

- I. ONE THING—The One Thing that I'd like to take away from today's class and believe God to accomplish in my life is:

II. MEDITATION

B. Review your class notes from Tuesday.

- Take some time to think about the main ideas of the lesson. If you want to add details to your notes, you'll find the audio message on our website under the Resources tab. ([www.DivineDesignDiscipleship.com](http://www.DivineDesignDiscipleship.com)).
- Which of the scriptures referenced were particularly meaningful to you? Write out those verses below and spend some time studying them this week.

C. Rewrite your One Thing into a prayer, expressing your heart's desire for God to make this truth become your experience.

### III. PRINCIPLES

Use the principles found in these Scriptures to help you understand the concept of Living Hope:

#### A. WHAT IS HOPE?

- This series title comes from 1 Pt 1:3-4 NIV-- Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope
- Because Jesus rose from the dead we get to go to heaven when we die. Hallelujah!
- But what about hope for today, while you are living in this earthly body?
- Lots of believers are resigned to the idea that, because we live in a fallen world, life stinks and then you die.
- The Bible offers us Living Hope that includes our life on this planet:
  - Jn 10:10 NLT-- The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.
  - Eph 1:3 Phillips--Praise be to God for giving us through Christ every possible spiritual benefit as citizens of Heaven!
  - Rom 15:13 AMP-- May the God of your hope so fill you with all joy and peace in believing [through the experience of your faith] that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound *and* be overflowing (bubbling over) with hope.
- Hope, defined (Strong's):
  - Hebrew (*tiqvah*)--literally a cord (as an attachment); expectancy, thing that I long for: Lam 3:24 NLT--I say to myself, "The Lord is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!"
  - Hebrew (*yachal*)--a primitive root; to wait or be patient; stay, tarry, trust: Ps 130:5 NLT—I am counting on the Lord; yes, I am counting on Him. I have put my hope in His word.
  - Greek (*elpis*)--confidence; expectation of good: Rom 15:4—Things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled.
- Hope synonyms: expectation, anticipation, trust, wish, confidence, desired outcome
- Hope antonyms: disbelief, distrust, doubt, fear, despair, discouragement
- One commentator suggests this: "Hope feels and faith sees."
- Ex: My friend lost touch with hope. Here's the way she described it:
  - It's too hard to hope any more. It hurts too much.
  - There's been no movement—it's taking too long.
  - It's so painful to wait while others have their prayers answered.
  - I find myself begging God to do something.
  - The promises He's given seem almost like a mockery now.
  - I don't want to pray about this anymore. I'm just so weary.
  - My trust in God is wavering. Distrust is festering.
  - I'm tempted to settle for less. I'm afraid God's not going to come through.
- All of us have entertained similar thoughts and feelings—we don't *feel* hopeful.
- Living Hope feels, it expects, it anticipates that something good is coming even if uncertain exactly what.

Insights:

## B. WHERE IS HOPE?

- During Jeremiah's lifetime the people of God were living under judgment. He is God's spokesman to both those Jews in exile and the remnant left in their homeland.
- Jeremiah describes how God's people felt as if God was not for them but against them in Lamentations 3:1-17 (selected):
  - God has turned His hand against me
  - He has besieged me with bitterness
  - He has made my chain heavy
  - He has shut out my prayer
  - He has set me up as a target for His arrows
  - He taunts and humiliates me
  - He has taken away my peace
  - My strength and hope have perished from the Lord
- Lam 3:18 TV—"Failed," I say to myself. "My hope fails in the face of what the (Lord) has done."
- Their hope had failed because their worship was off. Their hope was in the wrong things.
- What we treasure can be measured by what we pursue, prioritize, ponder, praise and prize. In other words, this is what we worship and where we place our hope.
- LISTENING EXERCISE: *What are you pursuing and prizing that is hindering your experience of the Living Hope God offers?*

- "It was good for Jeremiah's soul to sink, to find its bottom point so that he could build on the right foundation." (Chuck Guzik)
- The basis of true Living Hope is God's unchanging character:
  - Lam 3:21-24 NLT-- Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each morning. I say to myself, "The Lord is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in Him!"
  - Heb 6:18-19 NLT-- So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary.

### Insights:

### C. HOW IS HOPE FOUND?

- God sends His word through Jeremiah to help His people experience Living Hope: Jer 29:11-14 NLT— For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. <sup>12</sup> In those days when you pray, I will listen. <sup>13</sup> If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. <sup>14</sup> I will be found by you,” says the Lord. “I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and will bring you home again to your own land.”
- *What are the characteristics of Living Hope we see in this passage?*
- *What do we need to do to get in on God’s plans?*
- God is calling His people to reconnect with Him. He wants their whole hearts.
- Hope is found in relationship:
  - a. Connection with God
    - Reflect on the relationship that God offers to us and find hope:
      - God’s covenant love is perfect and we can never lose it! Jer 31:3 NIV-- The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.
      - The Lord wants to partner with us in life: Jer 33:3-- ‘Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.’
      - Jesus reminds us to be intentional about staying connected in that bond of love: Jn 15:9— As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.
    - Use the handout “Tools & Techniques: Remember the Deeds of the Lord” to help you think of times when God has come through in the past. Add to it often and let it encourage you that you’ll see His goodness again!
  - b. Community of Believers
    - We find synergy for Living Hope in the Body of Christ:
      - 1Thes 5:11 MSG-- Speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you’ll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind. I know you’re already doing this; just keep on doing it.
      - Heb 10:23-25-- Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.
    - We can receive hope by taking the testimony of others as hope for our own situation:
      - Jn 4:39-- And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all that I *ever* did.”
      - Acts 1:8 NLT-- But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere
      - Heb 13:8-- Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever.

#### Insights: