

MATTER TO THE MISSION
DEEPER DIVE STUDY GUIDE #7
BATTLE PLAN

INTRODUCTION

And so we come to the end of our journey. Over the past many months we have looked at that it means to be a Gatekeeper and how Gatekeepers can Matter to the Mission. We've covered a lot of ground in the Monthly Main Sessions. You who have taken the next step to dive deeper have covered even more ground, and God's kingdom is moving forward as a result!

This month we're going to dive deeper into the Battle Plan God has given us, our marching orders in his plan for world domination. It isn't a complicated plan. Two steps. One-two punch.

Believe God. Kill Giants.

We'll take a couple of weeks to have a look at these two components of God's strategic plan and how it applies to each of us in our own Gates of influence and responsibility. We'll find that, though the plan is simple, implementing it can be anything but...because of how we think. So, we'll start by reviewing that lesson and then build from there.

It has been a pleasure working through all of this with you. God bless you as you seek to walk in the freedom God has given you to do his good in your gates of influence and responsibility.

Best,

Doug

**DEEPER DIVE
MATTER TO THE MISSION
CHAPTER SEVEN: BATTLE PLAN**

**WEEK ONE STUDY: THINK, THINK, THINK!
REVIEW OF ROMANS 12:2**

In Romans 12:2 Paul tells us what not to do and what to do. What are those two things?

What does it mean to “be conformed?”

What does it mean to “be transformed?”

What is it about our thinking that can keep us conformed? (Clue: voices.)

What do we need to do to break free from that and be transformed?

Read Matthew 7:24-27. Which ‘foundation’ material would those being conformed build upon? Which material would those being transformed build upon? (Clue: Rock vs. Sand...what is sand made of?)

Paul said that we needed to renew our minds in order to be transformed. How do we do that?

What is the role of the Word of God in this process? Based on that, what is your plan going forward?

WEEK TWO STUDY: BELIEVE GOD

I SAMUEL 17

In this section will dive deeper into the concept and application of believing God, not just in theory, but in action as the first step of waging war and mattering to His mission.

In battle, there is always a dreaded kill zone. In our text Israel was on one side of a valley while the Philistines occupied the opposite hill. The valley between – the Kill Zone. The battle came to a halt for 40 days. What were the reasons?

What are the kill zones in your gates of life? If you are even tempted to avoid them, why?

Young David shows up on the scene and can't believe what he sees. What did he see and why did it upset him?

Apparently this isn't the first time David had been brash. His oldest brother pulls him aside and tells him to be quiet. Why and what was David's response?

"Is there not a cause?" What cause did David believe was not being well served? What kinds of risk can we assume David believed were worth defending the cause?

What is our cause? What risks are worth taking to defend and advance it?

Reviewing our first teaching, Matter to the Mission, we learned that we have been set free to do God's good in our gates. And we learned that when we step out as Gatekeepers to do God's good, we'll hear, "Who do you think you are?" This is what David heard from his brother. When we hear that, what should be our answer?

King Saul was possibly the tallest man in Israel, and yet he wouldn't take on the giant? Who proved to be the real Gatekeeper of Israel and why? In the gates of your life, are you more like Saul or David?

King Saul was not initially going to allow David to fight for Israel. Who could blame him? Too much was at stake. If Goliath killed David, and all appearances suggested that very ending, Israel would become the slaves of the Philistines. And yet, in the end, Saul relented. What changed his mind? (Note: no wrong or right answer...look at the text and answer based on the clues.)

David believed God based on his track record of faithfulness. And David believed that he was defending God's cause. Read the following scriptures and consider how those truths support David's confidence in God...and how it should do the same for you when facing giants.

Hebrews 13:8 _____
I Peter 1:3-4 _____
John 14:16 _____
Romans 8:11 _____
Romans 8:37-39 _____
I John 4:4 _____
Ephesians 6:11 _____
2 Corinthians 1:20 _____

WEEK THREE STUDY: KILL GIANTS!

David needed to do more than believe God in theory. If he was going to have victory over the giant, he needed to act on that belief.

If a 'giant' is anyone or anything standing between you and God's plan for you, his blessings for you or your relationship with him, name your giants.

What is the purpose for giants? (John 10:10)

We've spent a lot of time making it clear that as Gatekeepers, we are in a war that involves both the physical and spiritual realms. As such, we can't deal effectively with the physical unless we're considering the spiritual. It is the same with our giants. According to Ephesians 6:11-18, who are we really at war with?

What can we expect the giants to try to do? (David's brother. Saul. Goliath.)

How are we to handle ourselves? (I Peter 5:8; I Samuel 17:45b)

With God on our side, how aggressive can we be? (I Samuel 17:48; Philippians 3:12-14)

The 'kill zone' has three components: Over here. Down there. Over there. How was Israel and Saul looking at 'down there' and 'over there' from 'over here?' What did they see/expect would probably happen if they went 'down there?'

How did David look at 'down there' and 'over there?' What made the difference?

When it comes to 'down there' and 'over there,' what is God's plan for the kill zone and what does he have waiting 'over there?' Factor in James 1:2-4.

In the end, David didn't need Saul's armor and Goliath's armor didn't do him any good. David simply used what he was familiar with, what God had given him. According to these scriptures, what has God given us? Do we really need anything else? And...will anything the giants have do them any good against us?

Text	Observations?
2 Corinthians 10:4-5	
Ephesians 6:11-18	
Hebrews 4:12	
2 Corinthians 10:5	

With all of this in mind, is it rational to believe that, though there will be battles, the giants should ever really win? Does anything have any authority over God and his Spirit in us?

What are you going to do about it?