

- 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:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBL8waErHIN4UsIBTziYe4FD1UMxzNxF>

- Enjoy this year's songs on Spotify or on our DDD You Tube channel (see handout):
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBL8waErHIN6ncxj-5uV0AXyVObmZeALl>

IV. PRINCIPLES

These principles will help you to find life in all your Wilderness areas:

A. WILDERNESS MINDSETS REVIEW

- We can begin finding life in the Wilderness by remembering that God has led us there and intends to use that time and space to shower us with many benefits.
- Wilderness Mindsets are thoughts that are not based on God's revealed truth.
- Often hidden below the surface, they must be exposed so that they do not hinder us from the good things the Lord wants to do for us in The Wilderness.
- The children of Israel had many mindsets that prevented them from thriving in their God-appointed Wilderness. We want to recognize these in ourselves:
 1. Identity/Insecurity
 2. Self-Focus
 3. Works
 4. Fear of Man
 5. Questioning God
 6. Compromise
 7. Comfort
 8. Concession
- We must take these thought patterns captive and replace them with the truth of what God says. As our minds change for the better, transformation happens inside of us!

Insights:

B. UNBELIEF EXPOSED: REBELLION

- God responds to the cry of the Hebrew people to free them from the land of Egypt. Their thinking was like slaves instead of like sons and daughters: Ex 6:6-9 MSG--"I am God. I will bring you out from under the cruel hard labor of Egypt. I will rescue you from slavery. I will redeem you, intervening with great acts of judgment. I'll take you as my own people and I'll be God to you. You'll know that I am God, *your* God who brings you out from under the cruel hard labor of Egypt. I'll bring you into the land that I promised to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and give it to you as your own country. *I AM God.*"⁹ But when Moses delivered this message to the Israelites, they didn't even hear him—they were that beaten down in spirit by the harsh slave conditions.
- The Lord spectacularly liberates the children of Israel (COI) and leads them into the desert to ready them for taking possession of their inheritance in Canaan.
- The Lord intended their time in The Wilderness to be temporary. They would go through the process necessary to develop mindsets suited for the Promised Land.
- Throughout the process, they reverted back to a slavery mindset. They preferred their cruel taskmasters to God and His goodness: Ex 14:12 NLT--"Didn't we tell you this would happen while we were still in Egypt? We said, 'Leave us alone! Let us be slaves to the Egyptians. It's better to be a slave in Egypt than a corpse in the wilderness!'"
- Whenever they encountered difficulty, they quickly forgot the deeds of the Lord. They rebelled, believing that their plans were better than God's plans for them.
- "Rebellion" means to lodge, remain, tarry; to be obstinate or stubborn; to persist in a bad way; and to grumble against a leader or against God. (Strong's H3885)

- The Israelites had a history of rebellion: Ex 32:9 AMP-- The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, they are a stiff-necked (stubborn, rebellious) people.
- Their time at Kadesh-barnea (Num 13-14) demonstrates how rebellion comes when faith is required. Here are some of the sources and symptoms of rebellion:
 1. Emotional immaturity: Num 14:1 NLT--Then the whole community began weeping aloud, and they cried all night.
 2. Revolting against leadership: Num 14:2 NLT--Their voices rose in a great chorus of protest against Moses and Aaron. "If only we had died in Egypt, or even here in the wilderness!" they complained.
 3. Doubting God's motives: Num 14:3 NLT—"Why is the Lord taking us to this country only to have us die in battle? Our wives and our little ones will be carried off as plunder! Wouldn't it be better for us to return to Egypt?"
 4. Rejecting God's plans: Num 14:4 NLT--Then they plotted among themselves, "Let's choose a new leader and go back to Egypt!"
 5. Offended by faith-filled people: Num 14:5-10 NLT-- Then Moses and Aaron fell face down on the ground before the whole community of Israel. Two of the men who had explored the land, Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, tore their clothing. They said to all the people of Israel, "The land we traveled through and explored is a wonderful land! 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. 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!" But the whole community began to talk about stoning Joshua and Caleb.
 6. Lack of gratitude and trust: Num 14:11 NLT--And the Lord said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with contempt? Will they never believe me, even after all the miraculous signs I have done among them?"
 7. Refusal to listen to God: Num 14:17-22 NLT—(Moses prayed), "Please, Lord, prove that your power is as great as you have claimed. For you said, 'The Lord is slow to anger and filled with unfailing love, forgiving every kind of sin and rebellion. But he does not excuse the guilty. He lays the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations.' In keeping with your magnificent, unfailing love, please pardon the sins of this people, just as you have forgiven them ever since they left Egypt." Then the Lord said, "I will pardon them as you have requested. But as surely as I live, and as surely as the earth is filled with the Lord's glory, not one of these people will ever enter that land. They have all seen my glorious presence and the miraculous signs I performed both in Egypt and in the wilderness, but again and again they have tested me by refusing to listen to my voice.
 8. Grumbling: Num 14:26-27 ESV--And the Lord spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying, "How long shall this wicked congregation grumble against me? I have heard the grumbings of the people of Israel, which they grumble against me.
- The COI were not willing to set aside the mindset of unbelief. When offered the opportunity to walk with God in faith, they rebelled again and again.
- They never knew the joy of following God into the impossible. Instead of entering the Promised Land, they wandered in a Wilderness of their own making (vv. 28ff).

