



Bible Study Questions from the book MISSION POSSIBLE

Introduction

Seek and Find

1. Jesus is our High Priest and He is your husband's role model. The traditional role of a priest was to offer a blessing (Numbers 6), purify the unclean (Leviticus 15), carry the Ark of the Covenant (Joshua 3), and teach the law (Leviticus 10). Jesus came as the fulfillment of the roles of Prophet, Priest and King. According to the book of Romans, Jesus alone does the following: He satisfies God's justice, pacifies God's wrath, and justifies the sinner. Jesus also sanctifies the believer in I Corinthians 1:30. What did Paul have to say in Hebrews 7:22-28? How long will Jesus serve as our priest? For what does Jesus live (see verse 25)? What was sacrificed for us so that we might have eternal representation before God?
2. Jesus came as a man to earth and experienced pain, suffering, and sorrow. He also showed great compassion and empathy for those He served. Read Hebrews 2:17-18. How is Christ able to reach out to your husband and mentor him even if he does not yet know Him intimately? Can you identify qualities in your husband that remind you of Jesus? Do we recognize changes for the better?
3. Without Christ as your Savior, you can possess knowledge and display goodness, but you cannot be "spiritually led". What can wives do in the meantime as we wait for God to work in our husbands? According to Paul, we can pray Ephesians 1:17-19 over our spouse. What does verse 17 say is the key to knowing God? How does that compare to what John says in I John 5:20? Are you convinced that prayer will make a difference in your spouse's life? What did Samuel tell the people in I Samuel 12:23? Do we sin against God when we refuse to pray for our spouse? Why or why not?

How has God spoken to you in your study of the **Introduction**?

Name some practical steps you can take as you journey with God in your marriage.

Write a prayer to God about *hope*.

Chapter 1 – You’ve Embraced Christ – Now What?

Seek and Find

1. Ephesians 6:10 speaks of being “strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.” How does Paul’s exhortation compare with what God spoke to Joshua in Joshua 1:9?
2. Ephesians 6:11-12 says to “...put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” What does verse 12 say about our enemy? Where does the enemy reside? What does Paul say in II Timothy 2:26 about our state of mind and our venerability?
3. In I Samuel 17:37-39 David was blessed and released by King Saul to go fight the giant Goliath. David clothed himself with Saul’s armor, helmet, and coat of mail. What happens when we try to go out “to battle” with **natural** armor as opposed to our God-given armor? What made the difference in David’s approach to his battle with Goliath (vs. 45-47)? What does Paul say about our armor in II Corinthians 6:7?
4. A good soldier keeps his armor in top condition and checks his weapons frequently for flaws, weaknesses and defects. Ephesians 6:13 says to “take up the whole armor of God...” Read Ephesians 6:14-17 and name each piece of armor and identify its function. Which pieces are defensive in nature, and which ones are offensive? Can we be fully protected if we’re missing one piece? Why or why not? According to Hebrews 4:12, what does Paul say about our most important weapon?

5. II Corinthians 10:3-5 teaches that our warfare is spiritual in nature. Natural (or worldly) methods and weapons are not effective. How does this correlate to what Paul addresses in Ephesians 6:12: Remember, your mate is **not** the enemy. How is your obedience to Christ as your “spiritual Commander” effective against the devil’s tactics? What is the outcome when we follow God’s way?

6. What is “faith in action”? In James 2:14, James makes the point that we can *say* we have faith. Hebrews 11:1 says, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”. How does Hebrews 11:1 compare with Romans 8:24-25? What is James’ main point in James 2:17-24? Do you think our part is to help God, or let Him **use us** to bring Him glory?

How has God spoken to you in your study of **Chapter 1**?

Name some practical steps you can take as you journey with God in your marriage.

Write a prayer to God about *waiting & perseverance*.

Chapter 2 - The “Abigail Syndrome”

Seek and Find

1. Numbers 13 and 14 give us an overview of Moses’ command to Joshua and the twelve spies to investigate the land of Canaan, and the subsequent disobedience of the children of Israel in the eyes of the Lord. Caleb has been praised as being virtuous and courageous. Using the passages in Numbers 13:30 and 14:6-9, cite examples that prove that statement. What commendation did the Lord give Caleb in Numbers 14:24?
2. Read I Samuel 25:2-3. How does Nabal’s character and pride contrast with that of Caleb? When King David’s men approached Nabal to seek favor and provision for their troops, how did he respond in verses 10-12? Is there a similarity between this passage and Jesus’ parable in Luke 12:13-21? Abigail “interceded” for Nabal as she went before King David. Verse 25 gives us a clue to Nabal’s reputation. What does Proverbs 14:33 and Proverbs 15:2 say about foolish comments and judgments? How can we guard ourselves against foolish actions?
3. Nabal was told about Abigail’s intervention the morning after his drunken feast (vs. 36-37) Nabal never showed remorse for his actions. God “struck” Nabal and he died (v. 38). Nabal had no reverence for the things of God or His earthly representative (King David). How does that correlate with what Paul tells the Jews in Romans 2:4-9? We know that God is merciful with those who are indifferent and reject Him. What does II Peter 3:9 say regarding God’s promise of redemption?

