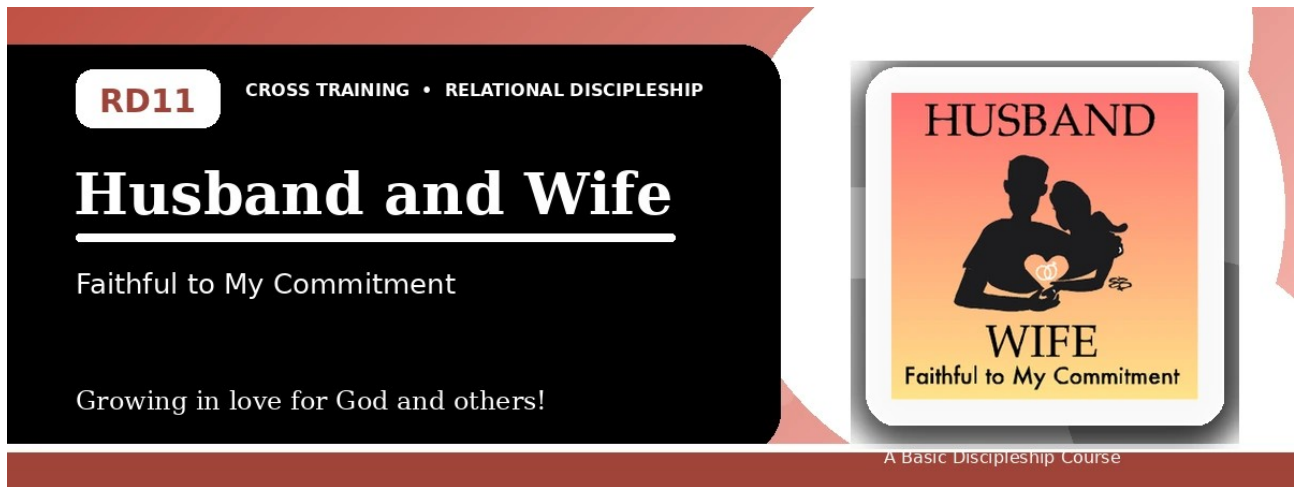




Relational Discipleship: Cross Training

Participant Notes Handout

Honoring Covenant, Authority, Trust, and Oneness

One-line summary: Because marriage pictures Christ and the church, believers honor authority, trust Christ, and strengthen covenant faithfulness.

Paragraph summary: The Husband-Wife lesson uses the mystery of marriage to display Christ's relationship with the church. It emphasizes headship, authority, trust, covenant commitment, oneness, purity, forgiveness, and practical kindness. Believers learn to respect God-ordained authority, trust Christ's loving leadership, and build up relationships through faithful words, actions, and attitudes.

Basic Lesson Information

Item	Content
Main relationship picture	Husband - Wife
Theme	Covenant and Obligation
Character emphasis	Commitment, respect, trust, faithfulness
Memory verse	Colossians 3:13-14

Lesson Goals

- **Christ is the Head of the church:** Appreciate and respect my authorities
- **The church is Christ's bride:** Develop trust in Christ and my husband
- **Remain faithful to each other:** Strengthen my relationships

Christ Is the Head

Key Scripture: Ephesians 5:22-24

Main ideas:

- Authority and headship are part of God's design.
- Modern culture often resists authority and prior commitments.
- Subjection can be a strong, God-honoring response when rightly practiced.

Think about: Where do you need to respect God-ordained authority?

Notes:

The Church as Wife

Key Scripture: Ephesians 5:25, 28, 32-33; 1 Peter 3:1

Main ideas:

- Christ's love for the church is sacrificial and secure.
- The church is called to trust His irresistible leadership.
- God's design challenges feelings and preferences that resist the Lord.

Think about: How can you trust Christ's leadership more deeply?

Notes:

Faithfulness and Charity

Key Scripture: Matthew 19:6; Matthew 5:28; Colossians 3:13-14

Main ideas:

- Oneness affects relationship with God and spouse.
- Faithfulness includes purity of heart as well as outward conduct.
- Forgiveness, bearing with one another, and love build covenant relationships.

Think about: What two steps can strengthen oneness in your relationships?

Notes:

Take-Home Practice

- Memorize Colossians 3:13-14.
- Journal two situations where someone in authority directed you to do something you disliked.
- Evaluate your words, actions, and attitudes.
- Write two steps to affirm your relationship with the Lord and/or marriage.

Personal Commitment

This week I will:
