

CROSS TRAINING

RELATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND PEOPLE.

Purpose

To learn and apply the basic truths behind having good relationships with God and with man so that God's people live righteous and enriched Christian lives.

Benefits of Cross training

- Scripture models form the numerous themes
- Synthesize truths around the model
- Apply basic truths applicable to our growing relationship with God
- Apply basic truths applicable to a growing relationship with people
- Deepen learning by merging both vertical and horizontal relationships
- Set a solid foundation so new disciples understand God's glorious work throughout their lives.

Holiness:
Loving God
& others
Christ's way

Means:

To effectively transfer character qualities of ...

• Father – Son	Obedience, Loyalty
• Shepherd – Lamb	Provision, healing
• Teacher – Disciple	Teachable, wisdom
• King – Kingdom	Obedience, meek
• Bridegroom – Bride	Intimacy, affection
• Judge – Sinners	Righteousness, mercy
• Priest – People	Endurance, service
• Master – Servant	Faithful, attentive
• Redeemer – Chosen	Belonging, choice
• Cornerstone – Stones	Dependence, cooperation
• Husband – Wife	Covenant, obligation
• Vine – Branches	Dependence, fruit

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Purpose:

To effectively convey the essential relational truths of God to young Christian lives through the images of Christ and the church, so that each Christian experiences the full potential of Spirit-filled living.

Problems:

Very few people are discipled. They are like babies who have not been cared for. Jesus has made it clear that we should make disciples, not simply 'save souls.' Truly, God's people need to make disciples.

But we also need to make good disciples. Just as one can be a good or bad parent, so one can be a good or bad discipler.

The discipling material that the few discipled people use is a good beginning, but it lacks training in critical areas. Would you like to be the child who is not trained to be polite to others?

We are not trying to overload basic discipleship material with more content. A child learns at different stages. The same is true for Christians.

What, then, is being neglected in these basic discipleship courses?



**Creating a new
movement
among the peo-
ples of the world
to be aware of
how God is
desiring to
relate to them.**

Chief Concern

Our chief concern is that every basic discipleship material focuses on man's relationship with God. This is good and needed, but it overlooks another whole side of things—man's relationship with man.

This has resulted in Christians who seem promising leaders but, in the end, fail the test of working well with others. Even more hazardous are those who slide into leadership without their lives being properly prepared. In either case, their poor marriage or relationship with co-workers creates unnecessary tension and problems.

Jesus said that the summary of all the commands is to love God and others. We need to use the opportunity of basic discipleship training to equip God's people in their relationships with God and with others. There are other significant side benefits to doing this.

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The Good Foundation

A good building has a solid foundation. Basic discipleship courses lay the foundation for Christians' lives. Without training, they will suffer from haphazard foundations.

We need to ask, "What makes a good foundation?" Jesus commanded His disciples, "Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." What is it, then, that Jesus taught His disciples? At one place, Jesus summarized all His instructions into two different commands.

The Commands

The first command focused on loving God supremely and loyally. The second was to love others as ourselves. This is interesting because most discipleship material focuses on only one command, the first. But this would create an unbalanced foundation for a new Christian. New Christians need to equally understand the important principles behind loving their neighbors.

Relevancy

It is difficult to talk about sensitive areas with those one is discipling.

Rarely do they bring up their deeper problems on their own. But as one discusses the character traits that underlie good relationships, we find that many of these problems become self-revealing.

"And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. This is the great and foremost commandment."

"The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF. On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

Matthew 22:37-40

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Great Benefits

The Lord is the greatest of all teachers. Psalm 19 speaks of how God speaks both through nature and His Word. The scripture is clear. The aspect of nature is often superficially understood. We might think of how plants or harvests reveal different truths.

Jesus, our Master Teacher, taught parables using natural revelation. We should, however, remember that God also used relationships to instruct us. What we don't realize is that He also uses relationships to highlight different spiritual truths. The Prodigal Son and the Wicked Steward are two examples.

Relationships are Key

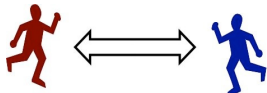
We don't know how to relate to God easily. He therefore has used images, relationships, and real people to deepen our experiential knowledge of Him. These relationships contain key principles for our lives.

The Lord has built relationships into our lives. We often think only of the earthly aspects of these relationships, but God has instilled in everyone special ways for the truth of God to be readily and deeply implanted in their lives.

Truth always has its demand on our lives. In some cases, we have already been shaped by His truth, so we do not feel its impact. For example, those who grew up under the blessing of good marriages have already learned much about the truths that make up a great marriage.

Easy Learning

God has built truths and essential concepts right into our personal relationships.



Sight Learning

These relationships such as father-son hold special ways to grasp spiritual truths.



Spiritual Learning

Our deepening relationship with God through His Word sheds light on how we are to treat each another. (eg. Learn how to be a good father from God).

