

- 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. 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.

- B. 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. WONDER

- We've seen again and again the Lord take an impossible situation and bring glory to Himself from it. (Karen, Darby, Allyson, Abe, Israelites, Hannah, etc.)
- Hearing testimonies is meant to instill in us a sense of wonder.
- LISTENING EXERCISE: *When you hear about God's faithfulness to someone else, do you wonder what God can do for you or do you wonder "why not me"?*

- We must get solid on the fundamentals so a lifestyle of Living Hope can be ours.
- Hope is the expectation of good (Strong's G1680): Rom 15:4 Phillips-- All those words which were written long ago are meant to teach us today; that when we read in the scriptures of the endurance of men and of all the help that God gave them in those days, we may be encouraged to go on hoping in our own time.
- It's been said that hope feels but faith sees. Living Hope gets you out of bed because you wonder what goodness is coming your way today and in the future.
- Faith sees God's vision when He personalizes His word and it comes alive to you:
 - Rom 10:17 AMP-- Faith comes by hearing [what is told], and what is heard comes by the preaching [of the message that came from the lips] of Christ (the Messiah Himself).
 - Heb 4:12a AMP-- For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]
 - Jn 16:13-14 NAS-- The Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose *it* to you.
- We walk by faith, seeing in part, believing that God will be faithful to do what He has said: 1 Thes 5:24 MSG-- The One who called you is completely dependable. If he said it, he'll do it!
- Let hope arise as you wonder and ponder about a God who has made a covenant with His children to always do them good: Jer 32:40-41 NLT-- I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good for them. I will put a desire in their hearts to worship me, and they will never leave me. I will find joy doing good for them
- If you haven't already, begin to ask God to speak to you about the hopes, dreams, and future He wants for you.
- Review the characteristics of God-given dreams to help you discern that what you're hoping for is from God. (Living Hope, Lesson 10 from 01/27/18)
- If your hope is in the promise instead of the God of the promise, you will falter.
- Remember that what we pursue, ponder, prioritize, praise and prize reveals what we truly worship. Those are the things that we believe will bring us goodness.
- Misplaced hope and wrongly directed worship will surely lead us to disappointment: Ps 33:17 TPT-- Human strength and the weapons of man are false hopes for victory; they may seem mighty but they will always disappoint.
- Just about anything can potentially give us False Hope! This is especially true for "good things" such as family, friends, ministry, resources, dreams, and visions.

Insights:

B. WORSHIP

- Worship goes hand in hand with hope!
- God is due to the credit and the praise when He keeps His promise. It's also right to praise Him for the vengeance that is visited on our enemies! (Double Portion!)
- Hannah got vengeance on her enemies when the baby she dreamed of was born. She gave God all the glory: 1 Sam 2:1-5 MSG-- I'm bursting with God-news! I'm walking on air. I'm laughing at my rivals. I'm dancing my salvation. Nothing and no one is holy like God, no rock mountain like our God. Don't dare talk pretentiously—not a word of boasting, ever! For God knows what's going on. He takes the measure of everything that happens. The weapons of the strong are smashed to pieces, while the weak are infused with fresh strength. The well fed are out begging in the streets for crusts, while the hungry are getting second helpings. The barren woman has a houseful of children, while the mother of many is bereft.
- Likewise, we are called to worship God while we are wondering if/when our dream will come true: Is 54:1-- "Sing, O barren, you *who* have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, you *who* have not labored with child! For more *are* the children of the desolate than the children of the married woman," says the Lord.
- This verse can be applied specifically and principally. It refers to barren Sarah who had God's promise of a child. We know that she and Abe kept hope and faith alive by their worship: Rom 4:20 AMP-- No unbelief *or* distrust made him waver (doubtingly question) concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong *and* was empowered by faith as he gave praise *and* glory to God
- True worship of God invigorates Living Hope, faith, and a sense of wonder because:
 1. We come into alignment with our God-given design to worship. Nothing is worthy of our worship except the Lord and He is worthy no matter what the situation: Ps 145:2-3 NLT— I will praise you every day; yes, I will praise you forever. Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise! No one can measure his greatness.
 2. When we ponder the past, we are reminded of His steadfast care: Ps 103:2 NLT-- Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I never forget the good things he does for me
 3. We are strengthened for the next leg of the journey as we rehearse God's goodness to us: Ps 103:5 NLT—He fills my life with good things. My youth is renewed like the eagle's!
 4. As we celebrate the greatness and faithfulness of our God, the lies of the enemy are silenced: Ps 8:2 NIV-- Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.
 5. We can offer God a unique and costly sacrifice of praise by our worship in times of uncertainty: Heb 12:28 NIV-- We are receiving a kingdom that can't be shaken. So let us be thankful. Then we can worship God in a way that pleases him. We will worship him with deep respect and wonder.
- It's pretty easy to praise God when the "baby" (our dream) is born. What about when it seems like hope is nowhere to be seen?
- LISTENING EXERCISE: *Would you be willing to praise God now, in the midst of uncertainty and even anguish over unfulfilled dreams?*

