HOW RELATIONSHIPS WORK:	Finding the	Father's Favor
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11/04/14

I. <u>ONE THING</u>—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. If you want to add details to your notes, you'll 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.

III. PERSONALIZATION

- A. <u>Meditate on these passages</u> and ask God to deepen your understanding of the relational principles found there.
 - 1. Father Heart of God
 - <u>Lk 15: 5, 7 NLT</u>—(To) search for the one that is lost until he finds it. And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders... In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away!
 - o Insights:

2. Flawed, Forgiven, Favored

- <u>Luke 15:31</u>--"My son," the father said, "you are always with me, and everything I have is yours."
- o Insights:

3. Finding Favor

- a. <u>Elisha and the Widow: 2 Kg 4:2-4 NIV</u>-- "Your servant has nothing there at all," she said, "except a small jar of olive oil." Elisha said, "Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few. Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars (until)...each is filled. Insights:
- b. Elijah and the Widow: 1 Kg 17:12-16 TV—(The widow): I don't have any bread. *In fact, I am starving.* I don't have anything except for a bit of flour in a bowl and a few drops of oil in a jar. I was gathering sticks *when you arrived to make a fire* so that my son and I could eat one last bite of food and then die. *It's all over for us.* Elijah: 13 *I assure you that it's not over for you yet.* Don't be afraid. Continue what you were doing, but make a small bread cake for me first, and bring it here to me. Then you and your son may eat your own bread cakes. 14 This is the message of the Eternal God of Israel: "The flour and the oil will not run out until the moment when the Eternal showers the earth with rain."15 She did exactly as Elijah had instructed her to do, and everyone who lived in her house had food for days. 16 The bowl of flour and the jar of oil did not run out, just as the Eternal had said through Elijah. Insights:

- c. Feeding the 4000: Matt 15:32-38
 - Verse 32 NLT-- Jesus called his disciples and told them, "I feel sorry for these people. They have been here with me for three days, and they have nothing left to eat. I don't want to send them away hungry
 - o Verse 34 NLT-- Jesus asked, "How much bread do you have?"
 - Verse 36 NIV-- Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, and when he had given thanks, he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and they in turn to the people.
 - o Insights:

d. The Gentile Mother: Matt 15:22-28 NLT-- A Gentile woman who lived there came to him, pleading, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! For my daughter has a demon in her, and it is severely tormenting her." But Jesus gave her no reply -- not even a word. Then his disciples urged him to send her away. "Tell her to leave," they said. "She is bothering us with all her begging." Then he said to the woman, "I was sent only to help the people of Israel -- God's lost sheep -- not the Gentiles." But she came and worshiped him and pleaded again, "Lord, help me!" "It isn't right to take food from the children and throw it to the dogs," he said. "Yes, Lord," she replied, "but even dogs are permitted to eat crumbs that fall beneath their master's table." "Woman," Jesus said to her, "your faith is great. Your request is granted." And her daughter was instantly healed. Insights:

- B. Get to know God better by connecting to these particular aspects of His character in prayer and praise. Ask the Holy Spirit to bless your eyes to see all the specific benefits that are yours because of who He is:
- Jehovah Jireh is my Provider:
 - Gen 22:14 YLT-- Abraham calleth the name of that place `Jehovah-Jireh,' because
 it is said this day in the mount, `Jehovah doth provide.'
 - Insights:
- He is the Bread of Life:
 - o John 6:35—I am the Bread of life. No one who comes to Me will ever be hungry.
 - o <u>Insights</u>:

- God is my Father:
 - 2 Cor 6:18-- I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.
 - Eph 1:3-5 NLT-- How we praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we belong to Christ. 4 Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. 5 His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave him great pleasure.
 - o Insights:
- C. <u>Prepare for next week</u> by prayerfully considering the handout "Tools & Techniques: Obstacles to Freedom." (The morning class will also have a Trumpet Call page.)
- D. Continue to grow in your relationship with God by applying these principles:
 - Keep examining your life for a Poverty Mindset or problem-oriented thinking.
 In the hard places of your life, look for these characteristics:
 - > "I have to" vs. "I get to" attitude
 - Barricades
 - Bellyaching
 - Blaming
 - Bitterness
 - Buts
 - Maintain connection with God by applying "The Middle of the Page" listening exercise whenever you sense distance between you and Him: "Is there anything causing separation or disconnection between us right now, Lord?"
 - Practice receiving and welcoming a particular Fruit of the Spirit every time a negative thought or emotion confronts you. Ask the Holy Spirit what He wants to be TO you in that moment. Receive His provision. Then ask Him to be that same thing THROUGH you to the people and circumstances involved.
 - <u>Deepen your intimacy</u> with God by rejoicing in Him. Take time each day to offer Him thanksgiving and praise.
 - <u>Learn to find joy in waiting on God</u>. Remember that He has more in store for you than just a resolution to your issue. Pray and praise as you wait. Be sure to keep a record of His faithfulness and tell others of all that He is doing.
 - Throughout your day take the opportunity to enjoy God's presence. Go to your Secret Place to connect with Him spirit-to-Spirit anytime, anywhere.
 - At the beginning of your day, take a few minutes to connect with God: <u>Proverbs 8:34 NAS</u>--Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at my doorposts.