort and worldly distractions. Strengthen my faith so I may walk confidently through Your narrow gate, resting in Your truth and life. Guide my heart to share this hope with others. *In Your precious name, Amen.* 















Day 4: The Cost of Discipleship

#### Your Verse

Luke 14:27 – "Whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Matthew 16:24 "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."
- 2 Timothy 2:3 "Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus."





Day 4: <a>M</a> The Cost of Discipleship

#### Devotional: Counting the Cost for the Narrow Path

**Jesus teaches that true discipleship requires carrying our cross and following Him.** This phrase underscores that the narrow gate involves sacrifice, denial, and perseverance in trials. It's not a path of ease but one of obedience and surrender.

Luke 14:27 and Matthew 16:24 emphasize self-denial and identifying fully with Christ's suffering. The narrow road demands prioritizing God above comfort, reputation, and worldly desires.

**Paul encourages us in 2 Timothy 2:3** to join him in suffering as a good soldier, reminding us that discipline includes enduring hardship with steadfastness. This discipline shapes our character and refines our faith.

Today, reflect on the cost of true discipleship and how willing you are to carry your cross daily.







Day 4: The Cost of Discipleship

## Reflect and Apply

1. What	'cross' are you being called to carry in your current life situation?
2. Are ye	ou willing to deny yourself for the sake of following Jesus?
	can trials and discipline strengthen your faith rather than urage you?







Day 4: The Cost of Discipleship

### **Journaling Prompts**

	Describe what carrying your cross means for your personal relationship with Christ.
2.	Recall a time when self-denial led to spiritual growth or blessing.
3.	Write about how you can support others who are bearing heavy crosses.







Day 4: 🐠 The Cost of Discipleship

#### Prayer for Today

**Lord Jesus,** teach me to carry my cross with faith and humility. Help me deny myself and fully follow You, trusting that the path You lead is worth every sacrifice. Give me strength in suffering, courage in trials, and joy in obedience, knowing You walk with me always. *May Your discipline produce lasting fruit in my life. Amen.*











#### Your Verse

John 15:5 – "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Galatians 5:22–23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."
- Colossians 1:10 "So that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work."







#### Devotional: Living a Fruitful Life on the Narrow Path

The narrow road is not only about discipline and sacrifice but also about fruitfulness. Jesus reminds us in John 15:5 that abiding in Him produces abundant fruit. Without Him, our efforts are powerless.

Walking the narrow path involves spiritually connecting to Christ daily—through prayer, Scripture, and obedience—so His life flows through us. This connection enables us to exhibit the fruit of the Spirit, as outlined in Galatians 5:22–23, including love, patience, and self-control.

**Colossians 1:10 encourages us** to live lives worthy of the Lord by bearing fruit in every good work. Such fruitfulness reflects a transformed heart and glorifies God.

Reflect today on how the Spirit's fruit is growing in your life and how you can deepen your relationship with Jesus to walk more fruitfully on the narrow road.







## Reflect and Apply

	Which fruit of the Spirit do you see most evident in your life? Which needs more growth?
2.	How can abiding in Christ daily influence your character and actions?
3.	What good works can you pursue that honor God and bless others?







## **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about ways you experience Christ's presence in your daily life.
2.	List fruits of the Spirit that you want to develop more intentionally.
	Reflect on recent good works you have done and how they impacted you and others.







#### Prayer for Today

**Lord Jesus,** help me to stay connected to You, the true vine, that I may bear lasting fruit. Teach me to cultivate the fruit of Your Spirit in every area of my life. Guide my thoughts, words, and deeds to glorify You and reflect Your love to others. Strengthen my desire to walk faithfully on Your narrow path. *Thank You for Your constant presence and sustaining grace. Amen.* 















Day 6: ① Overcoming Obstacles

#### Your Verse

Ephesians 6:11 – "Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- James 1:12 "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him."
- 1 Peter 5:8-9 "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith."





Day 6: ① Overcoming Obstacles

# Devotional: Equipping Yourself for the Narrow Journey

**The narrow path is not free from opposition.** We face spiritual battles that can discourage or derail us. That is why Paul instructs us to 'put on the full armor of God' (Ephesians 6:11) to stand firm.

Trials and temptations test our resolve. James 1:12 promises blessing to those who persevere and remain faithful through these hardships. The Christian journey requires vigilance, as Peter reminds us to be alert because the enemy seeks to devour.

Equipping yourself with God's armor—truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and the Word—is essential for overcoming obstacles on the narrow road. This spiritual preparation helps us resist the devil's schemes and remain steadfast.

Take time today to consider how you can strengthen your defense and encourage your faith amid difficulties.







Day 6: • Overcoming Obstacles

## Reflect and Apply

	What spiritual obstacles challenge you the most in walking the narrow path?
2.	How do you currently 'put on the armor of God' in your daily life?
	What changes can you make to stand firmer against temptation and trials?







Day 6: • Overcoming Obstacles

### **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Identify one area where you feel vulnerable spiritually and plan ways to address it.
2.	Write about times God has helped you overcome spiritual battles.
3.	Describe how being alert and sober-minded affects your relationship with God.







Day 6: **(**) Overcoming Obstacles

#### **Prayer for Today**

**Heavenly Father,** equip me with Your full armor to stand strong against the enemy's attacks. Help me persevere through trials, remaining faithful and alert. Fill me with Your peace and truth that guard my heart and mind. Strengthen my faith daily so I can walk the narrow path victoriously. *I trust in Your power to protect and sustain me. Amen.* ① 🙏 💍













#### Your Verse

John 10:28 – "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Romans 8:38–39 "For I am convinced that neither death nor life... will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
- Revelation 21:4 "He will wipe every tear from their eyes... There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain."







#### Devotional: Holding Firm to God's Eternal Promise

After teaching about the narrow gate, Jesus assures us of the incredible promise of eternal life. He gives this life to those who enter through Him and assures they will never perish or be taken from His care.

Romans 8:38–39 reinforces this security by declaring nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ. Revelation 21:4 offers a future hope where all suffering and pain will end.

This assurance is the ultimate reward of walking the narrow path: the promise of eternal life and unbreakable communion with God. It encourages us to persevere and embrace the discipline, knowing a glorious future awaits.

Reflect on the security and hope found in God's promise today. Let it renew your commitment and bring peace to your soul.







## Reflect and Apply

1. l	How does the promise of eternal life affect the way you live today?
-	
	n what ways have you experienced the security of being held in God's nand?
_	
	What hope can you share with others who are struggling on the narrow path?
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## **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about what eternal life means to you personally.
2.	Reflect on God's faithfulness in your life despite challenges.
3.	Create a prayer or poem celebrating the hope of heaven.







#### **Prayer for Today**

**Gracious Lord,** thank You for the gift of eternal life and the assurance that I am forever secure in Your hands. Help me hold firm to this hope when life is difficult. Fill me with Your peace and joy as I journey on the narrow path. May I live each day in the light of Your unfailing love. *Come soon, Lord Jesus. Amen.* 🎇 💬 👄







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