**[PP slide 1: – Title]**

[Leader:

* Print out/copy file – [6 History 1a.docx]. I print out the Worksheet, and the Vine Replacement Tool sections on separate sheets of paper, but, set them up as you please. You will use both sections in this class session.
* Do the worksheet and Vine Replacement Tool yourself before you attempt to teach this session]

[Leader:  **“**Please join me now in prayer”

Dear Heavenly Father, “May the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing in Your sight, our Rock and our Redeemer.” In Jesus’ name, amen.]

**Introduction**

Review:

In our first session, I described a strategy called **No Hold** which is rooted in, and inspired by, Jesus’ statement in John 14.

**[PP slide 2: John 14:30-31]**

We noted that there seems to be a dynamic relationship between reducing influence and growing influence between the two “kingdoms”.

 **[PP Slide 3: Inverse/build graphic]**

We next identified some tactics that the devil uses to produce **places of access and ownership** in our lives.

**[PP slide 4: Ephesians 4:25-28]**

In relation to that understanding, we emphasized the role of the **Holy Spirit** in this dynamic process.

**[PP slide 5: Ephesians 5:17-18]**

In session **2**, we talked about strategic structure – end point, pathways, and tactics.

We recognized our Biblical end point as full spiritual maturity,

**[PP slide 6: – Eph 4:11-16]**

and discussed a Biblical pathway called “standing firm”.

**[PP slide 7: – Eph 6:13]**

And we looked forward at several families of **tactics** connected to the **No Hold** strategy.

**[PP Slide 8: Outline]**



[Leader: Explain outline: These tactical families include: Forgiveness, Personal History, and Mind Renovation. Forgiveness and Personal History focus our attention on past events into present; then Mind Renovation is oriented to the present into the future. In our last class, we will return to the **No Hold** strategy to investigate its end point in more detail.]

In session **3** we moved forward to focus on the **tactics** of forgiveness connected to the **No Hold** strategy.

We recognized that Jesus’ **criminal justice system** is the context into which the tactics of forgiveness fit.

The next important concept we described in the context of forgiveness, was **sin** (lawlessness/criminal behavior).

The final concept we described in our last session was the activity of Satan as the **accuser** of the Christian believers.

We then noted how forgiveness is defined:

**[PP Slide 9: Definition]**

**aphiemi** (NT:863), primarily, **"to send forth, send away"** [regarding] ‎(b) sins…

1. ‎**firstly signifies the remission [dismissal] of the punishment due to sinful conduct…**
2. **‎secondly, it involves the complete removal of the cause of offense**

[Leader: read definition aloud starting with “firstly”.]

We emphasized that a court’s sole purpose is to establish guilt or innocence and dispense justice. Mercy and forgiveness are processes that could be termed **“out of court settlements”**. They are related to the maintenance of social order, but provide alternative processes to actual court action.

We then defined a family of forgiveness tactics included in the No Hold strategy:

**[PP Slide 10: Tactics]**

1. Receiving forgiveness from God
2. Receiving forgiveness from others
3. Granting forgiveness to others

[Leader: read tactics aloud]

In session **4**, we investigated **two** of the forgiveness tactics;

* receiving forgiveness from God, and
* receiving forgiveness from others;

and practiced them.

We noted a way of interpreting the definition of forgiveness:

 **[PP Slide 11: Interpretation]**

1. **To forgive – a sense of laying aside; getting rid of something; letting something go; sending something away.**
	1. **Opposite of holding onto; keeping something close; grasping onto something**
2. **If it’s laid aside, it’s gone.**

In session **5**, we investigated and practiced the third forgiveness tactic, which is granting forgiveness to other people. We also recognized a **warning** that Jesus gave regarding forgiveness: if we forgive, we will be forgiven; if we don’t forgive, we will not be forgiven.

Finally, we looked forward to the nest three session subjects:

**[PP Slide 12: Personal History Graphic]**



**Body**

In this session, I hope to discuss how we can empty ourselves of those places of access owned by the devil connected to personal history issues, and fill those places with the Holy Spirit and the love that comes from the Father. The result will be healing, new ways of thinking, maybe some remodeling of our inner man.

Let’s first focus on a couple of examples of personal history issues found in the Bible:

1. First example: Results of past actions
* **Paul’s public failure**

**[PP Slide 13: Acts 17:32-34; 1Cor 2:1-5]**

The Acts passage describes how many people in the city of Athens responded to Paul’s best public speaking effort. The Corinthians passage describes Paul’s response to the same event.

**Acts 17:32-34; 1Corinthians 2:1-5**

**Acts 17:32** …Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this."…

**1 Corinthians 2:1-5**...And I, when I came to you, brothers,did not come proclaiming to youthe testimonyof God with lofty speech or wisdom. **2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, 4 and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God…** ESV

[Leader: read passages aloud]

Paul recognized his failure, and experienced a sense of weakness, fear, and much trembling.

