

# **MATTER TO THE MISSION**

**DEEPER DIVE STUDY GUIDE  
CHAPTER ONE: GATEKEEPERS!**

# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Deeper Dive Study of Matter to the Mission! The purpose of this exercise is to help you go deeper into our Man2Man study series. While this study guide is designed to be used in our Deeper Dive study groups, you can also easily use it for your own, independent study.

This first month's study will Dive Deeper into the fact that we have each been set free to do God's good in our gates. As such, each of us is a Gatekeeper, called by God to conduct ourselves for his good in all of our spheres of influence...husband, father, coach, employee, sports enthusiast, hunter, business owner and on it goes. Each of us has several areas through which we navigate every day...and God has a purpose for us in every one of them.

Go through this study prayerfully. Take the time needed to hear all that God has for you. If you're doing this with a group, come to the meeting prepared. Without question, God wants to do something new and special through this study. Invest your body, soul and spirit such that you are able to gain everything God wants to give you.

Matter to the Mission!

# DEEPER DIVE

## MATTER TO THE MISSION

### CHAPTER ONE: GATEKEEPERS

This study will dive deeper into two truths. First, that we are set free from sin. Second, that we are also set free from the sidelines. It is these separate sides to the same coin, when embraced, that mean we can actually matter to the mission.

## WEEK ONE SECTION: SET FREE FROM SIN

It starts by understanding God's good news, the gospel. Let's look at it in three words.

### God:

There is a lot to consider in that one name. Review these scriptures and then answer the following questions. Let's get an idea of what it takes to be "God."

**Scripture:** Psalm 8:3-4

**Thoughts?**

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**Scripture:** Job 40:1-42:6

**Thoughts?**

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**Scripture:** Ephesians 3:20

**Thoughts?**

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**Scripture:** Isaiah 55:8-9

**Thoughts?**

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### Thought Questions:

1. How big is God?
2. When you compare yourself to God, what do you come up with?
3. What is God capable of?

4. What is it about man (me) that should demand the attention of a God like this?

**Loves:**

**Scripture:** John 3:16

**Thoughts?**

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**Scripture:** Isaiah 49:15-16a

**Thoughts?**

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**Thought Questions:**

1. Why did God send his son to die in our place?
2. Do we deserve the answer to question #1?
3. If God was so serious as to send his son to die because of the answer to question #1, is there any reason to doubt just its truth, but also how much it is true?
4. Do you feel it is true for you? If so, sign your name below. If not, why not?

**Me:** \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name Here

**Conclusion/Discussion:**

1. Make a list of the things for which God can never forgive you.
2. Read: Hebrews 10:29
  - a. "Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?"
3. Do you want to trample Jesus underfoot?
4. Was his shed blood for our sins ineffective, no different than anyone else's blood being shed?
5. When does grace stop being grace?
6. Review your answers to question #1. Should there really be anything listed? Why or why not.

## WEEK TWO: SET FREE FROM THE SIDELINES

Ok, we're now deeper into our understanding of how and why we've been set free from sin. We're going to heaven! But what about until then? Don't we have a mission to accomplish?

Yes, but our adversary is pretty good at dissuading us from actually mattering to that mission. In order to overcome him, we must not only know we've been set free from sin, but that we have also been set free from the sidelines.

The enemy's strategy for keeping us on the sidelines.

**Scripture:** 1 Peter 5:8

**Thoughts?**

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**Scripture:** Ephesians 6:11

**Thoughts?**

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**Thought Questions:**

1. As we move through life, how are we to conduct ourselves and why?
2. When we fail to conduct ourselves in that way, what happens to us? What happens to those around us that failure impacts?

**Scripture:** Matthew 28:19-20

**Thoughts?**

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**Thought Questions:**

1. What is our mission?
2. Who is called to it?
3. What can hold us back from answering that call?

**Scripture:** Isaiah 64:6a

**Thoughts?**

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**Scripture:** Job 42:5-6

## Thoughts?

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### Thought Questions:

1. List as many things you regret or feel guilty for that come to mind, especially when you feel interested in stepping up for God in any way.
2. How do those past regrets make you feel about yourself and your ability to matter to the mission?
3. Drill down: How qualified do you feel to minister to the very people your past sins damaged?
4. When it comes to mattering to the mission, what do you do with the answer to question #2?

**Scripture:** Isaiah 30:19

### Thoughts:

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### Thought question:

1. When it comes to not letting the enemy use our regrets to keep us on the sidelines, what does Isaiah tell us is 'Step One?'

**Scripture:** Isaiah 30:20-21

### Thoughts?

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### Thought question:

1. What is step two?

**Scripture:** Hebrews 12:5-6

### Thoughts?

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**Scripture:** Psalm 119:5-66, 71

### Thoughts?

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### Thought Question:

1. What is step three?

By addressing the enemy's attempts to keep us on the sidelines so we won't matter to the mission with these three steps, it allows God to do something wonderful. Dive deep into these scriptures to see what it is.

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 10:13

**Thoughts?**

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**Scripture:** Job 1:6-12

**Thoughts?**

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**Scripture:** John 3:27

**Thoughts?**

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**Scripture:** Psalm 100:3a

**Thoughts?**

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**Scripture:** Genesis 50:20

**Thoughts?**

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**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 12:18, 23-25

**Thoughts?**

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**Thought questions:**

1. Does anything you can't handle get past God?
2. What is his purpose for allowing anything negative into our lives?
3. What comes our way that hasn't had to go through God, first?
4. How does God intend to use the things in our lives, good or bad?
5. Can God actually make something good come from our evil?
6. Think of your regrets. Can you imagine any ways in which God can use them for his good?

7. If God uses all things to package us for a purpose, what does your package indicate might be the way he's designing you to matter to his mission?

Does this apply to you? (Write yes or no for each.)

1. No Condemnation (Romans 8:1, 31-36) \_\_\_\_\_
2. No Bondage (Romans 8:14-15) \_\_\_\_\_
3. No Hopelessness (Romans 8:24-25) \_\_\_\_\_
4. No Dissonance (Romans 8:26) \_\_\_\_\_
5. No Permanent Failure (Romans 8:28) \_\_\_\_\_
6. No Weaklings (Romans 8:37-39) \_\_\_\_\_

If you were able to write 'yes' after each of these, then you are at least beginning to understand that you are truly free. Free from sin. And free from the guilt that can keep us from being used of God as he is designing us each individually to matter to his mission.

Conclusion/Discussion:

1. Make a list of those things from your past that you regret and/or can't forgive yourself for.
2. Make a list of those things from your past that you suffered unfairly and the damage still affects you today.
3. Review this study. What does God want to do with those things you did or were done to you? Is there a sense in which we can celebrate that past? How does learning from that past liberate you from it?



## WEEK THREE SECTION: GOD'S GOOD IN OUR GATES

Note: Take some time to go back and review weeks one and two. What does the truth of those lessons change and what do you want to do about it?

Let's talk about that.

**Scripture:** 1 Timothy 1:15-16

**Thoughts?**

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**Scripture:** John 3:16

**Thoughts?**

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### Thought Questions:

1. What is God's ultimate 'good' that he wants accomplished?
2. How does God's priority help prioritize the focus of all the 'good' things we are packaged by God to do today?
3. Where are all the places in your life that you can do good in a way that accomplishes God's good? List those places out. Those are your gates.

### Summary:

You have been set free to do God's good in your gates.

Check as many as apply to you:

\_\_\_\_\_ I have gates.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have gates in which I've lost ground.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have believed the lie that God can't use me because of my failures in the past.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am not listening to my teachers and repeating the very same mistakes that lead to my past failures.

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to quit failing, be used of God.

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to listen to the teachers God has given me so that I can matter to his mission.

\_\_\_\_\_ God can use the worst I've done to result in the best he can do.

\_\_\_\_\_ I don't want to stay on the sidelines. Because God Loves Me, I don't have to – no matter what the enemy says.

\_\_\_\_\_ I commit to taking back ground (gaining more ground) in the following gates God has given me:

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**Conclusion/Summary:**

1. What have you been set free from?
2. What is God's good?
3. Where are we ordained to do God's good?
4. How might that change your gate(s)?
5. How might that change our world if we all did this?
6. Do you believe God for this?