

## I. PRINCIPLES

These principles explore what God says in His Word about Leaning on Him instead of on our own understanding:

### A. ACKNOWLEDGE

- Proverbs 3:5-6 NAS-- Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.
- What a promise from our all-knowing and generous God – we can lean on Him and not ourselves. This promise brings the prospect of less anxiety, stress and pressure.
- We are invited to come to our heavenly Father in all things to gain access to Him and all the resources of heaven: Eph 1:3 NLT--All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.
- As children of God, all He has is ours to enjoy. His wisdom, peace, comfort and power are always at our disposal! See the supplemental handout “Spiritual Blessings.”
- We don’t need more of Him, but He is asking for more of us.
- Acknowledge—to know, to learn to know, to know by experience, to show, to be acquainted with (Strong’s G3045)
- To acknowledge God in all our ways means to open our hearts and lives fully, to give Him access to every area and circumstance.
- LISTENING EXERCISE:  
How often do you stop and include God in evaluating and deciding on an issue?

*Lord, please bring to mind one area where I’m not currently leaning on You. Help me see and feel how different it would be if I chose to let go and lean on You:*

*Now, by faith, I say to you, “Lord, I trust you with this.”*

- These questions are not meant to shame us, but to open our eyes to the lost opportunities to draw upon all that the Lord stands ready to give to us.
- This year, let’s answer God’s call to be more self-aware about our thinking. Instead of leaning on our own opinions or preferences or cultural norms, let’s bring them to Him!
- Insights:

## B. ANSWERS

- Pr 3:6 NKJV-- In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.
- Sometimes we acknowledge God in our issue and He quickly directs our paths with His wisdom, guidance, or an open doorway.
- Yes, the Lord does answer in short order at times. More often, acknowledging Him and leaning on Him is a process meant to strengthen our faith and to build trust over time.
- “Here’s the thing: if God made the paths straight for us before we even took a step, then we wouldn’t really need to trust Him...He wants us to learn to trust depend on, and acknowledge Him” (Austin Gentry)
- God’s pathway is discovered one faith step at a time.
- Often He uses our acknowledging Him as an opportunity to reveal areas where we have put our trust in something other than God’s truth: Pr 3:6 NAS-- ... He will make your paths straight.
- Straight—to lead, direct, make level; to make right, even, or smooth (Strong’s G3474)
- All believers have wrong thinking that has slipped in as we live in this broken world. These thoughts become strongholds where the enemy can hide without our notice.
- 1 Cor 10:4-5 NLT-- We use God’s mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. <sup>5</sup>We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God.
- 1 Cor 10:4-5 MSG-- We use our powerful God-tools for smashing warped philosophies, tearing down barriers erected against the truth of God, fitting every loose thought and emotion and impulse into the structure of life shaped by Christ. Our tools are ready at hand for clearing the ground of every obstruction and building lives of obedience into maturity.
- Whenever the Spirit reveals a place where we have warped thinking, let’s invite Him to replace these lies with His truth.
- When Jesus revealed Himself and His truth to the Saul of Tarsus, his strongholds of pride, self-reliance and self-righteousness were exposed.
- When Saul’s false belief systems came into the light, it was the starting point for transformation. His thinking, feelings, and actions were dramatically altered.
- Insights:

## C. AIM

- After meeting Jesus, the persecutor Saul was so radically different that He became known as Paul (small, humble). And he had a complete turnaround in his life’s goals!
- Phil 3:10 AMPC-- [For my determined purpose is] that I may know Him [that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly], and that I may in that same way come to know the power out flowing from His

resurrection [which it exerts over believers], and that I may so share His sufferings as to be continually transformed in spirit into His likeness

