

# Understanding Sexual Abuse

## A Guide for Ministry Leaders and Survivors

Tim Hein



MuddyPearl

*'It is said that the true test of a society is how it treats its most vulnerable members.'*

As many as one in four girls and one in six boys experience sexual abuse during childhood, and it's estimated that half of the incidents are never reported. This means that countless millions in our societies, both children and adults, carry this complex and often hidden pain. What does the path to healing look like for survivors? And how can ministry leaders, pastors, and counsellors best help them as they walk this difficult road?

Drawing on both his own and his wife's experience as survivors of childhood sexual abuse, minister and lecturer Tim Hein offers his expertise, practical guidance, and empathy—both for ministry leaders and for survivors themselves. How can we best respond when a survivor shares their secret with us? Where can survivors turn for encouragement when the road to recovery seems so long and lonely? Hein presents clinical data and resources alongside pastoral wisdom and care, addressing both psychological and spiritual aspects of sexual abuse.

Both for those who have suffered sexual abuse and those in a position to help them, this book is a rich resource. Filled with sober truths and the hope of Christ, it calls survivors to take courage and walk unafraid down the road of healing.

### Author

Tim Hein is vice principal and director of discipleship at Uniting College for Leadership and Theology in Adelaide, Australia. He is an ordained minister in the Uniting Church in Australia and speaks and preaches regularly on the Christian faith. He lives in Adelaide with his wife Priscilla.

*'No Christian leader can answer the call of ministry today and not be informed about this issue.'*

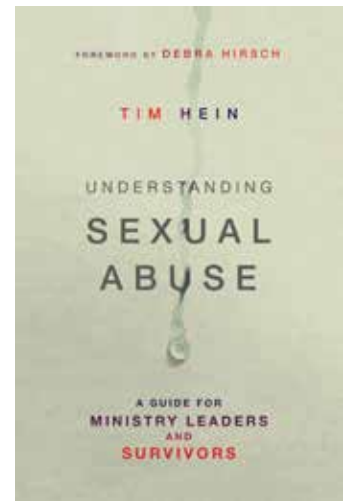
### Debra Hirsch

### Readership

- Anyone who has experienced sexual abuse, whether as children or as adults
- Ministry and church leaders preparing to support survivors of sexual abuse
- Pastoral care teams
- Friends and family of those who have been affected by sexual abuse

### Key Selling Points

- Help for those who have experienced sexual abuse to empower them to move from victim to survivor
- Unpacks a complex and difficult issue, offering a map towards recovery and healing
- Written from personal experience of the author as both a church leader and a survivor
- Offers practical advice to Christian leaders for supporting survivors of sexual abuse
- Foreword by Debra Hirsch



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