

- 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 help you understand God's ultimate promise and to put this amazing truth in your Vault:

A. INSTABILITY

- *When our normal state of affairs is shaken up, how do we move forward in faith?*
- That's the situation that the children of Israel (COI) were facing as they came to the end of their time in the Wilderness – everything was changing.
- Even the Wilderness offered them some sense of security. Manna came each morning and they knew where to go because the Cloud and the Fire guided them.
- The Wilderness wasn't easy, despite evidence of God's supernatural presence: Is 48:21--They did not thirst when He led them through the deserts; He caused the waters to flow from the rock for them; He also split the rock, and the waters gushed out.
- Being led by the man who met with God face to face enabled them to endure their desert experience with a greater sense of stability and security.
- Now Moses was dead. Who would fight their opponents or intercede for them?
- In this time of instability, the Lord spoke. He told them through Joshua what to value and how to build faith into the deep place of their Vaults: Josh 1:1-5-- After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, it came to pass that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: ²“Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel. ³Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. ⁴From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. ⁵No man shall *be able to* stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.”
- God was preparing Joshua and all of His people for the uncertain and the unknown.
- This groundwork was crucial if the people were to take hold of their inheritance, if they were going to conquer Canaan, harvest its crops, and build a stable life there.
- LISTENING EXERCISE:
Where are you facing uncertainty and the unknown?

Is there anything you need to let go of in order to take hold of what's ahead of you?

- Insights:

B. PURPOSE

- The Lord tells the people to “arise,” signifying that they have a God-given purpose for their lives. In order to realize that purpose, they must “go” to a different place.
- That is often the case when walking with God. He beckons us to the unfamiliar and to things that are strange and out of our comfort zones.
- He is commissioning not only Joshua, but also all His people to connect with a purpose that is too large for them. (v.2)
- That greater purpose is true for us today as well: Is 43:7-- Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him.
- God’s purposes for His children will always be greater than our abilities can accomplish. This might leave us with a sense of inadequacy and insecurity.
- However, God makes it clear that we are not left to our own devices. If He has spoken it then He will bring it to pass: Is 48:11-- I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.
- The Lord reassures Joshua and “all this people” by repeating a longstanding promise twice: “*I am giving*” and “*I have given*” you the land. (vv. 2-3)
- Still, He’s asking them to do something that’s different as well as difficult! God is challenging them to gain their inheritance through a lifestyle of faith and obedience.
- When God gives them these instructions, He set some very specific boundaries for them as well. (v.4)
- Boundaries are the Lord’s gift to help us stay on mission and to keep us from taking on territory outside of His purposes for us: Ps 16:6 NIV-- The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.
- Their boundaries were geographic. For God’s children today, His boundaries are sometimes not so easy to recognize. Here are a couple of indicators for us:
 - God’s Written Word: Luke 11:28 EXB-- Jesus said, “...Blessed are those who hear the teaching [word] of God and obey [practice; keep] it.”
 - Desire and Enabling Power: Phil 2:13 AMP--- For it is [not your strength, but it is] God who is effectively at work in you, both to will and to work [that is, strengthening, energizing, and creating in you the longing and the ability to fulfill your purpose] for His good pleasure.
- The Lord prepares and equips us to sense and stay within His boundary lines with the help of His Word and His Spirit: Gal 5:25-- Let us also keep in step with the Spirit.
- “Our life is not an ever-broadening horizon with limitless opportunities, but is instead an invitation to celebrate our boundaries and limitations and learn to flourish with the people God has given to us, in the places that we call home.” (Tripp Prince)
- In specifying what they are to take on, God is also reminding them not to repeat the mistakes of their parents: Ps 95:7-11 MSG-- Drop everything and listen, listen as he speaks: “Don’t turn a deaf ear as in the Bitter Uprising, as on the day of the Wilderness Test, when your ancestors turned and put *me* to the test. For forty years they watched me at work among them, as over and over they tried my patience. And I was provoked—oh, was I provoked! ‘Can’t they keep their minds on God for five minutes? Do they simply refuse to walk down my road?’ Exasperated, I exploded, ‘They’ll never get where they’re headed, never be able to sit down and rest.’”
- We must stay focused on God, watching and waiting for His instructions. He will reveal the pathway to His purpose for us progressively: Pr 4:18 NLT--The way of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, which shines ever brighter until the full light of day.

