

- 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. PROMISE

- Promises are given by the Lord as a means of knowing Him and His purposes for our lives. They are also intended to provide us with vision and hope.
- In 1 Samuel 30, David faced loss and deep emotional turmoil. He was exhausted physically and emotionally and the promise of being king seemed impossible.
- This was a test of his faith. In such tests, we have a choice:
 1. Become immobilized and demoralized
 - The enemy sows doubt about the promise (*Did God really say?*) and God's character (*He's holding out on you*) just as he has from the beginning. (Genesis 3)
 - We're tempted to settle for something less than the promise (fixing, controlling, offense and/or disconnection with God, pursuing things that satisfy us temporarily, etc.).
 - David knew this temptation: Ps 27:13-14--*I would have lost heart*, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord In the land of the living. Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord!
 2. Run to God in the Secret Place.
 - In His presence, the Lord ministers to us with His comfort, protection, and guidance.
 - He renews our inner strength and equips us for victory over our adversaries.
 - The Secret Place was David's choice at Ziklag: Ps 57:1-3 NLT-- Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy! I look to you for protection. I will hide beneath the shadow of your wings until the danger passes by. I cry out to God Most High, to God who will fulfill his purpose for me. He will send help from heaven to rescue me, disgracing those who hound me. My God will send forth his unfailing love and faithfulness.
- David's response in trouble was to go to God to find new strength. (v. 6) The Lord met him there with a new promise, Hidden Treasure to enrich his Vault. (v. 8)
- God's promise stirred David's faith and revived him from his weakened state.
- He immediately pursues the enemy in the power of His God despite his human exhaustion and grief: 1 Sam 30:9-19-- So David went, he and the six hundred men who *were* with him, and came to the Brook Besor, where those stayed who were left behind. ¹⁰ But David pursued, he and four hundred men; for two hundred stayed *behind*, who were so weary that they could not cross the Brook Besor. ¹¹ Then they found an Egyptian in the field, and brought him to David; and they gave him bread and he ate, and they let him drink water. ¹² And they gave him a piece of a cake of figs and two clusters of raisins. So when he had eaten, his strength came back to him; for he had eaten no bread nor drunk water for three days and three nights. ¹³ Then David said to him, "To whom do you *belong*, and where *are* you from?" And he said, "I *am* a young man from Egypt, servant of an Amalekite; and my master left me behind, because three days ago I fell sick. ¹⁴ We made an invasion of the southern *area* of the Cherethites, in the *territory* which *belongs* to Judah, and of the southern *area* of Caleb; and we burned Ziklag with fire."¹⁵ And David said to him, "Can you take me down to this troop?" So he said, "Swear to me by God that you will neither kill me nor deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will take you down to this troop."¹⁶ And when he had brought him down, there they were, spread out over all the land, eating and drinking and dancing, because of all the great spoil which they had taken from the land of the Philistines and from the land of Judah. ¹⁷ Then David attacked them from twilight until the evening of the next day. Not a man of them escaped, except four

hundred young men who rode on camels and fled. ¹⁸ So David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away, and David rescued his two wives. ¹⁹ And nothing of theirs was lacking, either small or great, sons or daughters, spoil or anything which they had taken from them; David recovered all.

- Insights:

B. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

- As leader, David took up the mantle to lead the soldiers. Even though their hearts had been changed by God's intervention, they were weak inside and out.
- At Besor, David made the wise decision to move forward with only those who were fit for battle. He took responsibility for himself and for those under his care. (v.9)
- Though it delayed his progress, David ministered to the ailing Egyptian. God gave him Hidden Treasure in this "interruption" – a guide to lead him to his family!
- His example helps us set boundaries for ourselves when we face compromise for various reasons. Personal weakness calls for personal responsibility.
- When issues have invaded our Vaults by way of our other human faculties, it can be difficult to find God in the Secret Place:
 1. Mind
 - Cluttered with distractions, opinions, details, fears, speculations, and expectations
 - Ps 94:19 KJV-- In the multitude of my thoughts within me Thy comforts delight my soul.
 2. Will
 - Hindered by reluctance, resistance, rebellion, unbelief, or damaged trust
 - Is 30:15 AMP—The Lord God, the Holy One of Israel has said this, "In returning [to Me] and rest you shall be saved, in quietness and confident trust is your strength." But you were not willing
 3. Emotions
 - Consumed by hurt, anger, sadness, disappointment, shame, resentment, or regret
 - Ps 5:1-3 MSG-- Listen, God! Please, pay attention! Can you make sense of these ramblings, my groans and cries? King-God, I need your help. Every morning you'll hear me at it again. Every morning I lay out the pieces of my life on your altar and watch for fire to descend.
 4. Body
 - Stress, fatigue, and disease in our outer man affect us inwardly
 - Ps 73:26 NLT-- My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever.
- The Spirit can reveal which parts of us are in need of attention and why: Ps 42:5-- Why are you cast down, O my soul? And *why* are you disquieted within me?

- Pinpointing our specific place of need helps us to be good stewards of the lives God has given us. It gives us direction in seeking support from God and others.
- LISTENING EXERCISE: *Lord, help me see where weakness has caused me to lose heart and connection with You.*

In this place of weakness, I invite Your healing and help! Please reveal its roots and give me courage to let You minister to me there.

Is there a promise that You want me to appropriate regarding this issue?

- With the Spirit's help, let us choose to find our help, hope, security and strength from the Lord in the way He prescribes: Ps 27:5-6--In the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock. And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord.
- Insights:

C. PARTNERSHIP

- God desires our participation in accomplishing His purposes! He invites us to join Him in the journey between the promise given and the promise fulfilled.
- The Lord used David in His conquest of the Amalekites. They partnered in fulfilling the promise of overtaking them and recovering all. (1 Sam 30:8)
- We see other instances in Scripture where God challenges His people to collaborate with Him, making them a key part of His victory:
 1. Moses was the Lord's agent in delivering the Hebrews from the Egyptians: Exodus 14:16-- Lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it.
 2. Jesus enlisted the disciples to demonstrate His power and glory: Matt 14:16-- But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

- *Why would God use us to accomplish His purposes when He could do so perfectly, eliminating the element of human frailty?*
 1. Spiritual Health and Maturity
 - He calls us to step out in faith so that we might gain skill at walking in His ways, developing spiritual muscles and wholeness where we have lack: Heb 12:11-13 AMP-- For the time being no discipline brings joy, but seems grievous *and* painful; but afterwards it yields a peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it [a harvest of fruit which consists in righteousness—in conformity to God’s will in purpose, thought, and action, resulting in right living and right standing with God]. So then, brace up *and* reinvigorate *and* set right your slackened *and* weakened *and* drooping hands and strengthen your feeble *and* palsied *and* tottering knees, and cut through *and* make firm *and* plain *and* smooth, straight paths for your feet [yes, make them safe and upright and happy paths that go in the right direction], so that the lame *and* halting [limbs] may not be put out of joint, but rather may be cured.
 - David experienced God’s inner and outer work in his weakness: Ps 3:3 MSG-- But you, God, shield me on all sides; You ground my feet, you lift my head high
 2. God’s Glory:
 - The Lord uses weak and flawed human beings to accomplish His plans so that it will be obvious that He is responsible: 2 Cor 4:6-7 NLT-- For God, who said, “Let there be light in the darkness,” has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.
 - In his psalms, David showcased God and His glory: Ps 96:7 TV-- Give all credit to the Eternal, families of the world! Credit Him with glory, *honor*, and strength!
 3. Relationship Building
 - The Lord will be faithful to keep His promises, but He longs to hear our “yes and amen”: 2 Cor 1:20 NIV-- For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.
 - Intimacy deepens as we work to believe His promises and join Him in each step of His plan: Amos 3:3 NLT-- Can two people walk together without agreeing on the direction?
 - David had experienced sweet communion in God’s presence as he waited on a promise: Ps 23:3 AMP-- He refreshes *and* restores my life (my self); He leads me in the paths of righteousness [uprightness and right standing with Him]
- God did not need anyone’s help to defeat the Amalekites or bring restoration. He chose to use David for the sake of their relationship, his development, and His glory: Rom 8:28 AMP-- We are assured *and* know that [God being a partner in their labor] all things work together *and* are [fitting into a plan] for good to *and* for those who love God and are called according to [His] design *and* purpose.
- Insights:

II. CONTINUE TO PRACTICE

- Run to the Secret Place and find Hidden Treasure in the darkness and difficulties of your life. Discover secret riches as you appropriate God's many promises.
- Refer to the handout "Tools & Techniques: Spiritual Blessings." The truths and biblical references there are part of your inheritance. Target them for your Vault!
- Invite the Spirit to reveal where you are hindered by weakness and why. Be open to let Him minister to current causes and those rooted in your past.
- Continue to grow in your personal knowledge of God by calling on His names. The handout "Tools & Techniques: Names of God" can serve as a resource for you.
- *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.
- 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!