

- 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 obstacles to our faith. Let's use them to add truth to and rid error from our Vaults:

A. CONSECRATE

- Joshua 3:1-8 NIV-- Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Acacia Grove and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. ² After three days the officers went throughout the camp, ³ giving orders to the people: "When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. ⁴ Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about two thousand cubits between you and the ark; do not go near it."
⁵ Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you."
⁶ Joshua said to the priests, "Take up the Ark of the covenant and pass on ahead of the people." So they took it up and went ahead of them.
⁷ And the Lord said to Joshua, "Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses. ⁸ Tell the priests who carry the Ark of the covenant: 'When you reach the edge of the Jordan's waters, go and stand in the river.'"
- The Ark of the Covenant is a symbol of the Presence of the Lord. As an NT believer, you carry God's presence always because the Holy Spirit lives in you. (Vault Target Truth!)
- God's people are called to keep their eyes on Him, to seek out His presence:
 - Ps 123:2 AMP-- As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, And as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, until He is gracious *and* favorable toward us.
 - Ps 141:8 NLV-- For my eyes are toward You, O God the Lord. In You I have a safe place. Do not leave me without help.

- Consecrate = to be (make, pronounce or observe as) clean (ceremonially or morally), dedicate, hallow, (be, keep) holy, prepare, purify, sanctify (oneself) wholly (Strong's H6942)
- When we consecrate our hearts and lives before God, it prepares us to see and respond in faith to Him. Here are some aspects of consecration:
 1. Cleansing
 - Deut 23:4 NLT--The camp must be holy, for the Lord your God moves around in your camp to protect you and to defeat your enemies.
 - 2 Cor 7:1 AMP--Since we have these [great and wonderful] promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, completing holiness [living a consecrated life—a life set apart for God's purpose] in the fear of God.

- 1 Jn 1:9 JBP--if we freely admit that we have sinned, we find God utterly reliable and straightforward—he forgives our sins and makes us thoroughly clean from all that is evil.

2. Commitment

- Deut 6:5 MSG--Love God, your God, with your whole heart: love him with all that's in you, love him with all you've got!
- 1 Kg 8:61 NLT-- May you be completely faithful to the LORD our God. May you always obey his decrees and commands, just as you are doing today

3. Compliance

- Gal 6:2-5 MSG --When we went under the water, we left the old country of sin behind; when we came up out of the water, we entered into the new country of grace—a new life in a new land! That's what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus. Each of us is raised into a light-filled world by our Father so that we can see where we're going in our new grace-sovereign country.
- Insights:

B. CONFRONT

- Joshua 3:9-14a NIV-- Joshua said to the Israelites, "Come here and listen to the words of the Lord your God. ¹⁰This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites. ¹¹See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. ¹²Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. ¹³And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the Lord—the Lord of all the earth—set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap." ¹⁴So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the Ark of the covenant went ahead of them. ¹⁵Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest.
- Whenever we seek to fully possess God's inheritance to us, we will face significant obstacles that we must confront.

- The Hebrews needed to cross the Jordan River at its peak. They had a history there. Their parents failed to believe God and experience all that He had planned for them.
- Phil 3:13 EXB-- Brothers and sisters, I know that I have not yet reached that goal [taken hold of it], but there is one thing I always do. Forgetting the past [things that are behind] and straining toward [stretching/reaching forward to] what is ahead
- Our obstacles to Promised Land living (abundant life) are more often in the spiritual (flesh, enemy) and emotional category (fear, shame, doubt, insecurity, regret, resentment, etc.).
- Mk 24:38-- Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.”
- Jn 15:5—Apart from Me, you can do nothing.
- Ps 73:26-- My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
- Ps 84:5-- Blessed *is* the man whose strength *is* in You, whose heart *is* set on pilgrimage.
- LISTENING EXERCISE: *What are the obstacles in your life that are keeping you from moving forward with God in faith?*
- Confront your emotional obstacles by praying through the series of questions below. Set aside 10 -15 minutes of stillness. Try not to analyze or edit. Go with the flow, writing down the first thing that comes to mind as you open your heart before the Lord:
 - *What are the feelings that I am experiencing now? Make a list in your journal.*
 - *Of these emotions on my list, which one do You want to speak to now, Lord?*
 - *Will You bring to mind a time in my past where I have felt this way before?*
 - *What was the message I believed at that time?*
 - *Lord, what is the truth about that situation?*
 - *Follow up with meditation and worship, rehearsing the truths God has given you until they penetrate into your Vault.*
- Insights:

