



# MORE *and* BETTER

## **Where is He sending you?**

November 11 | Chris Stevens, Lead Pastor

All through scripture we run into this little phrase: “they laid hands on...” Old and New Testament alike include references to this practice. In some cases, the practice is violent and harmful. But then we find examples when this “laying on of hands” was used for good, positive reasons – healing, blessing, gifting, empowering, commissioning. The laying on of hands, included in the Hebrew list of the basics of our faith, is a moment, an invitation and an opportunity to acknowledge God’s work in the community and surround one another in prayer.



# MESSAGE NOTES

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The laying on of hands is simply a Christian placing their hands on another Christian, praying for them to receive something.

Throughout scripture, hands are used to identify, impart and confirm God's strength and power:

- Jesus' ministry - Luke 4:40
- Apostles' ministry - Acts 5:12
- Paul's ministry - Acts 28:8
- Life and ministry of believers - Mark 16:18

## **What might we receive through the laying on of hands?**

### **Healing**

- Example: Luke 4:40-41
- A practice of Jesus' ministry, the disciples and the early Church
- We experience many tensions around healing – it is okay to carry them and not resolve them; we want to lean increasingly into God's power and not our own power to understand

### **Blessing**

- Example: Mark 10:13-16
- Jesus blesses the children; we respond by blessing those over whom we have spiritual parenthood

### **Gifting**

- Example: 2 Timothy 1:3-7
- Spiritual gifts can be transferred from one believer to another
- Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10; 1 Peter 4:7-11

### **Empowering**

- Example: Acts 19:6-7
- Even though these people already had the Holy Spirit, they received an ongoing empowering in this moment, with some incredible evidence

### **Commissioning**

- Example: Acts 13:1-3
- A spiritual covering, accountability and protection; it's also an invitation to the community to participate in each other's work

*Where is He sending you?*

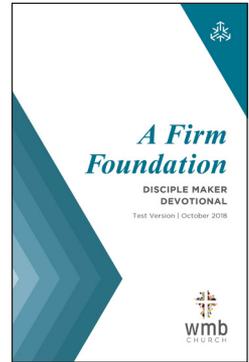
# HOME GROUP MATERIALS

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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)

## The laying on of hands

There is no big secret in how to go about laying on hands with one another. It's an incredibly simple process that many who have been around church a long time can take for granted.

But even if we're comfortable with it, that makes it no less valuable and significant.

As you gather in your groups, have a conversation about the laying on of hands.

- Are you all fairly comfortable with it?
- Have you done it without giving much consideration to the importance of it?
- It is something you have never done?
- Do you have questions about it?

All of this is good! Have these conversations. Talk about the laying on of hands and how we see it in scripture.



## Practising it

No matter where you are in your journey with *A Firm Foundation*, we'd encourage you to make space in your conversation this week to lay hands on one another. If you feel comfortable about this, you can go right ahead. Not sure how to begin? Use the steps below:

- Give everyone a moment or two of silence to know why they would like to receive the laying on of hands. You can feel free to use one of the categories from the message notes: healing, blessing, gifting, empowering, commissioning.
- Start with one person, letting them articulate their request.
- Have one person pray that only blessing and gifts are transferred and not our brokenness.
- Surround the person, placing hands on their shoulders or on the shoulders of one another if space is tight.
- Pray as requested and as led by the Spirit, perhaps including scriptures or just a word.
- Repeat with all who would like to receive.

Are children welcome? Of course.

Is anything else required? No. We trust the Holy Spirit to do all the actual work.

*Be especially mindful of what people are inviting you into by asking for hands to be laid on them. No matter what the request is, it is a chance for the community to join in, pray and walk with the person. Let us rejoice in sharing this gift with one another.*

