



MORE *and* BETTER

More and better disciples

November 18 | Sarah Whyte, Pastor, Home Groups

In theory, we are capable of a lot! We can imagine being very good at sports, arts or communicating. We are on top of the laundry and put away all the dishes. *In theory.*

But in reality, things are usually a bit murkier than that, and we have a harder time doing all the things we want to *in theory*. Discipleship can be one of those things – in theory, we want to be doing it, but in reality – it gets hard. As we listen to the call of Jesus, we are reminded of how real and active this call is.



MESSAGE NOTES

Matthew 28:16-20

Context:

- The very last moment of the book of Matthew
- Birth, baptism, ministry, death and now, resurrection
- Jesus tells the women to tell the disciples to go to Galilee

v. 16: Mountains are places of significance – from Moses receiving the law, to Elijah meeting the Lord, to Jesus’ transfiguration, big things happen on mountains.

v. 17: Doubt and worship are not separated by the text but held together. Both attitudes come before the Lord, and He doesn’t distinguish between those who worship and those who doubt (or those who are doing both!).

v. 19: THEREFORE. This word is hugely important – it reveals that something significant is about to be said. Grammatically, we are being reminded to pay close attention to the next phrase. Geographically, the mountain points to significance. Relationally, the presence of Jesus and His disciples also indicates significance.

v. 19-20: Sounds great, in theory, but feels really big and hard in reality.

This is an incredibly active text, with lots of verbs and instructions. It encourages us to actually go and do what we are being asked to do. For the disciples, it was particularly poignant because Jesus would no longer be physically with them.

To “teach” is to disciple: that was the mode of learning – shared experiences, lives and questions.

This was discipleship in reality, not in theory.

v. 20: The text is bookended by Jesus’ authority and His presence.

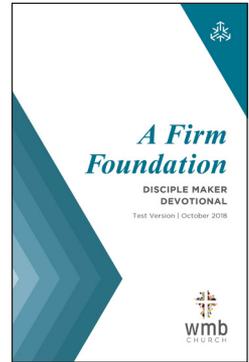
As a church, we want to go from theory to reality: to make more and better disciples.

HOME GROUP MATERIALS

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**

More and better disciples

As you continue your journey through *A Firm Foundation*, take a moment to pause and reflect:

1. Where have you experienced discipleship? Who has been involved? What did it look like?
2. Have you ever offered discipleship to someone else? How has that looked?

There is an intimacy and vulnerability that comes from smaller conversations around scripture. Even in a group of 10-12 people, we can hide behind those who are quick to answer or seem confident in their answers.

As a Home Group, what are some ways you can make for increasingly meaningful conversations? For example:

- Do you find yourself applying what you have learned from scripture to real life situations?
- How are you following up with one another?
- Should you split up into smaller groups for some conversations or prayer?

Share some ways that being in a group has been meaningful in your discipleship. Home Groups leaders, we'd love to hear your stories. You can email Sarah Whyte (Pastor, Home Groups) with any stories people are willing to share. In light of these stories, what are some steps you could take to go even deeper and invite others in?



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