

- 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).
- 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 these principles to help you understand and grow in Living Hope:

A. ESSENCE OF DREAMS (Review)

B. ESSENTIALS FOR DREAMERS

- Here are 4 of the key mindsets that enable us to discern and enter into God's dreams and purposes for our lives:
 1. Living by Vision
 - Vision is the ability to see with eyes of faith the plan, presence, and power of God in spite of circumstances: Heb 11:1 AMP-- Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see *and* the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].
 - In the Hebrew, the root word for vision means, "to see, perceive, look, behold." It refers to divine communication or revelation. (Strong's)
 - God's primary means of communicating to us and building our faith is His Word: Rom 10:17-- Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
 - Our God-given dreams sprout up and are confirmed as we sow seeds of Scripture into our hearts: Is 55:11--So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.
 - As you spend time in God's presence and in His word, pray for the HS to open the "eyes of your heart" so that you may receive wisdom, revelation and Living Hope: Eph 1:17-19 TV--Father of Glory: *I call out to You on behalf of Your people.* Give them minds ready to receive wisdom and revelation so they will truly know You. Open the eyes of their hearts, *and let the light of Your truth flood in.* Shine Your light on the hope You are calling them to embrace. Reveal to them the glorious riches You are preparing as their inheritance. Let them see the full extent of Your power that is at work in those of us who believe, and may it be done according to Your might and power.
 - Biblical Ex: Of all the children of Israel, only Joshua and Caleb lived by vision:
 - God promised Canaan as an inheritance to His people: Ex 3:8— I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey
 - After delivering them from Egypt, He had them camp at the border of Canaan, with a good view of the Promised Land: Num 13:25-26 NLT-- After exploring the land for forty days, the men returned to Moses, Aaron, and the whole community of Israel at Kadesh in the wilderness of Paran.
 - Everyone saw that God spoke truly when he said the land was rich—no faith required: Num 13:26-27 NLT-- They reported to the whole community what they had seen and showed them the fruit they had taken from the land. This was their report to Moses: "We entered the land you sent us to explore, and it is indeed a bountiful country—a land flowing with milk and honey. Here is the kind of fruit it produces.

- However, seeing the obstacles to receiving God’s promise, the majority lived by sight instead of by faith in the vision they’d been given: Num 13: 28 NLT-- But the people living there are powerful, and their towns are large and fortified. We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak!
- Joshua and Caleb were visionaries. They could see the victory by looking at God and His promise: Num 14:6-8 NLT-- Two of the men who had explored the land, Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, tore their clothing. They said to all the people of Israel, “The land we traveled through and explored is a wonderful land! And if the Lord is pleased with us, he will bring us safely into that land and give it to us.
- The crowd looked at the problem instead of the promise. They were afraid and not willing to risk living by vision: Num 14:10 NLT --But the whole community began to talk about stoning Joshua and Caleb.
- Remember that God is pleased by our faith. He rewarded Joshua and Caleb for theirs and he will reward ours as well!
 - Num 14:30 NLT-- You will not enter and occupy the land I swore to give you. The only exceptions will be Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.
 - Heb 11:6 NLT-- And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

Insights:

2. Living with a Kingdom Mindset

- God’s Kingdom impacts our world, but it is of the spiritual realm. God’s plans and dreams impact us spiritually:
 - Luke 17:21— The Kingdom of God is within you.
 - Rom 14:17 TV— *When God reigns, the order of the day is* redeeming justice, true peace, and joy made possible by the Holy Spirit.
- We must learn to think and act as the King’s child for our dreams to be fully realized: Rom 5:17 Phillips-- Jesus Christ, men by their acceptance of his more than sufficient grace and righteousness, should live all their lives like kings!
- God-initiated dreams have a Kingdom agenda. They are for you and they enrich your life, but their impact extends beyond you.
- God is sovereign, ruling over every detail of our lives and dreams: Ps 103:19-- The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His sovereignty rules over all.

- In God's Kingdom, what He says goes! Because of His power, we don't have to fear voicing our God-given dreams: 1 Cor 4:20 NLT--For the Kingdom of God is not just a lot of talk; it is living by God's power.
- Joshua and Caleb knew the promise and power of God our King and didn't mind saying so: Num 14:9--Do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us.
- Every one of God's Spiritual Blessings can become a dream come true for us!

Insights:

3. Living with Single-Hearted Devotion

- Because Jesus paid to redeem our lives, He has authority over them: 1 Cor 6:20
MSG-- Didn't you realize that your body is a sacred place, the place of the Holy Spirit? Don't you see that you can't live however you please, squandering what God paid such a high price for?
- Instead of holding back, let's live "all-in," cultivating lives of worship and surrender: Heb 12:28 TPT-- Since we are receiving our rights to an unshakeable kingdom we should be extremely thankful and offer God the purest worship that delights his heart as we lay down our lives in absolute surrender, filled with awe.
- Being single-hearted is not something we can attain on our own. We need to ask God to give us this attitude as we live surrendered lives before Him: Ps 86:11 TV-- Guide me along Your path so that I will live in Your truth. Unite my divided heart so that I will fear Your great name.
- With experience, we discover how trustworthy God is! We grow in our ability to trust Him with our lives: Pr 9:10-- The fear of the Lord *is* the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One *is* understanding.
- Initially, it is hard to give up total control to God. Once you try it, His goodness will change your taste buds! : Ps 34:8-- Oh, taste and see that the Lord *is* good; blessed *is* the man *who* trusts in Him!
- Once again, Caleb is our example. He followed the Lord with a whole heart, even after spending 40 years in the wilderness: Josh 14:7-9 NLT-- I was forty years old when Moses, the servant of the Lord, sent me from Kadesh-barnea to explore the land of Canaan. I returned and gave an honest report, but my brothers who went with me frightened the people from entering the Promised Land. For my part, I wholeheartedly followed the Lord my God. So that day Moses solemnly promised me, 'The land of Canaan on which you were just walking will be your grant of land and that of your descendants forever, because you wholeheartedly followed the Lord my God.'
- Every moment and in every decision, we have the choice to put Him first or not: Mt 6:33-- Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

