

MATTER TO THE MISSION
DEEPER DIVE STUDY GUIDE #5
FINAL COUNTDOWN!

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.

So far in this study we have learned that we can Matter to the Mission because we have been set free to do God's good in our gates. We've seen that the Worlds are at War but God will win when we Gatekeepers wield the right weapons against the right warriors in our gates. Then we learned that Gatekeepers are immovable objects, because the only way we lose is if we quit! Finally, our last study reminded us that God's Gatekeepers can be an unstoppable force that occupies ground that is bigger than they are on their own...just so that they can experience God. The lesson? If a thing is not bigger than me, it is not worthy of He.

This month we're going to expand on last month's call to 'bigger-than-me.' It is time to advance because we are in the Final Countdown of history. In the process we'll see that the same power that God used to do really big things is also in us because God wants us to do really big things, too. God thinks big. And when he moves, it is a big deal.

He's about to move...through us. But something must happen in order for us to be able to accomplish our part in this new move. We can't do it on our own. We need God to empower us. We'll dig into this to see how it impacts our lives, our marriages, our families, our jobs, our health, our friendships, our ministries...our gates. And when we do we'll discover that any limits we had put on us in any of those areas just don't make any sense any more...

If you missed it live, take some time to review this month's Man2Man message. You can find it at <http://www.thebridgechurch.tv/get-connected/man2man.html>. Then begin to prayerfully dive deeper into this awesome truth that it is time for us to Advance!

God bless you as you take the time to be inconvenienced in order to gain ground for God in your gates.

Best,

Doug

DEEPER DIVE

MATTER TO THE MISSION

CHAPTER FIVE: FINAL COUNTDOWN!

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: REVIEW

Last month we took a deeper dive into the Prayer of Jabez and the fact that he desired the super blessing of more than he could handle on his own just so that he could experience God. Please take some time to reflect (and discuss) on areas of your life where you have the opportunity to be super blessed. What is too big for you right now? Do you have any visions or dreams for your future that seem too audacious to take seriously? Write them down (below). In light of what we learned about how Jabez handled such things, indicate a 'next step' into the bigger next to each entry.

Area Where I Can Experience God

Next Step

Ok...with all of this in mind, it is time to take those next steps. God has a plan for that. Let's discover it as we dive deeper into this month's call to Advance!

First, let's get an idea of just how big God is...and how big are the things he does. Read the following Scriptures and summarize what God in his power is capable of:

Genesis 1:1-2:25

Isaiah 55:8-9

I Corinthians 15:51-58

With these three texts in mind, how do we compare to how big God is?

What is God NOT capable of doing?

Referring back to the areas you would like to ‘experience God and the next steps you indicated, if you were God would you change any of those ‘next steps?’ If so, which ones, and why?

Are you God? That answer is obvious. Jabez knew he wasn’t God and yet he asked to be moved into the ‘bigger-than-he-was’ in order to experience God. What must Jabez have assumed God would do in such a situation?

That was then. What about now? Can we still expect that God will step in? Do we?

We’re going to leave this one right here. Next time we’re going to look at what has changed since Jabez. That ‘something’ will make all of the difference. If God ‘stepped in’ then, hold on to your hat to see what he’ll do now...

For now, spend some time identifying areas that need to get ‘bigger,’ areas you need to dream more and areas where you need to trust that God will show up when you step into the valley of faith unafraid.

WEEK TWO SECTION: HEAVEN UNLEASHED!

How long did Jesus promise to stick around? (Matthew 28:20)

Who did he make that promise to?

According to John 16:7, how is it that Jesus can go away and be with us at the same time?

Who is promised? (John 16:7)

What will happen when he shows up? (Acts 1:8)

What does that have to do with what Jesus said we should pray for in Matthew 6:10?

Jesus tied the ability of the disciples to do even greater things than he did to the coming of this Promise. Let's get an idea of how great the things Jesus did were. Review these texts and summarize the great thing Jesus did. (Feel free to add to the list...)

Text	Jesus' Great Thing
Matthew 14:24-27	<hr/>
John 11:40-44	<hr/>
John 2:1-10	<hr/>
Matthew 14:14-21	<hr/>
Mark 5:1-15	<hr/>

With this in mind, consider the importance of John 14:12.

The early believers were now working in the power of the Spirit, just as Jesus had promised? (Review: to whom did he promise this?) Significant bigness was realized. As one example, review these texts and summarize the kind of growth the Church had as a result. Then, consider/compare the rate of growth of today's church. (Acts 2:41; 2:47; 6:7; 9:31)

Ok...that was then. This is now. Next time we're going to bring this all to present day...and hopefully have a life changing discussion!

WEEK THREE SECTION: UNLEASH HEAVEN!

There are many voices in the modern church all claiming to speak the truth with regard to the Holy Spirit and his role in the church and our lives today. It is not the purpose of this study to silence all of those voices in favor of this one. The purpose of this study is to open our eyes to the fact that we Christians today are woefully underperforming in so many areas of life and culture when we don't have to. We won't be getting into a discussion about gifts. We will be discussing the implications that God has designed and empowered us to advance in all of those areas...and now is the time to do it!

How much and/or often does Jesus change? (Hebrews 13:8)

How is this exemplified in the following verses?

Text	Result of Power in Us?
Romans 8:37	<hr/>
Isaiah 40:31	<hr/>
Isaiah 54:17	<hr/>
I Peter 2:24	<hr/>
2 Corinthians 4:8-9	<hr/>

Who wouldn't want that kind of edge? Do you have that kind of edge?

Fellowship as been pictured as the "inter-penetration of personalities." Taking advantage of the power of Christ in us, our hope of glory is a matter sharing the fellowship **OF** the spirit. (Philippians 2:1) What is the significance of it being **OF** the Spirit rather than "in" or "with" the Spirit?

If we have the Spirit of God, and the power He has there waiting for us, inside, Ephesians 6:14-18 takes on a new light. Take some time to review the armor and consider how wearing it will further connect us to the Spirit's work in, through and for us.

Armor	Implication(s)
Belt of Truth	<hr/>
Breastplate of Righteousness	<hr/>
Shoes of Peace	<hr/>

Shield of Faith
Helmet of Salvation
Sword of the Spirit
Prayer

If having the power of God living in us, at our disposal to move into bigger things, experiencing him, why is this such an uncommon thing? Review these texts and answer: Acts 19:1-4, John 5:6)

Finally, go back to week number one. Look at your list of areas in your life that could sure use the touch of Jesus to advance them in the right direction. Are there other areas? Review that list and then consider the following questions?

1. What is too big for God?
2. Who has Jesus promised to send and did he?
3. If nothing is too big for God and we have his power in us, why do we settle for less than anything but a life saturated with God's thumbprint? Why do we persist to live in anything less than the bigger, where we can experience what God calls the abundant life?
4. Finally, while this needs to be personalized, let's also look at our church. There is no question that the Holy Spirit is present in our body. But is it time to start praying for his outpouring. No movement of God has ever started without one. Is now the time? Is this the place? Are we the people?