- Paul's passionate aim was to know Jesus progressively, deeply, and intimately.
- It is this intimate knowing of Jesus that makes it possible to experience His resurrection power. Deep fellowship with Him transforms us from the inside (heart) out (behavior).
- Knowing Jesus happens progressively as we walk out our days with Him (make ourselves available to listen to His Words, share our lives, ask His counsel, and heed it).
- The Lord will never demand control of our lives. However, it's those bowing to His Lordship who will experience the intimate love and power that we see in the life of Paul.
- Fellowship with Jesus and His sufferings starts with saying no to our understanding, ways, wants, fears, timetable, etc.: Luke 22:42-- "Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."
- The desire to fully know Jesus as Lord is already within us. Let's lean on that truth!
- Jer 24:7-- I will give them a heart to know Me, that I *am* the LORD; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart.
- LISTENING EXERCISE:  
Take a moment to consider the reasons why you may be resisting Leaning on God instead of leaning to your own understanding. Circle the ones that best describe you:
  - I'm afraid I won't measure up
  - Trusting is hard for me
  - I don't want to expose or give up certain things
  - I don't have time for "acknowledging in ALL my ways"
  - I'm more comfortable with information than intimacy
  - I believe I can get there if I just try harder
  - I have difficulty in letting go of control
  - I really just want my own way ☺

- Insights:

## II. PERSONAL APPLICATION

### A. 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:

### B. PONDER THE TRUTH

- Take some time to think about the main ideas of the lesson using this outline and the audio message on our website ([www.DivineDesignDiscipleship.com](http://www.DivineDesignDiscipleship.com)).
- Which of the scriptures referenced was particularly meaningful to you? Write out the verse(s) below and review this week to take the truth more deeply into your heart.

### C. PRAY IT IN

Ask God for the truth of this Scripture and your One Thing to become your experience. Pray that you will recognize Him at work this week. Seek His wisdom for how to put these principles into practice. Keep a written record of your insights here or in your journal:

#### D. SING IT

- Singing will help you connect emotionally to the truths you're learning. Listen to the songs for this week to move the principles from your head to your heart.
- The weekly playlist can be found on our Divine Design Discipleship YouTube channel. Be sure to subscribe!
- Here's the link to our 2022 master playlist for the "Learning to Lean" series: [https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBL8waErHIN7gJq9pcrJtc6RZ9FnE\\_gtD](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBL8waErHIN7gJq9pcrJtc6RZ9FnE_gtD)  
This playlist is also available on Spotify. See the handout provided with your notebook for instructions on how to access these resources.
- Record anything that you received from your personal worship time (lyrics, surrender, peace, etc.):

#### E. PERSONALIZE IT

Read through these questions early in the week. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see your personal reality and His pathway for growth. Write down any insights you might have during the week and come back ready to share!

1. How much of your life you actually make available to the Lord?

Are there certain parts that are off limits to Him? Name them:

Sit quietly before the Lord and ask Him to give you a glimpse of what it would be like to trust Him and lean wholeheartedly on Him here. Record what you observe:

Throughout the week, continue learning to lean using this simple prayer of faith: *"Lord, I choose to trust you with this."*

2. The Lord invites us to lean on Him in ALL our ways (minute by minute vs. just the big stuff). Where are you on that spectrum of including God on your issues?

Ask HS to remind you to include Him throughout your day. Be alert for His nudge and acknowledge Him in those moments. Make a note of one such instance here:

3. Review this listening exercise from class. Be still before the Lord and ask Him to let you know Him more progressively and intimately in your places of reluctance.

Lord, please highlight my personal obstacles to leaning on You:

- I'm afraid I won't measure up
- Trusting is hard for me
- I don't want to expose or give up certain things
- I don't have time for "acknowledging in ALL my ways"
- I'm more comfortable with information than intimacy
- I believe I can get there if I just try harder
- I have difficulty in letting go of control
- I really just want my own way 😊

4. Pray that He would help you get in touch with the part of your heart that truly longs to know Him deeply (Jer 24:7).

- Pray in your own word, asking Him to make your way straight in any issue you face.

- Is there a faith step He is bringing to mind to move you forward on His pathway?

- Repeat this process often as you are Learning to Lean!