**(Group discussion 1: Question)**  - 5 minutes

Starting with person #1, please discuss the following question.

**[PP Slide 14: Question]**

**…I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling…**

**Have you ever had that sinking feeling in the pit of your stomach as a result of a public failure?**

[Leader: read question aloud]

Maybe you resolved to **never** put yourself into a situation of possible failure **ever** again. And maybe you continue to hold that resolve to this day, and absolutely stay in safe places.

Paul found a different solution. He said:

* ‘’ I decided [resolved] to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified...my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”
* Paul repented (changed his thinking) and made a deliberate choice based upon his personal experience and knowledge of God’s ways.
	+ - He removed the “kingdom of darkness influence” regarding his failure at persuasive speech,
		- stopped depending upon his own public speaking skill,
		- and set his reliance instead on the power of God to do the persuading.
1. Second example: Present hauntings of bad memories

This passage from Laminations records Jeremiah’s memories of the fall of Jerusalem – infighting, starvation, disease, cannibalism, rape, and pillage.

**[PP Slide 15: Laminations 3:18-24]**

**Laminations 3:18-24**

**18** so I say, "My endurance has perished; so has my hope from the Lord.”

**19** Iremember my affliction [depression]and my wanderings,the wormwood andthe gall!

**20** My soul continually remembers it and is bowed down [sunk/humbled] within me.

**21 But this I call to mind [recall/remember], and therefore I have hope [wait expectantly]:**

**22 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;**

**23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness [firm fidelity].**

**24 “The Lord is my portion [allotment]," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."** ESV

* Memories of difficult experiences – either as a perpetrator or as a victim, can produce an endless loop of pain. Memories are able to capture our attention, sometimes locking a person into a prison with no view of escape.
* Like Paul, Jeremiah repented (changed his mind).
	+ He finally came to remember/recall the great love/mercies of the Lord.

**(Group discussion 2: Question)**  - 5 minutes

Starting with person #2, please discuss the following question.

**[PP Slide 16: Question]**

**…The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases…**

**How could our remembering the “steadfast love” of our father help to heal our memories?**

[Leader: read question aloud]

(**DRF note**: my dad’s concentration camp liberation experience:

* + He came home from World War2, and asked God to remove his memories of liberating the prison camp.
	+ He walked with God, and raised his family
	+ About 40 years later, one of his grandchildren asked him to share his memories as part of a school assignment
	+ His response was “I asked God to remove those memories, and He has. I am not going to bring them up again.”)

We aren’t told how long it took Paul and Jeremiah, nor are we told the processes they went through to end up in the place that they did. We only know their final mental choices.

The No Hold strategy uses a **model** that contains a set of tactics that are able to move a person from an original mindset to a new mindset.

In order to start thinking about this model, we need to review a passage that we looked at in session 1:

**[PP Slide 17: Eph 4:25-28]**

**Ephesians 4:25-28**

**25** Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. **26** “In your anger do not sin”:Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, **27** and **do not give the devil a foothold [a place to occupy/live]. 28** He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

[Leader: read passage aloud]

Paul reminds us that certain of our past actions could have provided the devil an access place in our soul. It only makes sense that if he has a way to access us, he will do so to influence us to do his strategic tactics. Remember also that any influence from the kingdom of darkness will only produce an evil result – injury, destruction, or waste.

[Leader: pass out the VRT Worksheet]

With this reminder seriously in mind, please fill out instruction #1 on your worksheet. – 3 Minutes

 **[PP Slide 18: Instruction]**

**Think of a past uncomfortable event that continues to come to mind occasionally during your quiet remembering times. Write it down and label it “History A”.**

[Leader: read the instruction aloud.]

[**DRF note**: When I think of my “History A”, I think of it as part of a climbing vine. It has both roots and branches. The vine’s roots start at a place occupied by the devil, sometimes even before the remembered place/event. As time goes on, the vine may have attached itself to other places/events of the same type/flavor; and also grown unattached between these events. I call these the “places and traces” of this vine.

This **“vine”** is my mental picture of a process that has been infused with poison; nurtured and maintained by agents of the kingdom of darkness. The historical events themselves are not part of the vine; only the “works” of the devil are part of the vine. The idea is to get rid of the vine, and give the place(s) once occupied by the devil (giving him access to our souls) to the Holy Spirit and, in the process, get our inner man empty of kingdom of darkness influence, and get healed up.

Thismodel might give us the ability to think about our own personal history in a structured/organized way. It is a model that works for me, but you may need to customize it so that it works for you, since each of our mental “wiring” is a little different from anyone else’s.

My model is a vine. In another setting (thank you all so much for your input), a person chose a string of imperfect pearls as their model. Another chose a stream that had swamps connected to it. Another chose a song with some off-tune notes. Someone may choose a chain. The point is; chose a model that is meaningful to you – that allows you to think about your history in a structured way.]