Insights:

C. WEANING

- As we pursue living a lifestyle of hopes and dreams, we are sometimes called to let go of our dreams.
- When our dream seems to be moving away from us instead of moving forward, it's possible that God is weaning us from that dream. We'll explore 2 possible reasons:
 1. The season has changed:
 - Hannah had to let go of her dream (baby) because her season of stewarding that dream was past: 1 Sam 1:20-22, 24, 27-28 NLT — In due time she gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel,¹ for she said, "I asked the Lord for him." The next year Elkanah and his family went on their annual trip to offer a sacrifice to the Lord and to keep his vow.²² But Hannah did not go. She told her husband, "Wait until the boy is weaned. Then I will take him to the Tabernacle and leave him there with the Lord permanently..."²⁴ When the child was weaned, Hannah took him to the Tabernacle in Shiloh...²⁷ I asked the Lord to give me this boy, and he has granted my request.²⁸ Now I am giving him to the Lord, and he will belong to the Lord his whole life." And they worshiped the Lord there.
 - Hannah had some processing and grieving to do as the time came to leave her boy at the Temple. She channeled her grief creatively as she joined God in His plans for Samuel: 1 Sam 2: 18-19-- Samuel ministered before the Lord, *even as a child*, wearing a linen ephod. Moreover his mother used to make him a little robe, and bring *it* to him year by year when she came up with her husband
 - God honored Hannah's faithfulness and her grieving. As she offered to the Lord what was rightly His, He blessed her beyond her wildest dreams: 1 Sam 2:21-- And the Lord visited Hannah, so that she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile the child Samuel grew before the Lord.
 - Letting go of those dreams whose season has passed makes room for the new things God has for you in your current or future season.
 - Though little Samuel was left in a corrupt environment, God protected him and faithfully fulfilled His purposes in the boy's life: 1 Sam 2:22, 25-26 MSG-- Eli was very old. He kept getting reports on how his sons were ripping off the people and sleeping with the women who helped out at the sanctuary...they were far gone in disobedience and refused to listen to a thing their father said. So God, who was fed up with them, decreed their death. But the boy Samuel was very much alive, growing up, blessed by God and popular with the people.
 - God often takes us to a place that seems contrary to our dreams being fulfilled.
 - It may have been tempting for Hannah to 2nd guess her decision to trust God.
 - In that barren place, Samuel was used to usher in a new season of revelation from the Lord: 1 Sam 3:1, 8-11-- Now the boy Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; *there was no widespread revelation* Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions... The Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." And the Lord said to Samuel: "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle."

- Not only did Hannah get to experience a new season of God revealing Himself to His people, but she got to see it come through her very own son!: 3 Jn 1:4-- I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

Insights:

2. The dream is not from God:

- Sometimes our desires, passions, and even God-given gifts can be mistaken for a God-given dream.
- The Lord had been generous with God. David had been given musical talent, strength of character, military success, a high position, and a heart for worship.
- God had faithfully fulfilled His vision of bringing David from tending sheep to being King over Israel. David was thankful and wanted to do something for God.
- He had a dream of replacing the Tent of Meeting with a permanent temple. God gave Moses specific instructions for this tent and never asked for a replacement: 1 Kg 8:17-19 NLT-- Solomon said, "My father, David, wanted to build this Temple to honor the name of the Lord, the God of Israel. But the Lord told him, 'You wanted to build the Temple to honor my name. Your intention is good, but you are not the one to do it. One of your own sons will build the Temple to honor me.'
- Once David learned it was not his call to do the building, he turned his energies toward gathering materials for the Temple. (1 Chron 29:2ff)
- "If you cannot have what you hoped, do not sit down in despair and allow the energies of your life to run to waste; but arise, and gird yourself to help others to achieve. If you may not build, you may gather materials for him that shall. If you may not go down the mine, you can hold the ropes." (F. B. Meyer)
- David was not rebuked for desiring to glorify God with his mistaken dream. Instead he received a fresh vision from the Lord for a richer future than he would ever have asked: 2 Sam 7:9-11 NLT-- Now I will make your name as famous as anyone who has ever lived on the earth! ¹⁰ And I will provide a homeland for my people Israel, planting them in a secure place where they will never be disturbed. Evil nations won't oppress them as they've done in the past, ¹¹ starting from the time I appointed judges to rule my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Furthermore, the Lord declares that he will make a house for you—a dynasty of kings!
- God honored David's heart intention to honor Him: 1 Sam 2:30 NLT-- I will honor those who honor me, and I will despise those who think lightly of me.

Insights:

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

- Continue seeking the Lord about your own God-given dreams. Dream = a personal & specific God-given idea, plan, agenda, or goal that leads to God honoring results.
- 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 the Father as a beloved child. Allow 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."
- Keep short accounts with the help of "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.
- Be sure to journal your prayers and God's answers. Come back ready to share!