

- 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).
- 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.

- C. Sing about what you're learning. It's helpful in connecting emotionally to the truth.

- III. 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 our "In the Vault" series can be found on our Divine Design Discipleship YouTube channel. (Be sure to subscribe to our channel!) Our 2021 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 explore what God says in His Word about living a victorious life in Him. Let's use them to know God more deeply and enrich our Vaults with His truth:

A. HIDDEN THINGS

- Hidden Things in our lives can rob us of the victory that the Lord promises in Christ. Some we knowingly hide and others are subtle things we don't see in ourselves.
- God invites us to allow Him to search the Vault of our hearts so that the Hidden Things are exposed. He then offers us forgiveness, redemption and freedom!
- As long as these lesser things are hiding in our lives, we give them power over us instead of giving proper place and power to the Lord: Jn 6:27 NLT--Don't be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man can give you. For God the Father has given me the seal of his approval.
- Although it seems impossible to love God with all our hearts, Scripture tells us that it is now in our spiritual DNA to love and please the Lord above all:
 - Our new nature is set on being pleasing to God: 2 Cor 5:9 NLT--Whether we are here in this body or away from this body, our goal is to please him.
 - We have the capacity to put God first in this life because of the indwelling Spirit: Is 26:12 EXB--Lord, all our success is [accomplishments/works are] because of what you have done, so give us peace [or and you give us peace/security].
 - Knowing that the Father is already pleased with us because of the finished work of Jesus is our baseline for security! Col 3:3 AMP--For you died [to this world], and your [new, real] life is hidden with Christ in God.
- When out of touch with the desire to give God the first fruits in life, this is a powerful prayer for building trust and overcoming self-reliance: Col 1:9-12 AMP--We have not stopped praying for you, asking [specifically] that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom [with insight into His purposes], and in understanding [of spiritual things], so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord [displaying admirable character, moral courage, and personal integrity], to [fully] please *Him* in all things, bearing fruit in every good work and steadily growing in the knowledge of God [with deeper faith, clearer insight and fervent love for His precepts]; [we pray that you may be] strengthened *and* invigorated with all power, according to His glorious might, to attain every kind of endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints (God's people) in the Light.
- Remember, it is out of intimate relationship with the Lord that we live victoriously. That's how Joshua led the Hebrews to defeat 31 kings in Canaan. (Joshua 12:8-24)
- Insights:

B. HIDING PLACE

- Joshua entered and took possession of the Promised Land because he relied on the protection and guidance of God's presence. David demonstrates this in his life, too.
- David is the one who first called the Lord his Hiding Place, encouraging us to seek Him vs. hide from Him: Ps 32:7 NAS-- You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with songs of deliverance.
- Scholars are uncertain when David wrote this, but it clearly was a time of backsliding that was followed by forgiveness. Such is the case when he came to Ziklag.
- David, anointed as Israel's next king, was still waiting on God to fulfill His promise.
- He fell into self-reliance in the wait after being rejected and persecuted by King Saul. He sought refuge with his enemies and lived by raiding nearby cities. (1 Sam 27:1-11)
- Eventually the enemy grew wary of David and sent him and his men away. They fled to their home base: 1 Sam 30:1-6-- Now it happened, when David and his men came to Ziklag, on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the South and Ziklag, attacked Ziklag and burned it with fire, ² and had taken captive the women and those who *were* there, from small to great; they did not kill anyone, but carried *them* away and went their way. ³ So David and his men came to the city, and there it was, burned with fire; and their wives, their sons, and their daughters had been taken captive. ⁴ Then David and the people who *were* with him lifted up their voices and wept, until they had no more power to weep. ⁵ And David's two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite, had been taken captive. ⁶ Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God.
- David returned to his city only to find an ash heap. This is conceivably the worst day of his life to date. The pain was only amplified by his own foolish choices.
- But David had been going to God as his Hiding Place since he was a youth. By seeking God's presence, David had found strength to fight and win many battles.
- These were the times when he got to know the Lord and had the opportunity of seeing God's character, deliverance and victory. He remembered and was helped: Ps 143:4-9 NLT-- I remember the days of old. I ponder all your great works and think about what you have done. I lift my hands to you in prayer. I thirst for you as parched land thirsts for rain. Come quickly, Lord, and answer me, for my depression deepens. Don't turn away from me, or I will die. Let me hear of your unfailing love each morning, for I am trusting you. Show me where to walk, for I give myself to you. Rescue me from my enemies, Lord, I run to you to hide me.
- Remembering the deeds of the Lord is a great strategy for strengthening our hearts!
- LISTENING EXERCISE: *Lord, please bring to mind times in my past when I found You to be faithful to protect, strengthen, or deliver me:*

*Help me to remember these times and ponder what they teach me about You.
Cause the truth of who You are to penetrate my Vault a deeper heart level.*

- Coming to the end of our strength due to loss, defeat, or other hard things is the perfect time to know God as Hiding Place and discover what he has for us here.
- Insights:

C. HIDDEN TREASURES

- God uses our painful circumstances to give us His Hidden Treasures: Is 45:3 NLT-- I will give you treasures hidden in the darkness— secret riches. I will do this so you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, the one who calls you by name.
- Some of those treasures come by bubbling up erroneous mindsets that have found entrance to our Vaults. Transformation and freedom can come in with God's truth.
- Ziklag is related to "unwinding" in Hebrew. (H6860) God will free us of hidden entanglements that hinder us: Heb 12:1 AMP--Let us strip off *and* throw aside every encumbrance (unnecessary weight) and that sin which so readily (deftly and cleverly) clings to *and* entangles us, and let us run with patient endurance *and* steady *and* active persistence the appointed course of the race that is set before us.
- When Hidden Things are exposed and discarded, there is room for new strength from the Lord. We are ready to receive Hidden Treasures from Him.
- Here are a few simple ways that we see David finding strength from God at Ziklag:

➤ Processing Emotions with God

- Emotions can be so overwhelming that we forget to invite God into our situation.
- It's not wrong to grieve or feel. But let's give feelings their appropriate weight, remembering that they do not change our identity or God's: Ps 73:14ff NLT (selected)-- I get nothing but trouble all day long; every morning brings me pain...¹⁷ Then I went into your sanctuary, O God, and I finally understood the destiny of the wicked.¹⁸ Truly, you put them on a slippery path and send them sliding over the cliff to destruction...²¹ Then I realized that my heart was bitter, and I was all torn up inside. ²² I was so foolish and ignorant—I must have seemed like a senseless animal to you. ²³ Yet I still belong to you; you hold my right hand. ²⁴ You guide me with your counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny.
- David's hurt feelings propelled him into God's presence. He didn't question God's character nor did he doubt the security of his relationship with Him. (1 Sam 30:6)
- David declares the truth about himself (I still belong to God), God (You hold my hand), and his future (You will guide me to a glorious destiny!). (Ps 73:23-24)
- This type processing shows us that we are safe to come to God just are we are.

➤ Praying Specific Prayers

- David prayed for specific counsel on how the Lord wanted to bring beauty from the ashes of Ziglag: 1 Sam 30: 7-8-- Then David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, "Please bring the ephod here to me." And Abiathar brought the ephod to David. So David inquired of the Lord, saying, "Shall I pursue this troop? Shall I overtake them?" And He answered him, "Pursue, for you shall surely overtake *them* and without fail recover *all*."
- God gave him the exact guidance he asked for with a huge bonus! God promised he would "recover all" -- truly Hidden Treasure in the midst of this disaster.
- God was absolutely true to His Word. It happened just as God said. (1 Sam 30:19)
- Praying into our problems specifically trains our spiritual ears to hear and our spiritual eyes to see God move on our behalf. Our faith grows with every answer.

➤ Calling on the Names of God

- David learned to call on God's names early in his life. His various names enable us to trust who He wants to be for us in our present circumstances.
- After defeating lions and bears when tending sheep, David called God his Shepherd. Facing a giant, he called on the Lord of hosts: 1 Sam 17:45--David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.
- The various names of God allow us to connect with Him in new ways. They aid us as we seek to include Him more and more in our daily life circumstances.
- David wrote these words after his stunning defeat of Goliath: Ps 9:9-11 NLT-- The Lord is a shelter for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. Those who know your name trust in you, for you, O Lord, do not abandon those who search for you. Sing praises to the Lord who reigns in Jerusalem. Tell the world about his unforgettable deeds.
- Use the Tools & Techniques handout to acquaint you with God's names.
- Try asking God "*Who do you want to be for me in this situation?*"

• Insights:

II. CONTINUE TO PRACTICE

- *Will you come to God (vs. hiding from Him) even when you have missed the mark of following Him wholeheartedly? Will you ask Him for Hidden Treasures even there?*
- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the hidden things in your life that are keeping you from walking in the power and victory of the Lord. Let Him purify and soften your heart.
- *Where in your life are you withholding from God your first fruits? Will you give to Him whatever it may be for the sake of greater depth of relationship with Him?*
- Pray for greater awareness of God's presence with you throughout your days. Ask the Lord to keep you focused on knowing Him in a relational way.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to help you recognize what is currently in your Vault. Watch for times when your actions and emotions reveal what you value highly.
- Use "Tools & Techniques: I Feel But God Says" to process your feelings, fears or unbelief. Ask God to address them and begin to replace them with His truth.
- Study "Tools & Techniques: Listening to God" for practical help and Scriptural support in your pursuit of making God's truth your own.
- Refer to the handout "Tools & Techniques: Spiritual Blessings." The truths and biblical references there are part of your inheritance. Target them for your Vault!
- Keep on considering the questions we'll be exploring this year:
 - 1) *At the center of my being, what things do I firmly and completely believe to be true?*
 - 2) *Where is it that I ultimately go to find the security I was created to experience?*
- Keep a record of what you discover in your notebook or spiritual journal. Come back next week ready to share what you experienced!