

- 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 prompts and suggestions to help you identify Dry Bones places that need to be processed with the Lord. Choose one issue to bring to your prayer time today:

A. IT'S RAINING

- Today we sing the song “Healing Rain” by Michael W. Smith. It’s lyrics encourage us to seek God’s healing for our broken places and believe Him for His answers and provision: Ps 147:1-11-- Praise the Lord! For *it is* good to sing praises to our God; for *it is* pleasant, *and* praise is beautiful. ² The Lord builds up Jerusalem; He gathers together the outcasts of Israel. ³ He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. ⁴ He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name. ⁵ Great *is* our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding *is* infinite. ⁶ The Lord lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked down to the ground. ⁷ Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; sing praises on the harp to our God, ⁸ Who covers the heavens with clouds, Who prepares rain for the earth, Who makes grass to grow on the mountains. ⁹ He gives to the beast its food, *and* to the young ravens that cry. ¹⁰ He does not delight in the strength of the horse; He takes no pleasure in the legs of a man. ¹¹ The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy.
- Last week we studied how Zechariah spoke prophetic words to God’s people about restoration. The principles from Chapter 9 about being Prisoners of Hope include:
 1. Rejoicing in Hope—We praise God in the midst of our troubles because He is worthy of our praise and the byproduct is joy!
 2. Releasing Prisoners—God has forgiven us. Failing to forgive others holds us prisoner and blocks the flow of God’s love and power.
 3. Residing in Hope—We’re safe as we abide in God’s presence. He’s our stronghold.
 4. Resting in the Promise—As fellow heirs with Christ, every spiritual blessing is ours. We have the hope of heaven, but Living Hope for all the days of this life as well.
- The next chapter begins with a very important principle that will bring Living Hope to our prayer lives: Zech 10:1-- Ask the Lord for rain in the season of the late spring rains—the Lord who causes thunderstorms—and he will give everyone showers of rain and green growth in the field.
- God is telling us to pray for rain in the time of rain! Why?
- God created nature and His people to have seasons of growth and fruit bearing: John 15:16-- You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and I have appointed *and* placed *and* purposefully planted you, so that you would go and bear fruit *and* keep on bearing, and that your fruit will remain *and* be lasting, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name [as My representative] He may give to you.
- We have a Living Hope for our dry places as we pay attention to how God is at work in the present season. Our expectation of His goodness grows as we see what He’s up to!
- Whether it is a time of planting, growth, weeding, harvest, or mending fences, we want to join the Lord’s work in our lives.
- When we recognize that it’s time for rain, for example, let’s partner with Him in prayer.
- There’s nothing like answered prayer to bring even greater hope (expectation of good) and to deepen our trust relationship with the Lord!
- Jesus sets an example of prayer alone with God plus an active prayer ministry to others.
- Scripture exhorts us to pray together: Mt 18:19 MSG-- When two of you get together on anything at all on earth and make a prayer of it, my Father in heaven goes into action. And when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I’ll be there.”

B. LOGISTICS

- At the conclusion of praise, your leader will go to her room. You should have an assigned time to go in for prayer. Ask your small group leader if you are unsure of the timing.
- Everyone remaining in the room is asked to please observe a discipline of silence.
- Enjoy the meditation time. Use the suggestions below to help you connect with the Lord.
- When you are finished with your prayer time, please quietly slip back into the main meeting room to journal about your prayer time. Record your prayers, insights, and breakthroughs while they are fresh on your mind.

C. MEDITATION IDEAS

This is your time. Look over the ideas listed below. Choose the options that fit your need best. Or feel free to use this quiet time in another way that blesses you more.

1. Review any notes or journaling you've made on the issue you are bringing to prayer. Previous handouts from the Living Hope series may be helpful to review as well.

2. Work on the new materials from today:
 - a. Review the Healing Rain principles from the teaching.

 - b. 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.

 - c. Explore what Forgiveness is and is not using the handout "Tools & Techniques: Understanding Forgiveness."
 - Ask God if there is someone you need to forgive. If so, write down their names. Specifically name what you are forgiving them for. Ask the Lord if you aren't sure.
 - Are you the one that you need to forgive?
 - Is there anyone that you need to ask to forgive you? If so, ask the Holy Spirit to make it clear if this can be handled between you and Him or if you need to have a conversation with the other person.

 - d. Surrender and Lordship are topics we've talked about in class. In order to experience Living Hope in our issues, we must give God full access and control. In prayer, ask God to show you anything that you are holding back from Him. Write it down. Will you make the choice to give it to God today?

 - e. Meditate on the worship songs that are playing. Close your eyes and soak in the music. Join the worship happening in heaven right now as your heart comes into agreement with the lyrics. Record anything the Lord reveals.

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

- 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."
- Stop speaking death over your situation and start declaring Living Hope from God's Word over it. Ask Him to draw your attention to a promise from His word He wants to apply specifically to your issue. Add it to your Promise Page!
- Yield to the Spirit's transforming power each day. Thank God that it's not all on you.
- Stay in touch with your leader and your small group over the holiday break. Use the time away from class to review and practice the principles we've studied so far.
- Be sure to journal your prayers and God's answers. Come back ready to share!