C. COURAGE

- Joshua 3:14b–17; 4:10-24 NIV-- Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water’s edge, ¹⁶ the water from upstream stopped

flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. ¹⁷ The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground...

¹⁰ Now the priests who carried the ark remained standing in the middle of the Jordan until everything the Lord had commanded Joshua was done by the people, just as Moses had directed Joshua. The people hurried over, ¹¹ and as soon as all of them had crossed, the ark of the Lord and the priests came to the other side while the people watched. ¹² The men of Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh crossed over, ready for battle, in front of the Israelites, as Moses had directed them. ¹³ About forty thousand armed for battle crossed over before the Lord to the plains of Jericho for war.

¹⁴ That day the Lord exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they stood in awe of him all the days of his life, just as they had stood in awe of Moses.

¹⁵ Then the Lord said to Joshua, ¹⁶ "Command the priests carrying the Ark of the covenant law to come up out of the Jordan."

¹⁷ So Joshua commanded the priests, "Come up out of the Jordan."

¹⁸ And the priests came up out of the river carrying the Ark of the covenant of the Lord. No sooner had they set their feet on the dry ground than the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and ran at flood stage as before.

¹⁹ On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. ²⁰ And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. ²¹ He said to the Israelites, "In the future when your descendants ask their parents, 'What do these stones mean?' ²² tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.' ²³ For the Lord your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The Lord your God did to the Jordan what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. ²⁴ He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is powerful and so that you might always fear the Lord your God."

- The priests carrying the Ark provide an excellent example of what it looks like to move forward by faith and not sight. Their actions were in sync with the promises of God (3:10, 13)
- Though circumstances seemed impossible, they listened to God and responded in obedience to His Word. Only then did He move on their behalf.

- God's children would find courage for the battles ahead because God was faithful to His promise at the Jordan. The memorial stones would serve as a reminder to them.
- Is 43:2 AMP-- When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they will not overwhelm you.
- Ps 2:8-- Ask of Me, and I will give *you* the nations *for* your inheritance, and the ends of the earth *for* Your possession.
- Insights:

II. CONTINUE TO PRACTICE

- Use the questions on page 4 of this handout to confront your inner obstacles. This will help you to believe God more fully and stockpile your Vault with His truths.
- 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.
- Set aside a time this week for practicing biblical meditation. See the suggested approach below. Write down your what you experienced:
 - Choose a Scripture that you want to make your own, to believe with your whole heart, and deposit in your Vault.
 - Look up your verse in different versions to find the one that best expresses its truth to you. (Use a Bible search engine like biblegateway.com.)
 - Begin your time of meditation, by asking the Holy Spirit to open your mind and heart to the wonderful truths in the passage. Pray that He will personalize His word and apply it to your life as you sit before Him.
 - Read through the passage several times, being alert for the insights and wisdom that the Holy Spirit brings to mind.
 - Choose the truth that is most meaningful to you. Now write it down and pray it back to God. Thank Him for what he has shown you.
 - Sit quietly, meditating on this particular truth for a few minutes. If your mind wanders, simply go back to the Scripture and continue to reflect.
 - Continue this practice periodically (daily, weekly) expecting to discover different insights and experience deeper understanding each time.
- 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!
- This week, generate your own faith statements from Joshua 3. Write the truths that you want to put into your Vault in your own words. Revisit them often.
- 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).
- 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:
 - 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!