



# MORE *and* BETTER

## Do You Trust Him?

November 4 | Chris Stevens, Lead Pastor

Trust is a fickle friend - hard to build and easy to break. We work hard to build trust in our relationships with one another but often don't apply that same effort to our relationship with God. Yet what is true of our relationships with others applies to our relationship with God. True, real, powerful relationships require authenticity and vulnerability. They require us to move past a point of self protection and into a place of trust. It is in this place that we repent - name our struggles and sin, and turn towards Christ. When we look to Jesus, we experience a High Priest who extends His love to us, and His empathy, as well. We are not alone.



## MESSAGE NOTES

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True repentance is turning from sin and directing all of your life towards God. It requires knowing God's will and trusting His ways are best.

Trust is built, learned and easily broken. This is true in human relationships and in our relationship with God, as well.

**Authenticity**  **Vulnerability**

Moving from authenticity to vulnerability requires transparency.

### Hebrews 4:12-16

**v. 12:** God's word is a "sword":

- Divides soul and spirit
  - Soul: emotions, will and choice, thought, reason, and memory
  - Spirit: God consciousness, right and wrong, sensitivity, and wisdom
- Reveals the core of our being
- Discerns good and evil in us

**v. 14:** The high priest is the one who makes God's people "right" with God. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus is our High Priest.

**v. 15:** Jesus empathizes with us; He understands all the feelings in our struggles. His sinlessness allows for our forgiveness; He substitutes His righteousness for our sin.

**v. 16:** We not only get to hear the truth from one another and those with whom we are in real relationship, but also from God Himself. We have the immense joy of approaching His throne with confidence.

*Sin often holds us back from drawing close to God because we aren't ready to forgive ourselves and embrace His unconditional love. But when we enter into true repentance, freedom and joy follow.*

### Symbols for the Word of God

Hammer to convict (Jeremiah 23:29)

Fire to refine (Jeremiah 23:29)

Mirror to reflect (James 1:23)

Seed to multiply (1 Peter 1:23)

Laver to cleanse (Ephesians 5:26)

Lamp to guide (Psalm 119:105)

Rain and snow to refresh (Isaiah 55:10)

Sword to cut (Hebrews 4:12, Ephesians 6:17)

Bow for battle (Habakkuk 3:9)

Gold to enrich (Psalm 19:7-10)

Power to create faith (Romans 10:17) and eternal life (1 Peter 1:23)

Food to nourish (1 Peter 2:2, Matthew 4:4, Hebrews 5:11-14, Psalm 19:10)

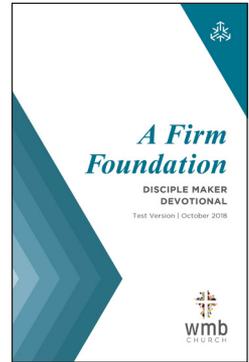
# HOME GROUP MATERIALS

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Our hope for this series is for everyone in Home Groups to walk through our new devotional, *A Firm Foundation*.

Why all of us? We do discipleship best as **we learn from each other**. To start the journey, it can be easier if we are familiar with the tools. By using *A Firm Foundation* in Home Group, we will gain that familiarity.

Note that this is a **test copy**. Not only do we assume there are some typos, we want to know how the book works. When you sign up to receive one, you will receive a feedback form in coming weeks.



Request a copy at  
[wmbchurch.ca/  
afirmfoundation](http://wmbchurch.ca/afirmfoundation)

## Creating a space for repentance

Repentance is an ongoing process. When we're baptized, we acknowledge that we have a repentant heart – a heart that longs to agree fully with God. And yet, in our human ways, we tend to hold tight to practices that break relationship with God and others. In Home Group, we anticipate that, as a family of disciples, we are able to safely reveal these broken places and start the journey of healing. And it is a *journey*. There are some struggles that we will always carry with us. There are others we can leave behind.

However, Home Group isn't a counselling session – it is a *family*. When you are ready to share your struggles with another and hear how the good news doesn't change even in the face of your struggle, know that you don't have to do so with the whole group. You can do that with one or two others. As the healing journey continues, you may feel called and ready to share with more people.

To create this space, we listen without judgement. We all struggle. We listen and we remind each person that they are a loved child of God, that the good news of Christ is for them and bigger than the sin they are experiencing or the sin that has been perpetrated against them. It is gentle, hard space.



As the one who listens, you do not own that sin for them. You do not try to fix it. You cannot make it better. There is no need to. Their naming of it and repentance is more than enough. You journey with them, standing with them and pointing them to the goodness of Jesus.

There is a great gift in sharing our struggles and sin. In doing so, we invite light into dark places – the good news of Christ into the shadows it will always overcome. That light allows others to step into light, as well.

As you journey through *A Firm Foundation*, have a conversation as a group about how to create these spaces well:

- What experience do you have with repentance being well-received?
- What negative experiences do you have?
- What are some good practices for listening and responding to hard things?

