



SHOWALTER JOHNSON MINISTRIES

The Kingdom Gate

Study Guide — Reflection & Discussion

FOR PERSONAL STUDY OR YOUR CIRCLE • PROPHETS FOR THE MARKETPLACE

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Standing at the Gate — Now You Decide

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Three questions, chapter by chapter.

A guide for personal study or small-group use, with a set of questions for each chapter of the book — usually three. There are no wrong answers here, only honest ones. Whatever the question, it moves the same way:

I The Idea

Surface the chapter's central truth.

II The Scripture

Press it toward the Word.

III The Life

Bring it home to your own life.

Walk it chapter by chapter — Introduction through Conclusion. Read the passage with the question, and answer the one in front of you before moving on.

A word before you begin: go slowly. These questions are not a test. They are a gate to keep. Write down what is true, even when it is not what sounds right, and let the Word press in before you move on.

— Dr. Showalter Johnson

INTRODUCTION The Familiar Face

- ① The author met an angel that looked like someone he already knew. Have you ever had a moment — a dream, a strong sense, a prayer answered — when the unseen world felt close? What did you do about it?

- ② The book says **you are the gate** — the place where the unseen world crosses into the seen. Does that change how you think about a normal day?

- ③ What were you taught about “entering the kingdom of heaven”? The book says it is a place to live **from** now, not just somewhere you go later. Does that change anything for you?

PART ONE

The Gate



CHAPTER 1 The First Gate

- ① The first gate in the Bible is the one an angel guards east of Eden. It swings both ways — things go out, and things come in. Why does that matter for your own life?

- ② Two men, one gate: Adam walked out, and the rich young ruler would not come in. Which are you closer to right now — walking out, or holding back from going in?

- ③ If the kingdom is a place to live from, not a faraway cloud, how would that change the way you pray “Thy kingdom come”?

CHAPTER 2 The King’s Country

- ① “You are not a tourist in the kingdom. You are a citizen.” Do you usually live like a citizen, or like a stranger at the edge? Why?

- ② “Do not fall in love with the gate. Fall in love with the country.” Where have you loved an experience of God more than God Himself?

- ③ Esau traded his birthright for one bowl of food. When you are tired, hungry, or discouraged, what valuable things are easy to give away too cheap?

CHAPTER 3 What Crouches at the Gate

- ① "Sin does not come as a monster. It comes as something that feels fair." Name one door that felt fair that you have left cracked open.

- ② The enemy cannot grab ground; he has to be **given** a place. It is handed over, not stolen. How does knowing that change what you watch for?

- ③ "Your sin was never only yours. The kingdom feels it." Does knowing your private sin touches more than you change how you treat it?

CHAPTER 4 The Narrow Gate

- ① "God's hand is not shortened. Your gate is." When heaven feels quiet, where do you look first — at God, or at where your own life may be out of line?

- ② The way is narrow because lining up with God is narrow. Name one area where getting back in line with God would open your gate wider.

- ③ 2 Chronicles 7:14 ties healing to seeking God and turning from wrong ways. What would "going to check your gate" look like for you this week?

CHAPTER 5 The Dominion You Carry

- ① Your words shape things, but “you form, you do not create.” Where have you mixed the two up — trying to be the source instead of the channel?

- ② You are always shaping something with your words. What have your words been building lately — for good or for bad?

- ③ The highest thing your words were meant to shape is Christ in you (Galatians 4:19). Does that change what you most want to build?

PART TWO

What Comes Through



CHAPTER 6 Made New Every Morning

- ① “You have been carrying a memory and calling it a fact.” What old weight have you assumed is still on you that may not be there this morning?

- ② God’s mercies are new every morning, and the angels over your life are renewed faster than the sunrise. How does that meet you today?

- ③ The chapter says being made new starts with turning — repentance is stepping under the new thing God is doing. What turn is yours to make?

CHAPTER 7 The King’s Army

- ① “He counted the enemy and forgot to count the army.” Where in your life have you only added up what is against you?

- ② The angel army is **sent for you**, not **commanded by you**. Why does that difference matter, and where are you tempted to blur it?

- ③ Jesus had twelve legions of angels one prayer away, and He chose the cross. What does that teach you about power you could use, but are called to lay down?

CHAPTER 8 The Orders of the Host

- ① Angels always point past themselves to the King, and twice John was stopped from worshipping one. Where can loving the spiritual quietly turn into worshipping it?

- ② "Try the spirits." Knowing the real order is how you spot a fake. How do you test what you sense, or what you are taught?

- ③ Even the highest angel was "created by Him, and for Him." How does that grow your worship of God instead of splitting it?

CHAPTER 9 Angels and the Turning of Nations

- ① Daniel's prayer was held up twenty-one days by a war he could not see. Does that change how you see a prayer of yours that feels unanswered?

- ② "The headline is the shadow. The war is the real thing." How should a believer watch the news differently?

- ③ The chapter warns against turning this into "your side against theirs." How do you keep praying for nations without it turning into politics?

- ④ The chapter calls fallen powers "fired governors" who will not give up land that is not theirs anymore. That land now belongs to God's people. In a hard battle, does it help to know the ground is already yours by right, not by force?

CHAPTER 10 The Fallen Ones

- 1 "The first to leave his place was not an angel. It was a man." How does starting with Adam, instead of the Watchers, change the way you see spiritual conflict?

- 2 The root sin is mixture — forcing together what God kept apart — and "it happens first in the mind." Where do you sense a mixture in you that needs sorting out?