At this time, please fill out instruction #2 on your worksheet. – 3 Minutes

**[PP Slide 19: Instruction]**

**What model would you prefer to use? Please record your preferred model on your worksheet in a way that will help you remember it.**

[Leader: read the instruction aloud.]

Now, please fill out instruction #3 on your worksheet. – 5 Minutes

 **[PP Slide 20: Instruction]**

**Consider if you commonly or occasionally respond to events in the same way that you responded to your “History A” event.**

[Leader: read the instruction aloud.]

When considering how you might respond to instruction #3, you could think about your response like you “keep going around the same mountain”, or “they keep pushing my button”.

Whatever our model, we need to have some way of working with it. Here is my way. I call it my **“Vine Replacement Tool (VRT)”**.

[Leader: pass out the Vine Replacement Tool, or instruct class members to turn the Worksheet page over]

This tool is a family of No Hold strategic tactics targeted at our past history issues. Each tactic comes directly from the Bible. Anchoring the tactics solidly in the Bible is a **critically important** part of the tool.

[Leader: As your students are reviewing the VRT, make the following explanation.]

Tactics 1-3 enable you, with God’s help, to remove the places owned by the devil that give the vine a rooting place. Tactic 4 gives the places once owned by the devil to the Holy Spirit. That way, the devil can’t move back in. Tactics 5 and 6 are a way to benefit the people who have used the places to influence your inner man toward the kingdom of darkness strategy. The hope is that your prayer, as the injured person, will make it easier for one or more of those people to come to follow Jesus just as you have.

[Leader: Read each tactic aloud, and make sure each student understands the statements.]

Vine Replacement Tool (VRT)

1. Reclaim the places owned by the Devil. If you haven’t yet done so, confess (freely admit) the sin that gives the vine a place to put in roots. (1 John 1:9 **…**If we confess our sins, he isfaithful and just to forgive us our sins)
2. Ask Jesus to totally destroy the vine. (1John 3:8 … The reason the Son of God appeared wasto destroy the works of the devil...)
3. Ask Jesus to cleanse/purify the places and traces previously occupied by the destroyed vine. (1 John 1:7 **…**the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin…)
4. Ask Jesus to fill the places and traces of the vine with His righteousness. (Rom 5:17 … If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousnessreign in life through the one man Jesus Christ…)
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to extend his dwelling space to include the area that was once filled with the vine, and to write His word there. . (1Cor 6:19 … your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you,…); (Eph 5:18… be [continuingly] filled [to the brim] with the Spirit,…); (Jer 31:33…" I will put my law within them, and I will write iton their hearts” ….)
6. Formally [before your heavenly Father] forgive all the misdeeds by any of the agents of the kingdom of darkness done in order to maintain the vine. (Matt 6:14…For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you...)
7. Ask your heavenly Father to bring every person involved in the misdeeds into salvation. (John 6:44 [Jesus said] …No one can come to me unless the Father who sent medraws [drags] him...)

[Leader: Present these two points while your students are reviewing the tool.]

[**DRF note:**

* Another important understanding: Be specific – down to the level of a specific vine. I have discovered multiple vines growing through my personal history. I was covered with them at one time. For me, anyway, it’s way too confusing to try to chop down a whole jungle all at once. I also don’t attempt to recognize all the details of a specific vine. I trust Jesus to deal with the total detail organization/matrix.
* Also, recognize that a vine may become visible more than one time (it may not be destroyed/removed immediately). Keep putting it through your replacement tool each time it becomes visible (a vine could be thick and tough; Jesus may enjoy removing it slowly in order to develop a more intimate relationship with you while the two of you together get it replaced; it may actually be another vine that just has a similar appearance to the first vine).]

(Individual practice 1: Practice the VRT) – 10 Minutes

For the next 10 minutes, silently

**[PP Slide 21: Instruction]**

**Process the results of your instruction #3 into the Vine Replacement Tool**

This tool may or may not work perfectly for you. If it doesn’t, develop your own way of accomplishing the same results. My suggestion: use this tool between 7 and 12 times before you make any changes since brain science says that it takes our brains that often to really be able to use a new practice.

Anchoring your own processes in the bible is the **most critical** foundation of whatever process you find workable.

[Leader: If time permits, receive and discuss questions]

**What questions might you have at this time?**

[Leader: instruct your students to bring their VRT with them for each of the remaining sessions. They will be using them often.]

**Conclusion:**

Repentance [changing your mind / turning and walking in a different direction] based on your knowledge of God and His word, is often a **result** of doing the Vine Replacement Tool family of tactics.

Put your “Vine Replacement Tool” into regular practice; asking God to remove the vines from your injured inner man places; and fill those places with the Holy Spirit and a stronger/more vibrant recognition of His:

* never failing affection/mercy, and
* firm fidelity/faithfulness

In our next two sessions we will be interacting with a couple of tactic sets that, if practiced, may be able to help us walk without fear.

**[PP Slide 22: Personal History Graphic]**



 [Leader: who would be willing to close us in prayer?]