

- 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 add truth to and rid error from our Vaults:

A. RENEWING OUR COVENANT

- The people of God had miraculously crossed the Jordan River. They were eager to take on their first battle at Jericho. However, God had something else in mind.
- Joshua 5:1-15--When all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings who lived along the Mediterranean coast heard how the Lord had dried up the Jordan River so the people of Israel could cross, they lost heart and were paralyzed with fear because of them.² At that time the Lord told Joshua, "Make flint knives and circumcise this second generation of Israelites."

³ So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the entire male population of Israel at Gibeath-haaraloth. ⁴ Joshua had to circumcise them because all the men who were old enough to fight in battle when they left Egypt had died in the wilderness. ⁵ Those who left Egypt had all been circumcised, but none of those born after the Exodus, during the years in the wilderness, had been circumcised. ⁶ The Israelites had traveled in the wilderness for forty years until all the men who were old enough to fight in battle when they left Egypt had died. For they had disobeyed the Lord, and the Lord vowed he would not let them enter the land he had sworn to give us—a land flowing with milk and honey. ⁷ So Joshua circumcised their sons—those who had grown up to take their fathers' places—for they had not been circumcised on the way to the Promised Land. ⁸ After all the males had been circumcised, they rested in the camp until they were healed.

⁹ Then the Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the shame of your slavery in Egypt." So that place has been called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, they celebrated Passover on the evening of the fourteenth day of the first month. ¹¹ The very next day they began to eat unleavened bread and roasted grain harvested from the land. ¹² No manna appeared on the day they first ate from the crops of the land, and it was never seen again. So from that time on the Israelites ate from the crops of Canaan.

¹³ When Joshua was near the town of Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with sword in hand. Joshua went up to him and demanded, "Are you friend or foe?"

¹⁴ "Neither one," he replied. "I am the commander of the Lord's army."

At this, Joshua fell with his face to the ground in reverence. "I am at your command," Joshua said. "What do you want your servant to do?"

¹⁵ The commander of the Lord's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did as he was told.

- "For God is in no hurry. His purposes can be accomplished without haste, and though he would have us redeem the time because our days are evil, yet in his eternity he can afford to wait, and by his wisdom he so orders his delays, that they prove to be far better than our hurries." (C. H. Spurgeon)
- God knew the Hebrews weren't battle ready. They had not been doing the things He commanded them to do in the Wilderness due to the rebellious state of their parents.
- The Wilderness is a picture of the people who belong to God but are disconnected in their relationship with Him. This causes a lack of power and victory in their lives.

- Spiritual preparation was needed for this generation to possess their inheritance:
 1. Circumcision (vv. 2-8)
 - Starting with Abraham, circumcision marked the end of an old life and the beginning of a new life with God. (Gen 17:13)
 - The people were asked to renew the covenant with an outward sign of an inward condition. Only when God is Lord and sin isn't tolerated can He use us in battle.
 - The observance of circumcision in the OT is similar to baptism for the NT believer.
 2. Passover (v. 10)
 - Passover was a time to remember and worship how God had freed His people in the past. Feeding upon His love, favor, and power provided strength for the warfare ahead.
 - For today's Christian, the Lord's Supper replaces the Passover meal. Christ, the Passover Lamb, gave Himself a sacrifice on our behalf. (1 Cor 5:7)
 - The feasts are meant to point us to the spiritual blessings that we enjoy due to our covenant relationship with the Living God.
- In order to appropriate the promise of certain victory over their foes, God's people must purge their allegiance to the flesh and rid themselves from unaddressed sin,
- Conquest of our known enemies has already been secured, but our submission to God is a necessary part of overcoming our adversaries (Eph 2:1-3):
 1. World
 - John 16:33 AMP-- In the world you have tribulation *and* trials *and* distress *and* frustration; but be of good cheer [take courage; be confident, certain, undaunted]! For I have overcome the world. [I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you.]
 2. Flesh
 - Rom 6:6-7 NLT-- We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.
 3. Devil
 - Col 2:15 AMP-- When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities [those supernatural forces of evil operating against us], He made a public example of them [exhibiting them as captives in His triumphal procession], having triumphed over them through the cross.
- Insights:

B. RESTORING OF IDENTITY

- God used the rites of circumcision and the Passover as symbolic reminder of His relationship with Israel. He wanted their identities to be secure.
- Circumcision and Passover were ceremonies that highlighted the fact that this people about to enter Canaan belonged to God.
- By identifying these people as His very own, the Lord rolled away their legacy of shame that resulted from being slaves living in a place where they did not belong.
- Shame is “the intensely painful feeling or experience of believing that we are flawed and therefore unworthy of love and belonging.” (Brene’ Brown)
- Shame is a huge hindrance to connection and moving forward in confident faith.
- LISTENING EXERCISE: *Where is shame hiding in your life? Consider those places where you feel disconnected, unworthy, unseen, or stuck:*

Ask the Lord to reveal a) the roots of your shame, and b) what triggers it now:

- Here’s what God’s Word says about you! Which of these truths in your Vault?
 1. You are a Child of God: 1 John 3:1 NLT-- See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!
 2. You are Jesus’ Sister: Heb 2:11 NLT-- So now Jesus and the ones he makes holy have the same Father. That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them his brothers and sisters.
 3. You are the Bride of Christ: 2 Cor 11:2 NLT-- For I am jealous for you with the jealousy of God himself. I promised you as a pure bride to one husband—Christ.
 4. You are a Servant of God: Is 41:9-10 NLT-- I have called you back from the ends of the earth, saying, ‘You are my servant.’ For I have chosen you and will not throw you away. Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. Don’t be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.
 5. You are a Soldier for Christ: 2 Tim 2:3-4 NLT--Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ Soldiers don’t get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them.
- Explore the infinite ways that God’s character defines who you are by using the handout “Who I Am Because of Who He Is.” (“Revealing the Treasures” by Sylvia Gunter)
- Insights:

C. RESPONDING TO LORDSHIP

- Joshua offered worship to the true Commander of the Lord's armies. He was ready to receive his marching orders from the One who was really in charge! (v. 14)
- "(The Lord) had come to conquer Israel - before Israel could conquer anything else in the Promised Land, they had to be conquered by God - and Joshua's total submission shows that they are conquered by Him. This is the missing element in a life of victory for many Christians; they have not been, and are not continually being, conquered by God." (David Guzik)
- Is 30:18 TLB-- Yet the Lord still waits for you to come to him so he can show you his love; he will conquer you to bless you, just as he said. For the Lord is faithful to his promises. Blessed are all those who wait for him to help them.
- God had already promised victory over the enemy nations if only the people would be aware of His presence among them and follow Him in obedience: Exodus 23:20, 22-23-- "Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared... ²² But if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries. ²³ For My Angel will go before you and bring you in to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will cut them off.
- Though our battles are of a spiritual nature, we need to know in our Vaults that we, too, can experience victory in the Lord. Here are more target truths to internalize:
 1. God is with me: Ps 145:18-- The Lord *is* near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth.
 2. God is for me: Ps 118:6-- The Lord *is* on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?
 3. God fights for me: Deut 1:30 NLT-- The LORD your God is going ahead of you. He will fight for you, just as you saw him do in Egypt.
 4. God will deliver me: Ps 34:7-- The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them.
- Zeph 3:17-- The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet *you* with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.
- Insights:

II. CONTINUE TO PRACTICE

- 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.

- Pray through your emotional obstacles using 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:
 - a. *What are the feelings that I am experiencing now? Make a list in your journal.*
 - b. *Of these emotions on my list, which one do You want to speak to now, Lord?*
 - c. *Will You bring to mind a time in my past where I have felt this way before?*
 - d. *What was the message I believed at that time?*
 - e. *Lord, what is the truth about that situation?*
 - f. *Follow up with meditation and worship, rehearsing the truths God has given you until they penetrate into your Vault.*
- Practice biblical meditation using the suggested approach below:
 - 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. Record your insights in your journal.
- 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 5. Write the truths that you want to put into your Vault in your own words. Revisit them often.
- 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!