4. Abigail was generous in her actions by not only covering Nabal's mistakes, but also in her efforts to honor King David and his men. How does Paul exhort us to do the same in Philippians 2:3-4? Grace is a picture of love in action, with no thought of self. How can we serve our husbands and show grace to them when they don't deserve it? How does that bring honor to God in the end?

5. God takes notice of our continual prayers lifted in faith on behalf of our spouse. What does Luke 18:1-8 say about praying in faith? Do you think God gets tired of hearing from us about the same thing over and over? Why or why not? What does Hebrews 11:6 say about God and faith? How does Paul "sum it all up" in I Thessalonians 5:17?

How has God spoken to you in your study of **Chapter 2**?

Name some practical steps you can take as you journey with God in your marriage.

Write a prayer to God about *spiritual unity*.

Chapter 3 - Faith as a Mustard Seed

Seek and Find

1. We may often say we have faith, but do we really display it? Read Luke 7:2-10. What did the centurion do in an act of faith to heal his servant? Did he go and meet with Jesus himself? Why or why not? Did that stop Jesus from granting his request on behalf of his servant? How was the centurion's faith demonstrated and what was Jesus' response (v. 9)
2. When God called Abram to leave Haran and relocate with his family, he did not have a destination revealed to him. Paul says in Hebrews 11:8, "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place where he would *afterward* receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going". Oswald Chambers, in his devotional, *My Utmost for His Highest* says, "Faith never knows where it is being led, but it loves and knows the One Who is leading." God may be leading you to an unknown place in your marriage and in your walk with Him. What does I John 4:18 say about love and fear? How do we know we can trust what God says? What does Hebrews 10:23 say with regards to God's character?
3. Jesus said, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me" (Revelation 3:20). We know that God's Spirit woos us to Himself and that we are "sought after" by God. What is said about our worth to God in Luke 19:10 and Matthew 18:11-13? Compare I Timothy 2:4 and II Peter 3:9 to find out who God promises to save and if anyone is excluded. What does Jesus say in Luke 15:10 about those who know Him as Savior?

4. Psalm 68:6 says, “God sets a solitary one in families”. Believers are to stand in the gap for our unsaved loved ones. Paul and Luke held a Sabbath prayer meeting in Philippi on the banks of a river (Acts 16:14-15). Name the woman who heard the Word of truth. Do you think she had any influence over others in her household? Why or why not? What about the ruler of the synagogue in Acts 18:7-8? Justus lived next door to the synagogue. Do you think he had any influence over Crispus and his decision to follow God? We too can influence others!

How has God spoken to you in your study of **Chapter 3**?

Name some practical steps you can take as you journey with God in your marriage.

Write a prayer to God about *faith*.

Chapter 4 – Painful Reality

Seek and Find

1. Read Jonah 1:1-2. God gave Jonah a mission. Jonah was a prophet from the northern kingdom of Israel. He was a contemporary of Jeroboam II and ministered after the time of Elisha. Nineveh was a wicked place and Jonah was not going to preach there if he could avoid it. But that was not his decision. God intervened and Jonah relented (Jonah 1:4 – 2:10). After Jonah obeyed God and saw the fruit of his labor (Jonah 3), God used a plant, a worm, and the wind to teach Jonah a lesson in compassion (Jonah 4). What does God have to use to get our attention when it comes to your spouse? Do you “run the other way” when God asks you to veer into uncertain territory?
2. Contrast Jonah with the apostle Paul. In Act 16:6-7 Paul and Silas tried to preach in a particular area of Asia. God had shut the door, but opened another in Macedonia. How did Paul and Silas respond to God’s prompting in verses 9-10? What do you think would have been the outcome if Jonah had heeded his call and obeyed God the first time? What do we learn about God and His sovereignty? Do you think God can do whatever it takes to reach your spouse for Him? Why or why not?
3. II Corinthians 12:9 says, “...My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Jesus told us in Matthew 11:29 to “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” What promise does He give us in verse 30? What does David say in Psalm 23:2-3 that leads you to believe that Jesus requires us to rest and be refreshed in order to be useful in His kingdom?

4. When we are tempted to rise up in our flesh and react to a difficult situation without first seeking God's direction, what is the likely outcome? What does Philippians 4:6-7 say about the relationship between prayer and peace? What does peace guard according to verse 7? Where do our emotions and reactions emerge from? What does Peter say in I Peter 3:11? How are we to pursue peace in our households, without causing spiritual upheaval at its expense? Jesus told us in Matthew 5:9 that we are blessed if we are peacemakers. How does Paul address living the peaceful life in Romans 12:18? What is our responsibility? What other Godly characteristic does Paul say we need to have in Hebrews 12:14 in order to pursue peace?

5. When Jesus said we are to "abide in Him...and bear much fruit..." we think of Paul's writing in the fifth chapter of Galatians. Fruit is either green and immature, or it is ripe and appealing. You spouse looks at your orchard every day. What will he see? In Matthew 5:13-16, Jesus likens believers' lives to a city on a hill, which cannot be hidden. What happens when you look out in the distance, to a city in the dark of night? If we are called to be children of light and reflect Christ's glory to others, how can we keep that flame "glowing?"

How has God spoken to you through
Chapter 4?

What practical steps can you take as you
journey with God in your marriage?

Write a prayer to God about *trust* and
faithfulness.

Chapter 5 – Timing is Everything!

Seek and Find

1. Read Ruth 1:2-5. Becoming a widow in biblical times meant hardship for most women. Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem with Ruth, her daughter-in-law. What was the season of the year that the two women returned to Naomi's hometown? (v. 22). Read Ruth 2:1-9. The last sentence in verse 3 says, "And she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech." Do you believe in coincidences, or do you think God possibly orchestrated this "chance" meeting? Read Ruth 2:8-9 and 14-16. How is Boaz's compassion and interest in Ruth portrayed? What was Ruth's response in verse 10? How did Boaz compliment Ruth in vs. 11-12? Boaz became Ruth's kinsman redeemer and married her (Ruth 4:13). We know that Ruth was King David's great-grandmother. Read Matthew 1:5. Who is mentioned in Jesus' genealogy? What does that tell you about God's perfect timing?

2. Read Luke 19:1-10. Jesus knew He would be visiting Jericho on His way to Jerusalem that particular day. Verse 5 tells us that Jesus came to the very place where Zacchaeus was, and looked up. He then said, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house" (v. 5). What does that tell you about God's timing? Did Jesus know that Zacchaeus would be waiting in that sycamore tree for Him to pass by? How are your plans and destiny out of your control and safely in the Hands of God? Zacchaeus' name means "*righteous one*". We know he was a chief tax collector and very wealthy. What does Luke 19:8-10 tell us about Zacchaeus' heart and newly found salvation? What happens when we meet Jesus "face to face" unexpectedly? Jesus called him by name and told him He must stay with him (v. 5). How do we respond when God calls out to us, and invites us to "abide" with Him? Are we quick to answer (v. 6), or do we drag our feet and make excuses?

3. Read Matthew 25:1-13. Jesus told this parable to teach his disciples to be prepared and committed to the things of God. What does verse 10 say about timing? Preparation is important for every kingdom purpose. What could the five foolish virgins have done to prepare themselves for the bridegroom in advance (v. 9)? Would there have been a different outcome if they had made better use of their time while the bridegroom was delayed instead of sleeping? Read Mark 13:35 and Matthew 24:36. What does that tell us about our being ready and God's timing? Does God give us instructions on how to prevent "missing the mark" or sinning? What does Ephesians 5:15-17 say about staying in God's will?

4. James 1:6-8 says we are to ask in faith, without doubting, and to not be "double-minded". Why is it important not to waiver, but to be sure and steadfast? How can we stay faithful while waiting on God? What does Daniel 6:26 say about God's kingdom? How should we act in faith according to Colossians 1:23? What does Isaiah 33:6 say about our stability? How does God's Word provide the groundwork for our foundation? Read Matthew 7:24 to find out how we are to build and why.

How has God spoken to you in your study of **Chapter 5**?

Name some practical steps you can take as you journey with God in your marriage.

Write a prayer to God about *God's perfect timing*.

Chapter 6 – In the Meantime – Serve

Seek and Find

1. Galatians 5:13 says we are to “through love serve one another.” There will be times when you don’t *feel* like serving your spouse, much less talk to him. Remember, your spouse sees you as a representative of Jesus. You are an ambassador of Christ. What advice does Paul give in Ephesians 4:29-32? Is that a hard thing to do given the nature of your relationship, when only one of you is a believer? What does Philippians 4:8 say about our thought life? How can that impact our words and actions? Read verse 13. Where does our strength come from in order to be more like Jesus?
2. When things at home become “heated”, how do you respond to your spouse? How does Paul encourage us to act in Galatians 5:16-17? James says the tongue is a small part of the body, but it can do great damage. How does he characterize it in James 3:8-10? What does Proverbs 21:23 say about our words? Read Proverbs 31:26. What is the key to saying “all the right things?” What does James say about Godly wisdom in James 3:17? How do we obtain that wisdom and claim it as our own?
3. While we are waiting for our miracle, God is using the time to mature us in the things of the Lord. One thing God teaches us is patience as He works out His will in our marriage. James 5:7-8 explains to us that patience is seen in nature as the farmer waits for the seed to grow into mature fruit. Seedtime and harvest are principles that God has set forth in His kingdom and on earth. Patience has rewards. Read James 1:4. What does James say we gain in waiting on God? Does maturity come quickly, or does it take experience and time? How do waiting and trust work together? In Genesis 15:4 God promised Abram an heir from his own body. Abram waited many years for that promise. Read Genesis 16:1-2. How did Sarah *help* God’s plan along? Do you think Abram trusted God and His plan? Why or why not? Do you think it was an easy thing for Abram to wait patiently for the promise? What does Psalm 27:13 say about waiting.