- 3 The wheat and the weeds grow together until harvest. Will you sort yourself out now, on your own, or risk being sorted by force later?

- 4 The children of the kingdom belong by being planted and by loyalty, not by birth. Where have you assumed you belong because of family, church, or name, instead of because you are planted in God?

CHAPTER 11 The Fallen Within

- ① The chapter says: do not start with **who** the nephilim are. Start with **why** they fell. Where else in your life do you ask **who** before you ask **why**?

- ② The name **nephilim** comes from a word that means “to fall,” so the name is a verdict, not a description. Does it change your fear to see a fallen power as something already sentenced, not a monster?

- ③ The most dangerous shift is from “I have a problem” to “I am the problem.” Where has a struggle moved from your hands into your name? What would it look like to answer it the way Caleb did — by going up?

CHAPTER 12 Greeks, Giants, and Gibborim

- ① The Greek eye asks “what does it look like?” The Hebrew eye asks “what does it do?” Where have you judged the unseen world by how big or scary it looks, instead of by what it does?

- ② David’s mighty men and the fallen giants share one word — **gibborim** — but not one nature. The same God-given strength can serve the King or serve the fall. What does that mean for the gifts in your hands?

- ③ Different troubles wear different names, but the chapter says they share one root. What is the root under the thing you keep fighting? What would it look like to name the root, not just the surface?

CHAPTER 13 Why the Mighty Fall

- ① The chapter says the mighty fall in their strength, not their weakness — “when he was strong.” Where might your own strength be telling you that a rule no longer applies to you?

- ② Saul had driven the mediums out of the land, then went to one himself at Endor. He crossed the very gate he was set to guard. Where do you see that danger — in a leader you have watched, or in yourself?

- ③ Saul fell and would not turn back; David fell and did — and that was the whole difference. Is there a gate you crossed that you need to come back through? What would real repentance, not just regret, look like this week?

CHAPTER 14 The Book Outside the Book

- ① The book that feels like the oldest secret — the one that named the Watchers and Azazel — is actually the **younger** one. It borrowed a shape the Greeks had already used. Where have you trusted an idea just because it felt ancient and hidden?

- ② That outside book calls demons the spirits of the dead. But in Hebrew, the dead do not wander. What is on patrol is the enemy — and the eyes of the LORD are on patrol right beside him (Job 1:7; 2 Chronicles 16:9). Two patrols walk the same ground, and one of them is God, guarding you. How does that change your fear?

- ③ The chapter gives you one simple test: when something comes dressed as an ancient secret, do not ask what it looks like — ask what it does. Where could you use that question this week?

CHAPTER 15 The Gate Your Fathers Left Open

- 1 The chapter draws a hard line between guilt and a **bend**. You do not inherit your father's guilt, but a weakness can pass down the family line. Why does that set you free instead of condemning you?

- 2 Five signs say a trouble may be older than you: it repeats in ways you never learned, it resists every effort, it flares up at big moments, it stays on one theme, and the reaction is too big for the moment. Which of these have you seen in your own life or family?

- 3 God built His own Son's family line through four broken women, choosing "the mended line over the line that never fell." How does that change the way you see the most broken part of your family's story?

CHAPTER 16 The Keys of the Kingdom

- ① Three keys are placed in your hand: binding, loosing, and knowledge. Three the King keeps: David, death, and hell. Why is it a **mercy** that you do not hold the keys of death and hell?

- ② "An ambassador's keys, not a magician's." How do you keep your authority under the King, held by covenant, instead of using it like a power of your own?

- ③ The keys are for taking care of the ground you were given, not for "shouting at demons." What does faithfully keeping your own gate look like this week?

- ④ The King's court has five levels, and you stand differently at each one. Take one thing you are praying about right now. Which level does it belong to, and how would knowing that change the way you pray?

CHAPTER 17 The Head Gate

- ① The Bible says, “seek first the kingdom.” The chapter shows that **first** means the head gate — the gate that rules every other gate. Where have you been working at smaller gates — money, the enemy, prayer — while leaving the head gate unsought?

- ② The head gate swings two ways: heaven comes in, and your prayer goes out, and the King rules both. Does it change your praying to see it not as words thrown at the ceiling, but as a case that **travels up** into the court above?

- ③ The chapter warns against forcing a gate before its time. Where have you been pushing on a door the King has not opened yet? What would it look like this week to keep watch instead of forcing it?

CHAPTER 18

Keep the Gate of Your Heart

- 1 Most people cannot watch their own gate, because they “see a mirror instead of the truth.” When have you trusted someone or something mostly because it reflected your own hurt back to you?

- ② Jesus ties a pure, unmixed heart to clear sight: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Where do you sense God and self still mixed together in the way you see things?

- 3 The keeper's round has four moves: watch, discern, decide, keep. Which of the four is hardest for you? What would walking that round tomorrow morning look like?

CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION Standing at the Gate

- ① The book names two ditches — fear and pride. Which one are you more likely to fall into, and how does the book guard you against it?

- ② “The hidden battle at your door and the battle over the nations are one battle, under one throne.” How does it change you to know your small, quiet life matters that much?

- ③ “The angel still keeps the gate. But now, so do you.” Name the one gate — in your home, your mind, or your city — that you will start to keep on purpose.



The angel still keeps the gate.
Now, so do you.



You have walked it once, from the Familiar
Face to Standing at the Gate. Keep it now —
and do not keep it alone.

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