- LISTENING EXERCISE: *Think about your priorities for a few moments. Who or what do you give first place to in your life?* _____

Insights:

4. Living Differently

- Cultivate community with Kingdom-minded people who are also pursuing God's dreams for their lives: Pr 13:20 AMP-- He who walks [as a companion] with wise men will be wise, But the companions of [conceited, dull-witted] fools [are fools themselves and] will experience harm.
- Example: Sharks will only grow as large as their environment allows. Aquarium-dwelling sharks are only inches long, whereas they grow to many feet in the ocean.
- People bound by traditionalism and religious spirits probably won't understand your Living Hope and dreams: Mark 7:6-8 NIV-- "These people honor me by what they say. But their hearts are far away from me. Their worship doesn't mean anything to me. They teach nothing but human rules. You have let go of God's commands. And you are holding on to teachings that people have made up."
- Jaroslav Pelikan said, "Tradition is the living faith of the dead. Traditionalism is the dead faith of the living."
- Resisting or fearing change can blur our vision and hinder us from God's dreams: Lk 5:38-39 NLT-- New wine must be stored in new wineskins. But no one who drinks the old wine seems to want the new wine. 'The old is just fine,' they say."
- You have the Spirit of God living within you. Do not quench His plans for you by trying to fit in with the culture around you (religious or worldly): Rom 12:2 NLT-- Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.
- God specifically singled out Caleb as a man who was willing to be different: Num 14:24-- Because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it.

Insights:

C. GROW IN LIVING HOPE by applying the principles we have previously learned:

- If you desire, create a Vision Statement for this year (or for any specific area). The handout "Tools & Techniques, Living By Vision" will guide you through the process.
- Use the Promise Pages provided to make a list of your God-given dreams. Add the verses that apply to each one. Pray them back to God to keep your hope strong.

- Mediate on these verses that illustrate how we can choose to be Prisoners of Hope:
 - Rev 3:20 TPT-- Behold, I'm standing at the door, knocking. If your heart is open to hear my voice and you open the door *within*, I will come in to you and feast with you, and you will feast with me.
 - Ps 37:3-7 TV-- Live in the land *He provides; roam*, and rest in God's faithfulness.⁴Take great joy in the (Lord)! His gifts are coming, and they are all your heart desires! ⁵Commit your path to the (Lord); *let Him direct you*. Put your confidence in Him, and He will follow through *with you*. ⁶He will spread out righteousness for you as a sunrise *spreads radiance over the land*; He will deliver justice for you into the light of the high sun. ⁷Be still. Be patient. Expect the (Lord) to arrive *and set things right*.
- Use your emotions as an indicator of where God can offer Living Hope. Bring your feelings to God in prayer in your over-reactions, numbness, or hardness of heart.
- Embrace the Limp when you are dealing with an area of weakness or wounding. Call on your Abba Father as a beloved little child. Allow your trustworthy, like-minded friends to support and speak into these areas. Offer your strength to them where you are mature.
- If you have not done so, take the assessment on Emotionally Healthy Spirituality. Use the results to pinpoint areas of growth in your relationship with God and others.
- Be alert for any Negativity Bias (focus problem) or Confirmation Bias (belief problem). Ask for hope (an expectation of good) where you're struggling.
- Keep asking: *What am I pursuing and prizing that indicate that my worship is off?*
- "Remember the Deeds of the Lord" and be encouraged by His faithfulness.
- Bring glory to God and grow in hope and faith by giving more weight to what He says than to your emotions, evidence, and errors. The resistance will make you stronger!
- Review regularly the benefits of being "In Christ" and having Christ is in you:
 - Surety—We can have confidence in God's unchanging character.
 - Purity—Our salvation is sure and our record is spotless because of Jesus.
 - Security—The Lord's acceptance, love, and worth for us is unconditional.
 - Maturity—We grow in Christ as we abide, repent, wait and watch for His word to be fulfilled.
 - Authority—In Christ we have authority to overcome the flesh, the world, and the enemy.
- The Scripture verses on the handout "Tools & Techniques: God Makes Things Right" offer comfort and hope when you have been wronged.
- Invite the Spirit to speak through His word and breathe His life-giving power where you have been lifeless and dry. Believe that those Dry Bones can dance again!
- For helpful hints about hearing God's word and allowing the Spirit to apply it to your life, refer to the handout "Tools & Techniques: Listening to God."
- Explore what Forgiveness is and is not using the handout "Tools & Techniques: Understanding Forgiveness."
- Discover gaps in your belief system that may be responsible for some of your Dry Bones areas. Use the handout "Tools & Techniques: Hope of Glory Applications" to help you renew your mind and begin the transformation process.
- Yield to the Spirit's transforming power each day. Thank God that it's not all on you.
- Be sure to journal your prayers and God's answers. Come back ready to share!