- Keeping our Vaults (hearts) open and available to the Lord will allow Him to work internally to make us ready to carry out the purposes He has for our lives.
- LISTENING EXERCISE: *How am I doing in the area of staying open and available to the Holy Spirit?*

What are the biggest competitors to keeping my mind on God for 5 minutes?

- Insights:

C. ABSOLUTES

- God Himself is the only absolute in Joshua's situation or in any of ours! Only God and His Word are absolutely reliable and unchanging.
- When He speaks into the unknown, our security and certainty can rest on His character and His promises.
- Moses was convinced that He must depend entirely upon the Lord and would not make a move without Him: Ex 33:15-16 MSG-- Moses said, "If your presence doesn't take the lead here, call this trip off right now. How else will it be known that you're with me in this, with me and your people? Are you traveling with us or not? How else will we know that we're special, I and your people, among all other people on this planet Earth?"
- Jesus Himself walked with the Father in absolute dependency: John 14:10 JBP-- Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The very words I say to you are not my own. It is the Father who lives in me who carries out his work through me.
- Our God is a Way Maker. Knowing this In The Vault can free us from a mindset of slavery and fear as it did Joshua.
- We can face big obstacles and certain conflict with faith when we, like Joshua, learn the secret of a powerful and victorious walk with God -- He will always provide all that's necessary for following Him: Num 14:6-9 NLT-- Two of the men who had explored the land, Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, tore their clothing. ⁷ They said to all the people of Israel, "The land we traveled through and explored is a wonderful land! ⁸ And if the Lord is pleased with us, he will bring us safely into that land and give it to us. It is a rich land flowing with milk and honey. ⁹ Do not rebel against the Lord, and don't be afraid of the people of the land. They are only helpless prey to us! They have no protection, but the Lord is with us! Don't be afraid of them!"

- Forty years later, the Lord is reminding the people what Joshua said to the previous generation, *“No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life.”* (v. 5)
- God excludes no one and nothing from this promise. No opposition can stop the purposes of God for your life!
- The Lord is not saying He is going to make up super-humans. He is telling His people that His supernatural presence with us is the only thing we really need!
- God’s presence with us is the only thing that can never be taken away from us.
- Don’t miss the main point of the passage: the real promise isn’t the Promised Land (or any other promise). The ultimate promise is the presence of God with us!
- FYI, God gives the promise of His presence in many places in Scripture: Exodus 3:12, Deut 4:31, Deut 31:6, Josh 3:7, Ps 46:11, Is 41:10, Is 43:2, Matt 28:20, Heb 13:5, and Deut 33:12 AMP--The beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by Him; He covers him all the day long, and makes His dwelling between his shoulders
- LISTENING EXERCISE: Take a moment to hear what God was saying then and what He is saying to us today: *“As I was with Moses, so I will be with you.”* (v. 5)

How does this promise change the way you see and think about one of the places where you feel instability or insecurity?

Is there something that You want me to say to me now, Lord?

- God tells us this amazing truth that is almost incomprehensible, and if we will take it in deeply, it will change the way we experience just about everything in life: *“I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.”*
- Insights:

II. CONTINUE TO PRACTICE

- Rehearse “The Ultimate Promise” that the Lord has given: *I will be with you. I will never leave you nor forsake you.* Spend some time journaling about any inner resistance to it and situations where you’d like to apply it (what it would look like).
- Here are a few Faith Statements targeted to put In The Vault from Joshua 1:1-5:
 - God has a purpose for me even in situations that are uncertain or unstable.
 - The Lord calls me to rise up and move forward into His purposes.
 - His plans for me will always be too big for me to accomplish on my own.
 - God’s boundaries are a gift to me. They keep me safe.
 - When I walk with God, He will deliver me from the obstacles I will surely face.
 - I can count on God’s presence at all times and in every situation!
- 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.
- 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:

At the center of my being, what things do I firmly and completely believe to be true?

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!