4. God will often use something extraordinary to “test us” and refine us in His furnace of love. Evangelist Stephen Hill wrote in his devotional, *Daily Awakenings* “Do not resent these times of refining. The heat may be intense, but the results will be immense.” Obtaining pure gold or silver is painstakingly slow. Taking a shortcut could result in an inferior metal. What does Malachi 3:3 say about what we can offer the Lord during our process of purification and refinement? When God removes the “dross” of our life, what remains? What did Job have to say about God’s testing in Job 23:10? Our testimony before God is precious as gold. Gold has historically been a symbol of purity and majesty. In Exodus 37 we have the pattern set forth by God for the items that were in the Holy of Holies: the Ark of the Covenant, the Table of Showbread, the Gold Lampstand and the Altar of Incense. Pure gold was used for all of them. In Revelation chapter 21, verse 15 says the angel had a “gold reed” that he used to measure the city, its gates and its wall. What does verse 18 say the city was made of? What does Psalm 19:10 say about God’s words and works? How does the author of Psalm 119:72 describe it?

How has God spoken to you through
Chapter 6?

What practical steps can you take as you
journey with God in your marriage?

Write a prayer to God about *servicing God*
and others.

Chapter 7 – Victory at Last!

Seek and Find

1. In John 20:29 Jesus says, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” Thomas insisted on seeing the Lord himself, when he learned he had missed Jesus’ visitation with the other disciples. Read I Peter 1:8. How does Peter state our reaction to loving Jesus, but not seeing Jesus (in the natural)? What point does Paul make in II Corinthians 4:18? According to Hebrews 11:1, for what have we “hoped for” through Jesus? If salvation is our eternal reward, then what do we do with the saying, “seeing is believing”? Does that contradict what scripture teaches about faith? Why or why not?
2. Another example of believing without seeing is in the book of II Kings. Read II Kings 5:1-12. Naaman was the Captain of the army of Syria, yet he sought out help with his leprosy from the King of Israel. When the prophet Elisha heard of his plight, he asked the King to send him to his house. Naaman then proceeded to Elisha’s house and stood outside expecting a grand reception. Why was Naaman so outraged over Elisha’s instructions? Did he need to see Elisha face to face to receive a miracle from God? What wisdom was shared with Naaman by his servants regarding Elisha’s request in verse 13? How is Naaman’s attitude similar to that of Thomas in the book of John? How did both men glorify God in the midst of their humbling experiences?
3. Read Acts 9:1-8. Why is Saul’s experience with the risen Lord Jesus different than that of Thomas in John 20? Do you think God suddenly and dramatically descended upon Paul in order to get his attention? How would his extensive religious background keep him from “seeing” the truth about Jesus? In verse 5 Saul (Paul) calls out “Who are You Lord?” Saul recognizes Him as “master”, but not as LORD. When Jesus speaks to him, Saul’s reaction is “trembling and astonishment.” In Saul’s case, “seeing is believing.” How did Paul’s experience prepare him for his ministry as one of the New Testament’s greatest contributors? Was his conversion real? How do we know? In I Timothy 1:12-17, Paul shares his own testimony with Timothy about his conversion and ministry. How does he give glory to God for the unseen “intervention” that became so personal to him, on the road to Damascus?

4. As we wait for God's promise to us regarding our marriage, how does He expect us to act? What does Psalm 27:13-14 say about trust, faith, and waiting? Read Romans 5:5. What does Paul say about hope? To what does Paul compare our hope to in Hebrews 6:19? While we wait, we often waiver and lose our stamina to continue in our struggle. What does Isaiah say to us in Isaiah 40 verses 29 and 31? Endurance is key to holding onto the hope as time goes on. Read Isaiah 41:10. What does God promise to do when we are exhausted? Knowing what God's "right hand" represents, how does it make you feel, to know that He upholds us by His strength? Will it ever fail? What did Jesus tell Paul, according to II Corinthians 12:9 about His strength and our weakness? What does Paul say in Philippians 4:13?

How has God spoken to you through
Chapter 7?

What practical steps can you take as you
journey with God in your marriage?

Write a prayer to God about *your belief in God
and who He is.*