

- 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. ITINERARY

- We've been on a journey to understand the Living Hope that is ours is Jesus.
- Your suitcase should be jam packed with all that you'll need to stay on this path!
- Today--and every day in the future—you can experience hope! That's possible because we have a God that's good, who's promised us a life full of hope:
 - 1 Pt 1:3 AMP—God...has caused us to be born again [that is, to be reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, and set apart for His purpose] to an ever-living hope
 - Jn 10:10 MSG— I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.
 - 2 Pt 1:2 AMP-- May grace (God's favor) and peace (which is perfect well-being, all necessary good, all spiritual prosperity, and freedom from fears and agitating passions and moral conflicts) be multiplied to you in [the full, personal, precise, and correct] knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.
 - Rom 15:13 NLT-- God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Living Hope is daily available to us, but we must choose God's path to experience it:
 - Ps 84:5— Blessed *is* the man whose strength *is* in You, whose heart *is* set on pilgrimage.
 - Ps 32:8-9 TPT--“I will stay close to you, instructing and guiding you along the pathway for your life. I will advise you along the way and lead you forth with my eyes as your guide. So don't make it difficult; don't be stubborn when I take you where you've not been before. Don't make me tug you and pull you along. Just come with me!”
- We need to remember that God's ways are different than ours and His goodness can be difficult for us to recognize at times. We His constant guidance and counsel!

Insights:

B. TEMPORARY ROADBLOCKS

- All God's children, if they're honest, acknowledge they experience times when they don't *feel hopeful* every step of the way. Disappointments can be a detour to hope.
- Living Hope is found in God's faithfulness and promises, not in avoiding detours or delays: Heb 6:18-19 TV-- So God has given us two unchanging things: *His promise and His oath*. These prove that it is impossible for God to lie. As a result, we who come to God for refuge might be encouraged to seize that hope that is set before us. That hope is real and true, an anchor to steady our *restless* souls
- God's intends for the roadblocks we encounter to become places of glorious blessing as we hold onto hope and remember they are temporary: 2 Cor 4: 17-18 NLT-- For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.
- The literal meaning of glory is *weight*. Abraham found glory in the waiting as he gave more weight to what God said than to his circumstances: Rom 4:20 NIV-- Abraham kept believing in God's promise. He became strong in his faith. He gave glory to God.
- We must wait on God like Abraham did. He pushed against the opposing forces (fear, doubt, despair, disappointment, and lies) gaining strength and faith.
- Waiting seasons can be fruitful if we choose hope and faith in God's perfect timing:
 - Eccl 3:11 NIV-- He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.
 - Ps 40:1-2 NLT-- I waited patiently for the Lord to help me, and he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along.
 - 2 Pt 3:8-9 MSG-- Don't overlook the obvious here, friends. With God, one day is as good as a thousand years, a thousand years as a day. God isn't late with his promise as some measure lateness...He's giving everyone space and time to change.
 - Is 40:31 MSG-- Those who wait upon God get fresh strength. They spread their wings and soar like eagles, they run and don't get tired, they walk and don't lag behind.
- Walking through roadblocks with God gives us the opportunity to get to know Him better and to develop godly character like His: Is 45:8 TV-- You are our Father. We are just clay, and You are the potter. We are the product of Your *creative* action, shaped and formed *into something of worth*.

Insights:

C. NECESSARY PITSTOPS

- Our detours can become pit stops where we receive necessary refueling or repairs.
- Our primary focus must be to stay connected to God and join Him in the work of bringing forth goodness and glory: Ps 84:6-7 TPT-- Even when their paths wind through the dark valley of tears, they dig deep to find a pleasant pool *where others find only pain*. He gives to them a brook of blessing filled from the rain of an outpouring. They grow stronger and stronger with every step forward
- Jesus came to give us “life to the full.” In order to contain all that He wants to give us, we need to address any leaks that may be present: Jn 10:10 AMP-- The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have *and* enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows].
- If we are not bubbling over with life and hope, it is likely we have leaks and damage from our enemy and his teammates. He seeks to partner with us to:
 - Kill off truth: Jn 8:44 MSG-- When the Liar speaks, he makes it up out of his lying nature and fills the world with lies.
 - Steal our richest inheritance: Mt 6:20-21 JBP-- Keep your treasure in Heaven where there is neither moth nor rust to spoil it and nobody can break in and steal. For wherever your treasure is, you may be certain that your heart will be there too!”
 - Destroy our truest selves: Lk 9:24-25 NLT-- If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. ²⁵And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed?
 - Warp our reality: Ps 52:2, 4 TPT-- O deceiver, trickster of others: Your words are wicked, harming and hurting all who hear them...⁴ You love to distort, devour, and deceive, using your sly tongue to spin the truth.
 - Ruin our view of God: 2 Cor 11:3-- Just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.
 - Rob us of valuable time: Eph 5:15-16 JBP-- Live life, then, with a due sense of responsibility, not as men who do not know the meaning and purpose of life but as those who do. Make the best use of your time, despite all the difficulties of these days. Don’t be vague but firmly grasp what you know to be the will of God.
 - Blind us to pride: Pr 16:2, 18-- People may be pure in their own eyes, but the Lord examines their motives...Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall.
 - Accuse us: Rom 8:33-34 TPT-- Who then would dare to accuse those whom God has chosen in love to be his? God himself is the judge who has issued his final verdict over them—“Not guilty!”

Insights:

- God invites us to come to Him along the way to do the work of healing and renewal. We don't have to wait for our dreams to come true for that!: 2 Cor 6:2 NLT-- For God says, "At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you." Indeed, the "right time" is now. Today is the day of salvation.
- As we await our promise or vision or dream to become reality, we have the amazing option to live abundant hope-filled lives every single day in God's presence:
 - Ps 52:8 TPT-- But I am like a flourishing olive tree, *anointed* in the house of God. I trust in the unending love of God; his passion toward me is forever and ever.
 - Phil 4:13 JBP-- I have learned to be content, whatever the circumstances may be. I know now how to live when things are difficult and I know how to live when things are prosperous. In general and in particular I have learned the secret of facing either poverty or plenty. I am ready for anything through the strength of the one who lives within me.

Insights:

D. EXTRAORDINARY

- There will come a time, a "Suddenly Moment," when our waiting will be over and we will actually see God faithfully fulfilling His promise to us: 1 Thes 5:2-- You yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.
- We who've walked and cried and prayed together will all celebrate together what God has done for you!: Is 25:9 TV-- In that moment, *at that glorious time*, people will say: This is our God! We put our hope in him. *We knew* that He would save us! This is our God, the Eternal for whom we waited. Let us rejoice and celebrate in His liberation.
- Until then, let's stay on His itinerary of Living Hope, trusting and expecting His goodness all the days of our lives: Ps 37:34 TPT-- Don't be impatient for the Lord to act; keep moving forward steadily in his ways, and he will exalt you *at the right time*. And when he does, you will possess every promise
- Our God is worthy of our praise and our trust for He is faithful beyond our wildest hopes and dreams: Eph 3:20-21 AMP-- Now to Him Who, by (in consequence of) the [action of His] power that is at work within us, is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly, far over *and* above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams]—To Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever. Amen (so be it).

Insights:

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

- Wonder in God's presence about 1) Your individuality and uniqueness, 2) Which gifts and callings He's imparted to you (individually and collectively), and 3) How, specifically, you might stir up or ignite them to experience more HS firepower.

- Be alert for the lack of grace, power, and joy in following the Lord. This may be an indicator that the season for that dream/vision is past or it isn't from God at all.
- 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.⁴ Take 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, and wait 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. And please stay in touch with your group and your leaders over the summer break!