

- 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

A. Review your class notes from Tuesday.

- Take some time to think about the main ideas of the lesson. 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.

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

III. SING

Singing is helpful in connecting emotionally to the truth.

Listen to the songs from this week's playlist to aid you in taking today's principles from your head to your heart.

This playlist and our master playlist for the Expectations series can be found on our Divine Design Discipleship YouTube channel. (Be sure to subscribe to our channel!) Our 2020 playlist is also available on Spotify. See the handout provided with your notebook for instructions on how to access these resources.

#### IV. PRINCIPLES

These principles will help you recognize and develop biblical expectations:

##### A. WHERE IS GOD?

- There are times when we all wonder where God is, especially in seasons of uncertainty and discouragement.
- Though we desire to turn to Him, we may not be sure how to find Him.
- We may even wonder, “What good is Jesus if I can’t get in touch with Him?”
- This was likely the case with the disciples after the crucifixion. They had heard the words of Jesus many times, but they really weren’t sure what to expect anymore.
- They were most likely disappointed because they were expecting something different—establishing an earthly kingdom and delivering them from the Romans.
- In the seeming absence of Jesus, they turned back to what was familiar.
- It’s possible they were calling it quits in regard to following Jesus. It may simply have been an economic necessity and/or the desire for diversion in a difficult season.
- They were unclear in their expectations of the Lord and what was next for them. However, someone in that group of 7 must have remembered the last thing He said.
- Earlier, Jesus told them to return to Galilee. (Mt 28:7) That’s where they went fishing: Jn 21:3-14-- Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We are going with you also.” They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing. <sup>4</sup> But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Children, have you any food?” They answered Him, “No.”<sup>6</sup> And He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find *some*.” So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.<sup>7</sup> Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on *his* outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea. <sup>8</sup> But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish. <sup>9</sup> Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish which you have just caught.”<sup>11</sup> Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken. <sup>12</sup> Jesus said to them, “Come *and* eat breakfast.” Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, “Who are You?”—knowing that it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish. <sup>14</sup> This *is* now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.
- In a simple act of obedience, these disciples put themselves in a position for Jesus to reveal Himself to them:
  - Jn 14:21 AMP-- The person who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who [really] loves Me; and whoever [really] loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and reveal Myself to him [I will make Myself real to him].”
  - Jn 21:1 AMP-- After this, Jesus let Himself be seen *and* revealed [Himself] again to the disciples, at the Sea of Tiberias.
- In the times when we don’t recognize Him, the Lord is always with us. He reveals Himself to us in unexpected and supernatural ways!
- For these confused and hurting disciples, Jesus showed up and ministered to them. He will do that for us, too!

- LISTENING EXERCISE: *Have you experienced a time when you were not able to see or feel Jesus? Are you currently wondering where He is in your situation?*
- Insights:

## B. WRITTEN WORD

- When our expectations are uncertain and we want to see Jesus, the Bible provides us with a solid foundation for beholding Him as He really is.
- If only the disciples had remembered what they'd learned from Scripture or the teachings of Jesus, they may have experienced their hard times differently.
- We can go to just about any place in the Old or New Testament to renew our expectations of Jesus because He is woven through every page of our Bibles: Luke 24:27 EXB-- Starting with what Moses and all the prophets [a way of referring to the whole Old Testament] had said about him, Jesus began to explain everything that had been written about himself in [all] the Scriptures.
- Refer to the handout "Tools & Techniques: Seeing Jesus" to help you identify how each book in the Old and New Testaments reveals Christ.
- As we look at Jesus and the Gospel message in the pages of Scripture, we are able to reset our expectations about what love looks like at the most fundamental level.
- We can see the way God interacts with people and expresses His nature through His written word. This helps us set biblical expectations: Rom 15:4 MSG-- Even if it was written in Scripture long ago, you can be sure it's written for *us*. God wants the combination of his steady, constant calling and warm, personal counsel in Scripture to come to characterize *us*, keeping us alert for whatever he will do next.
- Revelation is the Spirit's work, taking the written word and making it real to us.
- The stories, principles and promises found in God's Word are meant to give us a glimpse of His heart and to foster our relationship with Him.
- The Old Testament contains many promises that God is always present with His people. (Deut 31:6, Josh 1:9, Ps 46:7, Is 41:10, Zeph 3:17). The disciples were clearly not expecting that to be their experience.
- They were not able to recognize Jesus on this and several others occasions after the resurrection. Jesus provides an explanation: Luke 24:25 NLT-- Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe.

- It's hard to believe when we have no concrete evidence: 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].
- Our believing work happens as we seek to develop a Relational approach to faith.
- Insights:

