

SERMON NOTES:

These notes have been designed to get Christians of all ages engaging with the issues of affordable housing and social justice.

Begin with this [short Youtube video](#) on our Established[2022] 'About' webpage

In this talk today we're going to explore the term: Established. It's a powerfully Biblical word, meaning to settle permanently.

What does the word 'home' mean to you? Does it conjure up images of a warm bed, good food, a place you can be yourself? Maybe it's not as simple as that, maybe your home is fraught with tension and arguments.

But imagine for a moment that you don't have a home to call your own.

For many of the young people who live at YMCA Exeter, they've grown up in the care system and have spent their lives being moved around. Some have been sofa surfing, some have spent a few weeks or months living on the streets. For many the term, "home" is unknown.

The reality of settling into a secure, permanent place of residence from which they can establish themselves in the community and thrive is a distant dream.

In the film we met local young people Gemma and Jake - what would it mean to them to be established in a home?

Explore the use of the term:

'Established' in the Old Testament - Genesis is full of references to God saying he will establish a covenant with his people.

Explore the use of the term 'Established' in the New Testament - established in truth and established in God's love.



Explore the key text - Psalm 89.

*"I will sing of the Lord's great love forever;
with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known
through all generations.
I will declare that your love stands firm forever,
that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.
You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to David my servant,
'I will establish your line forever
and make your throne firm through all generations.'"*

God's promises are everlasting. Even though the writer of the Psalm was experiencing a time of national upheaval, he continued to praise and trust God, believing that his promise of establishing David's line forever was certain.

And it's amazing to remember that Jesus was the ultimate promise of David's line being established forever. Although the writer of the Psalm was unaware of what was ahead, we can celebrate knowing that God was faithful.

We are all experiencing an intense time of upheaval - trusting that God will bring us through it. And that he is faithful despite everything we see around us.

God calls each one of us to be established in his truth and love.

Now is no better time to check that we are firmly fixed in him. For when we feel safe and secure in our foundations, God can then use us to reach out to more people who need to hear his voice and know that they are loved.

