

Chapter 2: Covenant

Learning Objective

The goal of this session is for couples to understand that the covenant of marriage seeks mutual benefit and each party assumes unlimited liability and responsibility. This understanding equips them to reestablish covenant with each other, and to treat vows, oaths and curses with utmost respect.

General Session Assignments

1. Read Chapter Two of Marriage Rx: Prescription for a radical marriage.
2. Write or reaffirm your marriage vows.
3. Reconcile broken promises.
4. Repent to the new covenant with each other and Christ.

Small Group Session One

1. Discussion questions

- a. What examples do you have that demonstrate the power of words?
What word curses have you identified?
When have you seen words used for healing or restoration?
- b. How do you know if an improper vow or oath is affecting you?
- c. Review the general session assignments and homework.

2. Group process

- a. Share the marriage vows you have worked on during the past week. Capture the important pieces shared by others so you can create a “dream team of promises.” Each couple should revise their vows as inspired.
- b. Have each couple bring and share 3 – 5 pictures that represent their marriage vows in some way. These can be their own pictures or clipped from magazines or other media.
- c. Altar of Remembrance: Build an anniversary tradition
Brainstorm together various ways to recognize and celebrate your marriage, particularly something that coincides with your anniversary or other significant date.
Idea 1: Start an anniversary photo album that you update yearly with a few pictures to capture the best of your year in review.
Idea 2: Get away together to work on your goals, dreams and vision by reviewing and updating your Life List. Select one or more goals to work together on during the coming year.

Small Group Session Two

1. Discussion questions

- a. In what ways have you been living in an Old Covenant marriage?
- b. What would dramatically change as you repent to a New Covenant marriage?
- c. How will you change as you repent to your new marriage vows?

2. Group process

- a. Dealing with broken promises.
Have each person write down any promises that they made to their spouse but have not lived into fully. On another piece of paper, have them write down any promises their spouse made to them that they believe was not lived into fully. Place the papers in an envelope, seal it and write your name on the outside. Give the envelopes to the group leader for safe keeping. The information will always remain private, but we will revisit these broken promises at a later date.
- b. Prayer chair opportunity.
In turn, each person should repent of any inappropriate oath or vow they have made and receive prayer from two or three others. After they have confessed the oath or vow, they will appeal to the Higher Authority for forgiveness and to recant or break the power of the oath or vow. The prayer team may share the truth of scripture over them as led by the Holy Spirit.
- c. Closing prayer of blessing.
The group leader will pray a blessing over the group to receive freedom, life, and blessing.

Small Group Session Three

1. Discussion Questions

- a. What are the vows and promises that Christ made to the church in the New Covenant?
- b. What vows and promises did the church make to Christ?
- c. How does the church actively practice living her vows and responding to His vows?
- d. What do we need to repent to, as a church, to live into Christ's covenant?

2. Group process

Celebrate communion as an act of repentance and a declaration of dependence.