

Man2Man-2

Gatekeepers: The Giant Killer Edition

STUDY GUIDE

Lesson 1: Weaponized Warrior

Welcome to Gatekeepers: The Giant Killer Edition! This second study in the Gatekeepers Series is designed to help you engage the enemy with a power he cannot stand against. In the first series we discovered that each of us is a Gatekeeper, tasked with doing God's good. We learned that if each of us stood in our gates of influence and responsibility, we can make a real difference for God.

But how do we 'stand?' The forces that are against us are formidable, very skilled at taking down those that God would raise up. Those forces stand in our way. They are giants...and they need to be killed by those that believe God. But how?

In this series we will answer that question in two parts. In the first half we'll look at the Weapons of Warfare God has put at our disposal and learn how to wield them for effect. And then in the second half we'll look at four specific gates, drilling deeper into the strategy of how to use what God has given us to stand in them.

God bless you as you dig deeper into this study. And may He open your eyes and heart to reality as he sees it in the power he's given us to conquer it.

Week One: Warriors & War

When we looked at Gatekeepers: Matter to the Mission, the first in this series, we learned an amazing truth: That we have been Set Free to Do God's Good in our Gates. Let's review.

The enemy needs to keep us out of the game, incapable of standing in our gates for God. Read the following verses and determine his strategy for doing this...and what happens if we fall for it.

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:8

Thoughts?

Scripture: Ephesians 6:11

Thoughts?

Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:28

Thoughts?

What is the ultimate mission the enemy is trying to keep us from performing?

Scripture: Matthew 28:19-20

Thoughts:

Scripture: 1 Timothy 1:5

Thoughts:

When it comes to accomplishing this mission in our Gates, Jesus set us free from several things. Take note of from what you have been freed and determine if you're living as if you are:

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)

We've been set free to do God's good in our gates. Set free from sin and condemnation to matter to His mission here on earth, each assigned to specific areas of conquest – our gates of influence and responsibility. This is all in the context of war. But what is the context of the war?

Scripture: 2 Kings 6:8-23

Questions:

1. Syria was at war with Israel. Syria's King was at war with Elisha. But what was the real nature of this war?

2. Make a list of all of the combatants in this story.

3. Apply this to your life in your gates. If you are currently at war or ever have been, make a list of ALL of the combatants.

Scripture: Ephesians 6:12

1. Who is our real enemy?

Week Two: Weapons & Wielding Them

In this section, we'll build upon what we learned last time: That we are warriors engaged in all out thermo-spiritual war against an enemy of massive power. And we're expected to move God's mission forward in that context. The good news is that he hasn't left us to fend for ourselves. He has weaponized us. Let's look at that.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 10:4

1. What are our weapons NOT?

Scripture: Ephesians 6:14-18

1. What are some of the weapons God has given us to use against this enemy?

Could there be other weapons at our disposal? Read the following scriptures, including the scriptures around them for context, and see if you can identify an interesting trend.

1. Exodus 14:16
2. Exodus 17:5
3. Exodus 17:11-12

Now read 1 Timothy 2:8. Consider this text in the light of the Exodus scriptures.

1. Is it the same God?
2. Is it the same action?
3. Could it have the same impact on the spiritual realm?

Now read 2 Timothy 3:5 and reflect: Could our answer to the questions above indicate this text might apply to me? In context, in what group do those that deny God's power while posturing as Godly belong? How does this list inspire you to look deeper into how God has intended for us to interact in his power and impact the spiritual realm in order to kill the giants that are trying to keep you from doing in your gates?

Thought Question: What if?

None of us want to be included on the 2 Timothy 3:5 list. So, let's look deeper. Have we religionized the power out of some of the weapons God has designed for us to wield for effect? Have we religionized activities that God had weaponized? Take some time to make a list of things God has told us to do in Scripture that we may have religionized. And then, ask yourself: What if there is more to that activity or action than we thought. What if we have inadvertently fallen into a form of godliness, but we're denying the power thereof?

List of Possible Weapons We've Religionized:

Week Three: Weaponized Fellowship

In this section, we're going to look at a specific area of our spiritual life that God has designed to be used as a weapon, but we typically have religionized: Fellowship. Connecting.

Apparently, just being present is powerful in the spiritual scheme of things. Let's look at Matthew 18:20 and see how and why.

Jesus said that more than one matters somehow. It more fully engaged him and his presence. In fact, he promised that when we got together, he'd join us. But what does that mean? What does that look like?

To help answer this, make a list of the attributes of Jesus:

Matthew 28:18 _____

Matthew 16:16 _____

Luke 1:76 _____

John 8:58 _____

John 11:25 _____

Revelation 1:8 _____

Colossians 1:16 _____

John 1:1 _____

1 John 1:1 _____

Hebrews 13:20 _____

John 1:9 _____

Matthew 16:18 _____

John 14:6 _____

Ephesians 1:22 _____

Joshua 5:14 _____

Revelation 17:14 _____

Romans 10:12 _____

Revelation 19:16 _____

This by no means an exhaustive list. But by doing this task you should have a taste of who and what Jesus is. Consider this Jesus in the midst of more than one of us. When you add Matthew 18:19, ask yourself, what is Jesus doing in our midst when we gather?

We've religionized, even feminized connecting. Could it be possible that God designed connecting to be weaponized? What is it about Christ's presence in our gathering, in the context of our prayers, that might indicate that this is exactly what God intended?

If Jesus' power is unleashed when we gather, how would that change your view of why we connect?

How would this impact your view of the importance of connecting?

How would this impact your view of attending church, attending small groups, getting together for coffee and more if in fact by the very act of doing this we unleash Jesus on the things we're agreeing together to pray about? Do you see more value in gathering to connect? If so, what are you going to do about it?

Conclusion:

We have been set free to do God's good in our gates. That is how we matter to God's mission. But our task is to stand...in the context of all out spiritual-nuclear war. If we're ever going to do this successfully, mattering to God's mission, then we're going to need to purposefully learn to wield the weapons of warfare he's designed to transcend the natural and spiritual divide. That starts by identifying those weapons, not religionizing them. In this study, we've identified that among many other benefits, fellowship is also a formidable weapon to be wielded against the spiritual forces aligned against us and our God. What if we all knew that? What if we all decided to connect more often for the purpose of unleashing Jesus on the enemy...while we connect at church, over coffee, over the phone and more? Could we perhaps start killing giants?