

**“I am the Gate”**

**Theme:** Jesus said “I am the gate”. He is the way into the Kingdom of God.

**Games:****Through the gate**

Two chairs are set up as the gate in the middle of the room. A leader calls out a number and children have to get through the gate in groups of that number. Any not able to form a group of the right number are out. There will be two winners at the end.

**Partner Tag**

This is a bit like Stuck in the mud. Two people hold hands. They have to “stick” people by passing over the heads of the other players with their joined hands. Players can be unstuck by two free players going under their arms *together*.

**Cat & Mouse Trap**

Five people are chosen to be the “trap” and form a circle by holding hands with arms raised over their heads. One person is chosen to be the “cat” who starts by facing away from the trap, not looking at it (perhaps with eyes closed). The remaining players are all “mice.” They have to go under the arms, in and out of the trap. The cat waits for the right moment and then suddenly turns back around and shouts “SNAP!” at which point the trap brings its arms down and captures whoever is in the circle. The captured mice become part of the trap. The game continues until all but one mouse is caught. He/she is declared the winner.

**Introduction:** Ask the children why we have doors and gates. Explain that a gate gives us access to something. We go through a gate to get to what is on the other side. Think about all the places they go to with different types of doors or gates, e.g. football stadium has turnstiles, supermarket has sliding doors etc.

**Story:**

Instead of a story, take some time before the Kingsquad to think about how you became a Christian and prepare **your** story to tell to the children. Try to keep it brief but include some interesting details of how you came to believe.

**Application:** A gate provides a way through a barrier (like a wall or fence). If there was no gate, we could not get in, because there is no way to get over or around the wall. Think about trying to get into a concert or football match without a ticket. Because we sin there is a barrier stopping us being friends with God. When Jesus said he was the gate, he was saying that it is through him that we get to heaven (are saved). When we believe in Jesus we can be sure that the gates to heaven are open for us.

**Memory verse:**

John 10 v 9 : “I am the gate, whoever comes in by me will be saved.” You could write the verse on the gates in the resources section. Cut them out and hide them around the room for the children to find.

**Prayer/reflection:**

Have a time of reflection, where the children are quiet and think about today’s message. Keep it short and finish with a short prayer.