Insights:

C. UNBELIEF EXPRESSED: GRUMBLING

- Grumbling, simply put, is to rebel out loud. According to Strong's it means, "to be obstinate (especially in words); to murmur."
- The Israelites desired the easy way. They were discontent with God's plans: Ps 106:14, 24-25 NLT--In the wilderness their desires ran wild, testing God's patience in that dry wasteland...The people refused to enter the pleasant land, for they wouldn't believe his promise to care for them. Instead, they grumbled in their tents and refused to obey the Lord.
- Though their desire for safety was legitimate, their attitude toward the Lord was not. Their craving for comfort was of the flesh and its basis was unbelief.
- Instead of submitting to God's methods and timing, we listen to the cravings inside and then express them in outbursts of grumbling.
- "'Unfair,' says some voice within us. 'That's not right,' says another. Desires become expectations; expectations become rights. And instead of bringing our disappointment to God, and allowing his words to steady us, we let unmet desire fester into discontentment. We grumble." (Scott Hubbard)

DESIRE → EXPECTATION → RIGHTS/ ENTITLEMENT → DISAPPOINTMENT → DISCONTENT → GRUMBLE

- This line of thought ends with a negative report. We saw in Numbers 13 grumbling and negativity spread quickly throughout the camp and robbed an entire generation.
- Caleb was a man of a "different spirit." (v. 24 ESV) He was wholehearted in his determination to follow the Lord: Num 14:23-24 NLT-- They will never even see the land I swore to give their ancestors. None of those who have treated me with contempt will ever see it. But my servant Caleb has a different attitude than the others have. He has remained loyal to me, so I will bring him into the land he explored. His descendants will possess their full share of that land.
- The Bible tells us that lack of negativity and grumbling has a tremendous positive influence on the world around us: Phil 2:14-15 AMP-- Do all things without grumbling *and* faultfinding *and* complaining [against God] and questioning *and* doubting [among yourselves], that you may show yourselves to be blameless *and* guileless, innocent *and* uncontaminated, children of God without blemish (faultless, unrebukable) in the midst of a crooked *and* wicked generation [spiritually perverted and perverse], among whom you are seen as bright lights (stars or beacons shining out clearly) in the [dark] world
- We can be a modern-day Caleb by expressing a different spirit and attitude.
- Tutor your emotions! Here are some practical strategies from Scripture that will lead you progressively from a place of unbelief to a place of submission and rest:
 1. Pour out your heart to God in prayer: Ps 142:1-3-- I cry out to the Lord with my voice; with my voice to the Lord I make my supplication. I pour out my complaint before Him; I declare before Him my trouble. When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then You knew my path.
 2. Sing praises to the Lord: Ps 81: 1a AMP-- Sing aloud to God our strength
 3. Go beyond your current practice of praise: Ps 81:1 b AMP--Shout for joy to the God of Jacob (Israel).
 4. Exalt the name of God above your circumstances and feelings: Ps 34:3 NLT-- Come, let us tell of the Lord's greatness; let us exalt his name together.
 5. Remember His faithfulness in your life: Ps 34:6 NLT-- In my desperation I prayed, and the Lord listened; he saved me from all my troubles.

