

- 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. RECEIVING AND APPLYING GOD'S WORD:

- A. Has God ever called you into his family? Do you remember that first encounter? Think on that time and thank Him.

If you grew up in the church you may not remember a time when you did not know Jesus, but God does reveal Himself to us with ever increasing glory in our ongoing relationships with Him. Look back over your relationship with the Lord. Starting from your spiritual birth, ask Him to show you 2 or 3 beholding Jesus times in your life – times where you experienced His presence by

- His peace in a time of fear or worry
- His direction in a time of confusion or indecision
- His forgiveness and mercy in a time you were wrong
- His sweet spirit conviction in a time you didn't know you were wrong
- His assurance in a time you were filled with self doubt
- His vision when you didn't know where you were going
- His healing power when you were sick
- His provision when you felt lack
- His comforting love in the midst of disappointment
- His fellowship when you felt you didn't belong
- His word of encouragement in a time of discouragement
- His validation when you felt insignificant
- His love when you felt rejected
- His understanding when you felt misunderstood
- His strength when you were weary

When you experienced His presence was it through His Word, through a person (friend, teacher, preacher, spouse, or child), song, or that still small voice of His spirit? Jesus is the Word and He speaks to us through all of these.

- B. Perhaps you have a memory where you didn't feel peaceful, comforted, directed, taken care of, forgiven, or heard. Ask Jesus to take you to that memory and show you where He was at your time of need. He is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb. 13:8) and He is always with us (Matt. 28:20). He always speaks in harmony with His Word. Hear Him speak words of comfort, peace and love even now in that hurt filled memory. Write them down. Thank Him for His healing words.

- C. Spend time beholding Jesus in the Word this week. Meditate on John 1:1-18. See Jesus as high and lifted up, supreme over all, and full of grace and truth. Which word, phrase or verse jumps out at you as God's word for you this week?

Hear it, see it, receive it, repeat it, sing it and pray it back to Him. Ask Him for eye salve! Ask Him to make that word flesh in you this week.

- D. In which relationship or circumstance in your life are you experiencing less than perfect love and peace?

- Journal about this situation
- See yourself and others involved as the Ones Jesus loves
- Know that He hears you
- Sit still and believe He is present
- See Jesus as high and lifted up, still on the throne, ruling and teaching in this situation. Ask God to make His word about Himself from John 1 true in this situation.
- See Jesus as loving and good in this situation
- Ask Him to speak to you through His Word (one that He will bring to mind, one that He will lead you to in His Word, one that He will remind you of from a sermon a song, or a symbol.)
- Hear His words of direction, comfort, love, peace, mercy and forgiveness
- Write them down in your journal
- What did you have trouble seeing, hearing, or believing about God in this situation?
- What did you have trouble seeing, hearing, or believing about yourself in this situation?
- Thank Him that He speaks and cares even when you do not sense Him.

- E. As you hit rough places in your life this week, turn your eyes upon Jesus. See Him as the One you love. See yourself as His Beloved. Thank Him for His presence. Ask Him what He wants to say to you. See and Hear Him. Ask Him for eye salve. Ask Him to open the eyes of your heart! Keep a record of what He says and how He encourages you from His Word, from the body of Christ, or from your times of worship.