

MATTER TO THE MISSION

DEEPER DIVE STUDY GUIDE

CHAPTER TWO

WAR OF THE WORLDS

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 second month's study will Dive Deeper into the fact that though we have each been set free to do God's good in our gates, we need to be aware that doing God's good in our gates will not go unopposed. That is because we are at war. And not just any war but one that has been raging since before time began between God and our mutual enemy, Satan. We will be looking how we are to navigate in our gates in the context of that war, our role as warriors and the weapons we have to wield. And finally, we'll discuss the outcome God promises and how we're to conduct ourselves with those in mind.

Read through Chapter Two of Matter to the Mission. If you need, review the video of the Man2Man teaching, War of the Worlds. You can access both at <http://www.thebridgechurch.tv/get-connected/man2man.html> . Then, 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 TWO: WAR OF THE WORLDS

This first section of our study will dive into the reality of the wars, the worlds involved and what that should do to our perspective on life.

WEEK ONE SECTION: THE WARS

Life isn't always easy. But what if it is worse than that...or better? Confusing question? Absolutely...but let's discuss it anyway. Start by reading 2 Kings 6:8-23 and then answer the following questions:

How many battle fronts are there in this story? 2 Kings 6:8,17

Summarize each battle front: 2 Kings 6:8,17

Based on 2 Kings 6:16, make a list of who all is involved in this battle?

Review the Lord's Prayer in the context of spiritual warfare.

Thought Questions:

1. Two realities, physical and spiritual. Are they independent of each other or are they somehow linked?
2. Which one is superior to the other?
3. To which one do we typically give the most attention? Discuss...
 - a. Apply to your relationships, like marriage, family, etc.
4. To which one should we give the most attention?
 - a. How would that effect how you relate to others, especially in time of stress or crisis?
5. Are there any times in your life where you've sensed that there was more to what was going on than met the eye? (Positive or Negative experiences) List and discuss.

6. Seeing our reality from God's perspective can result in things we need to see that we might not otherwise. List some ideas of what those things might be, both positive and negative, and what we should do about those revelations.
 - a. Is there anything in our life right now that you sense God might want you to deal with?
7. Are we really ever on our own to face 'life?'

WEEK TWO SECTION: THE WARRIORS

So, there is a larger picture to reality than what our five senses can easily register and these two aspects of reality are anything but separate. Rather, they are seamlessly connected. However, many Christians live their lives as if there is no connection at all, dramatically limiting their quality of life, both physical and spiritual. We've discussed how this can damage our relationships with each other and with God. He intends that we engage the spiritual aspect of reality as we conduct ourselves for his good in our gates.

We've also discussed the fact that we are at war. If there is a war around us in which we are to engage, that makes us warriors. Let's look at what that means for how to be an effective and faithful Gatekeeper.

Scripture: Ephesians 6:12

Thoughts?

Scripture: I Peter 5:8

Thoughts?

Scripture: Philippians 2:9-11 & James 2:19

Thoughts?

Scripture: James 4:7

Thoughts?

Thought Questions:

1. Who are the warriors as far as God is concerned?
 - a. Our enemies are: _____ Their enemies are: _____
 - b. Our allies are: _____ Their allies are: _____
2. How would you handle conflict in the physical realm if you knew it was inspired by the spiritual realm?
3. What are some ways the enemy uses to undermine us in our gates?
 - a. Why is it important to the enemy that we discount the spiritual dimension's impact on our physical reality? How do we answer that?
 - b. How does he use fear? How do we answer that?

- c. How does he use accusations or reminders of our failures? How do we answer that?
- 4. When is the only time the enemy's tactics can work in our lives?
- 5. How does the enemy feel about God?
- 6. Where does God reside thanks to Jesus?
- 7. How should we make the enemy feel about us?
- 8. How do we do that?

WEEK THREE SECTION: THE WEAPONS

We've discussed the fact that the spiritual reality all around us has direct and powerful implications upon our physical reality. We've looked at how the war in heaven plays out here on earth and that, as such, we are warriors. Warriors need weapons. And if we're called to stand in our gates for God against the evil forces of the spiritual realm, those weapons had better be pretty awesome.

This week we're going to discuss our weapons of warfare, what they are and just how powerful they really are. Some may be surprised that they've had these weapons at their disposal all of the time but just didn't see them in that way. We'll discuss the true nature of those weapons of our warfare and learn that we can wield them with effect.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 10:4-6

Thoughts?

Scripture: Ephesians 6:13-18

Thoughts?

Scripture: 2 Kings 6: 12, 17, 18, 20 (Review Ezekiel 37:1-10)

Thoughts?

Scripture: Matthew 11:12

Thoughts?

Scripture: John 14:12

Thoughts?

Scripture: Romans 8:28

Thoughts?

Scripture: 2 Kings 6:18-23

Thoughts?

Thought Questions:

1. What is the definition of the word, “Carnal?” What does that say about the nature of our weapons?
2. We have authority in Jesus. How does that weaponized the items listed in Ephesians 6:13-18?
3. When you read 2 Kings 6:8-23, who appears to be telling who what to do? Discuss how that works.
4. How does worshipping, praying, fasting, studying the word, etc. change when you look at those as weapons and wielding them as acts of war against God’s enemies in your gates?
5. Can we ever really lose?
6. Is there really a limit on the amount of ground we can take for God if we are faithful to do his good in every one of our gates?
7. Why is it as important how we win as it is that we win?

Conclusion/Discussion:

1. Read Isaiah 6:1 and Revelation 15:8. What does this tell us about God compared to anything else in existence in any realm?
2. With this in mind, imagine how you might feel about those things in life that frightened or intimidated you so that you were limited in your gates once you see first hand what the texts in Isaiah and Revelation are talking about.
 - a. Is there anything so big that God isn’t bigger still?
 - b. With that in mind, define “impossible” for the Christian (vision, marriage, goals, etc.)
3. How will this study change the way you stand for God’s good in your gates?