6. Submit to His purposes and timing: Ps 16:5-- Lord, I have chosen you alone as my inheritance. You are my prize, my pleasure, and my portion. I leave my destiny *and its timing* in your hands.
 7. Open your heart to His covenant love and peace: Is 54:10-- “For the mountains may be removed and the hills may shake, But My lovingkindness will not be removed from you, and My covenant of peace will not be shaken,” says the Lord who has compassion on you.
 8. Trust God to give you His perspective and His words: Ps 81:10 NLT-- For it was I, the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it with good things.
 9. Now release faith by singing into your Wilderness place: Is 54:1-- “Sing, O barren, you *who* have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, you *who* have not labored with child! For more *are* the children of the desolate than the children of the married woman,” says the Lord.
 10. Watch and wait for God to work His redemptive plan: Ps 130:5-8 MSG-- I pray to God—my life a prayer—and wait for what he’ll say and do. My life’s on the line before God, my Lord, waiting and watching till morning, waiting and watching till morning.⁷⁻⁸ O Israel, wait and watch for God—with God’s arrival comes love, with God’s arrival comes generous redemption. No doubt about it—he’ll redeem Israel, buy back Israel from captivity to sin.
- Employing our tongues to stir up faith causes our hearts to come into a place of rest and alignment with God. It’s no longer an appealing idea to rebel or grumble!
 - When we sow to the Spirit, God says we’ll experience the fruitfulness that He intends for our lives: Gal 6:8-- The harvest you reap reveals the seed that was planted. If you plant the corrupt seeds of self - life into this natural realm, you can expect to experience a harvest of corruption. If you plant the good seeds of Spirit-life you will reap the beautiful fruits that grow from the everlasting life of the Spirit.

Insights:

II. CONTINUE TO PRACTICE

- Think about the Wilderness Mindsets we have covered so far -- Identity/Insecurity, Self-Focus, Works, Fear of Man, Questioning God, Compromise, Comfort, Concession: 1) Which is your biggest battleground? 2) Ask the Lord which “weapons of warfare” He would have you pick up and use in this battle. 3) Enlist the help of your group or a prayer partner!
- Use your “Tools & Techniques” pages (blue) to supplement the teaching in areas where you need strengthening:
 - Listening to God – examines the Scriptures about our communion with the Lord
 - Elevation and Articulation (I Feel But God Says) -- helps you hold the truth of what God has said higher than your thoughts and emotions
 - Liberation – gives you ammunition to overcome a works mindset
 - Who I Am – assists you in anchoring your identity in the truth of who God is for you
 - Call Upon the Name of the Lord – uses the names of God to help you know Him better
- Set aside some time for listening to God. He will feed and fuel you with His Word. Use these suggested steps to help you get started:
 1. Pray for God to open the eyes of your heart to see and know Him.
 2. Pour out your heart to Him verbally or in your journal.
 3. Go to Scriptures that are relevant to your issue (use a concordance or Bible website).
 4. Write down the verses that speak to you most. Pray them back to God.
 5. Listen for His response, as you are silent before Him.
 6. Keep a written record of your dialogue and be sure to review it often.
 7. Use the handout “Tools & Techniques: Listening to God” for practical help and Scriptural support. Contact your leader if you have questions.
- Listening Prayer helps us find out where our Wilderness Mindsets got started:
 - Get in touch with your predominant emotions. Write them down and feel the feelings.
 - Ask the Lord to show you an event or environment where these feelings got started. It could be something in your recent or distant past. Write it down.
 - What is the message you came to believe? Usually the first thing that springs to mind is your “truth” even though you may know better. Record that thought.
 - Ask the Lord: What’s the truth about this? Write down the thoughts that come to mind.
 - Be sure to check that this truth is consistent with the character of God and His Word. If you need help with this, reach out to your leader or other trusted spiritual advisor.
- Learn to recognize your Wilderness and its beneficial purposes. Be on the alert for any seeds of pride that begin to spring up:
 - Testing
 - Time Out
 - Therapeutic
 - Transformation
 - Preparation
 - Power
 - Worship
 - Hunger and Thirst for God and His Word
 - Humility
 - Shaping Character
 - Waiting/Perseverance
 - Purification
- Practice Wilderness Worship to grow in intimacy with God during this season using Supplication, Silence, Song, and Surrender.
- Our challenge on this journey through The Wilderness is keep our eyes off of our circumstances and to stay focused on our Rock, Jesus.
- As we put aside leaning on our own understanding, we will be transformed by God: Song 8:5-- Who is this coming up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved