



A Sure Foundation

Adapted from “A Sure Foundation” series by Scott Erickson.

Our society seems to be growing more confused by the moment. On one hand, they are optimistic about their desires. On the other hand, they are pessimistic because they do not know how to accomplish their desires. We hear terms like “right or left” to indicate a particular view. We have done away with foundational terms like “right or wrong”. Where have our values gone that help us establish a sure foundation?

Consider the following article about building a strong foundation for a team:

Sometimes, cracks in our foundational values are difficult to detect. Our tendency is to fix the problem at hand. We see a crack in the floor tile, so we replace the tile. A bedroom door doesn't swing quite right, so we adjust the hinges. A window doesn't close flush, so we caulk the bottom to seal the gap.

A crack in our team's foundational values can initially look like a simple finish-out or framing problem. It's funny how we can find ourselves continually fixing the same framing and finish-out problems, but we do not realize these are symptoms of a deeper crack in our values.

For instance, we might have several departments that are not keeping one another in the loop, so we restructure departments. This quick solution will not address the root cause of lack of mutual trust.

If we find ourselves dealing with the same issues repeatedly, we are probably not going deep enough with our solutions. What looks like an innocent crack in the wall (a small blip in employee turnover) could be an indicator of a deeper crack in our foundation (the team sees a disconnect between values and actions).



Inspiring leaders look beyond the symptoms to ensure that they are protecting team values. They know they must pour a strong foundation before they build a house to lead in.¹

¹ Lee Colan, “How to Build a Strong Foundation for Your Team,” *Inc. Magazine*, May 7, 2014, <https://www.inc.com/lee-colan/building-and-protecting-your-leadership-values.html?cid=search> (accessed July 19, 2017).

COURAGE

C1: Pew Research Center disclosed interesting results from a poll.

- 67% of adults are optimistic about the future of marriage and family.
- 95% of Americans under the age of 30 say that one day they want to marry.²

What can you glean from these statistics?

C2: In order to be successful in a marriage, what do you believe is most needed?

C3: Describe the marriage between your grandparents. Parents? What were key factors to help them manage their marriage? Describe your marriage.

² "Marriage is Obsolete," Pew Research Center, January 6, 2011, <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2011/01/06/marriage-is-obsolete/> (accessed July 6, 2017).

STRENGTH

S1: As in all of life, a sound foundation is a must if survival is to be had. Read and listen to the following.

Deuteronomy 5:1–7 (ESV)

- From these verses, where is the battleground and what is the issue?
- How real do you feel the battle is for you home?
- Dad, what are you doing to protect your home? If you are single, what are you doing to protect your home?

S2: It seems as if there is a culture war in America. The news uses descriptive terms like “Right or Left.” This is incorrect terminology. The words that should be used are “right or wrong.”

- Make a list of things you think are right or wrong.
- Begin to place scripture beside each of the things that are right and wrong.
- Over the next several months, meet with your family. Ask them to develop their list of what is right and wrong. Begin to compare your lists. What do you sense the Holy Spirit saying to you?

S3: The government has removed many Biblical things from public places. Read and answer the following.

Deuteronomy 6:4–7 (ESV)

- From these verses, what are five things you glean?

- According to these verses, whose responsibility is it to teach God’s commands to their family?

- On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being very well and 4 being not very well, rate yourself on how well you have impressed God’s commands on your family. Write out a plan to improve.

ENDURANCE

E1: Read and answer the following:

Deuteronomy 6:4 (ESV)

Deuteronomy 6:6–7 (ESV)

- From these verses, what is the one Great Revelation?
- Write out how you can know for sure this Great Revelation. How can you teach this to your children?

E2: Because of this Great Revelation, a response is solicited. Read and answer the following.

Deuteronomy 6:4 (ESV)

Matthew 5:8 (ESV)

- From these verses, what should our response be to this Great Revelation?
- From these verses, what 3 facets of love for God should your family see from you?
- On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being very well and 4 being not well, rate how well your family sees you love God. Write out a plan to improve.

E3: Because of the Great Revelation and a great response, one more thing is needed to begin to lay a good foundation. Read and answers the following.

Deuteronomy 6:2–7 (ESV)

Deuteronomy 6:20–21 (ESV)

- From these verses, what is the responsibility given? Who is the teacher? Who are the students and what is the curriculum?

- Write out a pathway of discipleship that will meet this criteria for your school at home.