

## **Real Relationships: How to Speak Openly in Your Church**

Our churches are the place in which we should be able to be open with each other—open with our sorrows and our sins—but so many people are reluctant to share their hearts. This workshop will consider how you share your own heart with your church in a way that invites them to do the same.

**Ed Welch** holds a PhD in counselling psychology with a neuro-psychology specialty from the University of Utah, as well as an MDiv from Biblical Theological Seminary. Ed has been counselling and teaching at the [Christian Counseling & Educational Foundation](#) for over thirty years and has written many books and articles on biblical counselling including, *When People Are Big and God Is Small*, *Addictions: A Banquet in the Grave*, *Depression, Running Scared*, *Shame, Interrupted*, and *Side by Side: Walking with Others in Wisdom and Love*. He and his wife, Sheri, have two married daughters and eight grandchildren. In his spare time Ed enjoys hanging out with his wife and extended family, and playing his guitar.

### **1. A brief assessment**

Is your church—and are you—wise and loving enough to handle the fine china of someone else's life with special care?

How are you teaching the church how to be wise and loving when someone shares their heart?

### **2. We aspire to be children who pour out our heart before the Lord (Psalm 62:8) and one another**

This is how the kingdom of heaven works

Humility or desperation is necessary

Christ meets us in Scripture and the ministry of others (Eph 4:11-12)

### **3. Churches tend to follow the pastor**

Ask for prayer, and locate it in Scripture

Follow others into what is most important to them and pray