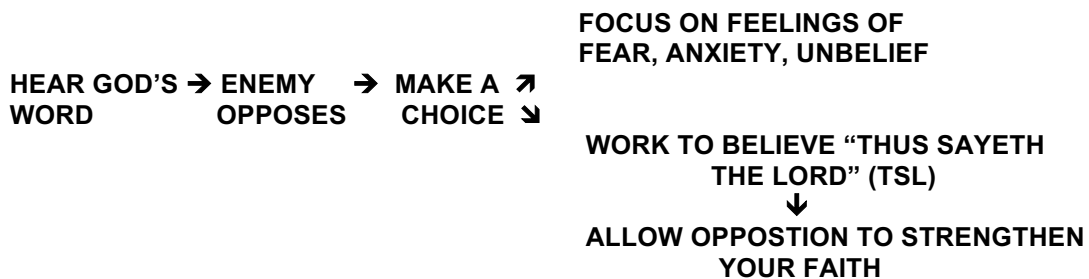
### C. FELLOWSHIP

- God tells us what's true about Himself through Scriptures. However, there is another element needed to actually experience revelation – Fellowship.
- Fellowship = communion, intimacy, joint participation; Christians are partakers in common of the same mind as God and Christ, and of the blessings arising therefrom (Thayer's)
- Revelation = Christ giving evidence by the action of the Holy Spirit on the soul; to show oneself, come to view, appear, be manifest (Strong's G1718)
- Only John, who referred to himself as "the disciple that Jesus loved," was able to recognize Him. He had listened relationally to His words and knew Him well.
- Jesus is revealed to those who pursue relationship with Him. The other 6 disciples truly saw and recognized Jesus only when they sat down to eat with Him. (v.12)
- It's in intentional, relational time with the Lord that revelation is most likely to come:
  - Pr 8:17--I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently will find me.
  - 1 Jn 1:3 MSG--We saw it, we heard it, and now we're telling you so you can experience it along with us, this experience of communion with the Father and his Son, Jesus Christ. Our motive for writing is simply this: We want you to enjoy this, too.
- Throughout the ages, God has let it be known that He desires fellowship with those who are hungry for His word and for heart connection with Him:
  - Deut 6:6 MSG-- Write these commandments that I've given you today on your hearts. Get them inside of you
  - Jer 15:16-- Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts.
  - Ezek 3:3 NIV-- Then he said to me, "Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it." So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth.
- We have the promise that when we eat of God's words, we can expect satisfaction:
  - Mt 5:6 AMP--Blessed [joyful, nourished by God's goodness] are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness [those who actively seek right standing with God], for they will be [completely] satisfied.
  - Ps 81:10 NLT--For it was I, the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it with good things.
  - Ps 107:9--He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness.

- Our experience of confusion and disappointment can be different when we renew our expectations about seeing Jesus.
- Let's learn to process God's words differently than the disciples. They were unable to benefit from Jesus' word to "Go to the other side" or the promise of His presence: Jn 14:18-19--"I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me.
- Here are 3 practical suggestions for enhancing your fellowship with the Lord:
  1. Practice the Presence of God
    - Jesus is our model for seeking God moment-to-moment in life: Jn 5:19 NLT--Jesus explained, "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does.
    - "'I (Brother Lawrence) began to live as if there were no one save God and me in the world.' Together, God and Brother Lawrence cooked meals, ran errands, scrubbed pots, and endured the scorn of the world." (*Christianity Today International*)
    - This practice will build your relationship with the Lord and increase your expectancy around His revelation: James 4:8—Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.
  2. Expect Revelation
    - To give you a biblically sound expectation on how God reveals Himself to His people, study the handout "Tools & Techniques: Listening to God.
    - Thank God for His promise and work to believe it: Jer 29:13-- You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.
    - Ask for and expect the Holy Spirit to apply God's word to your specific situation: Jn 16:13-14—When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth...He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.
  3. Meditate on His Words
    - Meditation will help us to internalize God's Word and to practice it: Josh 1:8 NLT-- Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.
    - The Hebrew word for meditation is *hagah*. It means to ponder, imagine, mutter, groan, sigh, sing, remember, or to mutter an inarticulate sound. (Strong's H1897)
    - Take the words that describe meditation and use them to digest portions of the written word until they become "yours." Principle + Meditation = Personal Word
    - When the Spirit makes a Scripture real to you, it moves past head knowledge: Ps 51:6-- Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, and in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom.
- Insights:

## II. CONTINUE TO PRACTICE

- Refer to “Tools & Techniques: Listening to God” to increase your faith and expectancy about God revealing Himself to you.
- Look for Jesus in every book of the Bible. Use “Tools & Techniques: Seeing Jesus” to help.
- When we feel empty and unsatisfied, it’s time to check in on our deepest core needs. *What other source are we expecting to fill those needs? Where are we relationally with the Lord?*
- Solidify your understanding of Jesus’ finished work in regards to your salvation and your relationship with Him using “Tools & Techniques: God Reconciles Us.”
- Get in touch with your feelings by being honest with God. Journal about your issue using the handout “Tools & Techniques: I Feel But God Says.” Take time in the coming days to search out Scriptures that offer you accurate expectations instead.
- Refer to this continuum to help you make a choice whenever storms threaten your peace:



- Use the handout “Tools & Techniques: Spiritual Blessings” to help you connect to the wonderful things you can expect from God as He does internal work in you.
- As you face the unexpected and unpredictable, be on the lookout for expectations that don’t serve you well: Slavery Mindset, Entitlement Attitude, and Trust Issues.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you recognize your current expectations. Pray for His help as you cultivate attitudes like Moses: Humble, Relational, and an Expectation of More.
- Each step of our journey with God is intended to teach us to know and trust Him relationally. Developing a relational mindset could be depicted this way:



- Keep a record of what you discover in your notebook or spiritual journal. Come back next week ready to share what you experienced!
- Feel free to reach out to the women on the DDD Leadership Team. We are available to help you with questions, applying strategies, or to pray with you.