

MATTER TO THE MISSION

DEEPER DIVE STUDY GUIDE

CHAPTER THREE

MISSION IS-POSSIBLE

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 third month's study will Dive Deeper into the truths that tell us that when faced with the challenges of life the enemy might use to stumble us in our gates, the only way we lose is if we quit.

That is a pretty audacious claim. But it is one that is borne out through Scripture. God has called us to our specific gates to win there. Last month we dove deeper into the weapons of our warfare that we have with which to commit violent acts of war against an enemy bent on taking heaven, and us, with violence. Many of those battles can test our resolve. But we must not quit. For if we don't, we'll win.

Every time.

This month we're taking a break from the study book, Matter to the Mission. Instead we're going to focus on the Man2Man Main Session Teaching, *Mission Is Possible* and the path we discussed that leads to victory every time. (You can view it online at: <http://www.thebridgechurch.tv/get-connected/man2man.html>) We called it, the Proverbs Path. As you dive deeper, you'll find many truths that should help you stand when everything around you is telling you otherwise. And you'll see how that if everyone does this in each of our gates, there is no amount of ground we can't take back from the enemy.

You can't lose if you don't quit... Find out why that is true...for you...in every area of your life. And when you put those truths to work, you'll then matter to the mission like never before!

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CHAPTER THREE: MISSION IS-POSSIBLE

This first section of our study will dive into the fact that though the challenges we face may seem too big for us, they really are not. In fact, instead of fearing those times, there are good reasons to embrace them.

WEEK ONE SECTION: BIGGER THAN ME? AWESOME!

Start here by listing areas of your life where you are experiencing challenges. Beside each area put a number between 1 and 10, one being the least challenging and 10 being absolutely impossible for you to overcome on your own:

Challenge	Number
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Now, read the story of Gideon in Judges, chapters 6 and 7. Then answer the following questions:

Why was Israel at the mercy of Midian? Judges 6:1

Just how impossible was the situation? Judges 6:1-5

What was the result? Judges 6:6

What was God's initial response? Judges 6:7-10

What was God's assessment of Gideon? Judges 11-13

How did Gideon initially respond? Judges 6:13

God's answer to Gideon? Judges 6:14

What was Gideon's response to God this time? Judges 6:15-16

Thought Questions:

1. Israel found themselves at the mercy of Midian because of their failure to follow God. Is that the only reason we face challenges or are there other causes? If so, what might they be?
2. What does how Israel got into this predicament tell us about being faithful to God?
3. Israel was pretty beat up by a foe that was too big for them to overcome. In what areas have you/do you feel you're in the same boat? (See your list above...)
4. Israel finally cried out to God for help. Why do you think we wait till things get really bad to do that?
5. God's answer was pretty much, "I told you so." When God says that to you, how do you respond?
6. In spite of his "I told you so," God moved to meet Israel at their point of need. Could there be a reason he waited until it got so bad?
7. Gideon was all about complaining about God's lack of rescue. But when he heard God's solution, he suddenly was all about excuses. Have you ever asked the question, "You mean me?" and then proceeded to list all of the reasons why you weren't the man for the job?
8. Who is the man for the job in your gates?

Gideon has put God through some hoops in order to gain confidence that God was really going to work through him to rescue Israel. Now God is going to put Gideon through a few hoops of his own. Read Judges 7:1-7 and see what you can learn about how God likes to operate.

How many soldiers did Gideon start out with? Judges 7:3

What was God's objection to that number? Judges 7:2 How many soldiers did the enemy have? Judges 7:12

How many soldiers did it take for God to make his point? Judges 7:6-7

Did God make his point? Judges 7:16-25

Thought Questions:

1. Given the size of the enemy's army, the initial 32000 troops of Gideon were significantly outnumbered. Why do you think God wanted that number to be as small as 300?
2. What does 2 Kings 6:8-23 that we discussed last month suggest was going on when you read how this battle progressed? Take special notice of Judges 7:22.
3. What does this tell us to remember when things look too big for us?
4. Review the list you made at the start of this section with this study in mind. With regard to any of them...do you really need to quit?

Conclusion: In our next study we're going to look at The Proverbs Path. It is a simple, yet powerful tool for how we can conduct ourselves for God's good in our gates in that period between Mission Impossible and Mission Is-Possible.

WEEK TWO SECTION: THE PROVERBS PATH

Gatekeepers don't quit. They can't. People are depending on them. And God has a plan that is based on victory in those gates. But the fact is, we're still at war. Some battles look impossible at the beginning. But we're learning that they are in fact Is-Possible. But that time between Impossible and Is-Possible can be dicey. How can we navigate it? Introducing, the Proverbs Path.

We're going to handle this section a bit differently. Read the Proverbs Path and meditate on it. Let's see what God tells you about how to live victoriously through the Impossible to the Is-Possible.

The Proverbs Path*

(Proverbs 3:5-6, 25-26, 4:25-27, 4:18)

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Have no fear of sudden disaster or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked, for the LORD will be your confidence, and will keep your foot from being caught. Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. (NIV) Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established. Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil. (For) The way (path) of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, which shines ever brighter until the full light of day."

**NIV, NKJV, NLT versions used for clarity*