

UNEARTHED

Digging beneath the surface and bringing our whole selves before God.

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Week 1 Group Discussion Guide (~90 minutes needed)

Begin your group by catching up with one another (10 minutes).

Ask each person to share about how they're doing at work, at home, and how their families are doing. Give each person space to share as much or as little as they want about each bucket.

Then ask, "What is the high and low from your week?"

Read this brief description of the Unearthed sermon series to your group and discuss the following questions (20 minutes):

This week we are starting a new sermon series called "Unearthed" where we'll be digging beneath the surface of our lives to learn to bring our whole selves before God. In this series, we'll be covering circumstances, feelings, and realities that we often desire to avoid, but learning how it is often in those hard moments that God meets us and grows us into the kinds of people He desires us to be. To do this, we'll be looking at several Old Testament characters—people like Adam and Eve, King David, Hagar, Elijah, Gideon, and more.

- What are you excited for as we start this new series?
- What do you have reservations about?
- How does it make you feel to know we'll be "digging beneath the surface" of our lives in this series?

Come back together as a large group to debrief and recap the sermon (30 minutes).

Have someone begin by reading **Genesis 3** in its entirety.

- How do you understand the concept of sin in the context of Genesis 3, and how has it affected the world we live in today?
- In what ways do you think sin has impacted human relationships, both with God and with each other?
- How has sin affected the natural world? Your emotional world? Your mental world?

- In his sermon, Dan mentioned that the biblical doctrine of sin teaches that *things were never meant to be the way that they are*. What are one or two life experiences that have made you think, “Things are not as they should be in our world”?
- Assign the following passages to your group to read aloud. After each verse is read, pause, and ask what the passage reveals to you about the nature of sin. Here are the verses: **Romans 6:23, James 1:15, Isaiah 59:2, Galatians 5:19-21, Romans 7:15-20, 1 John 1:8-10.**
- How do we find hope and meaning in a world marked by sin and brokenness?
- In what ways does the gospel offer a solution to the problem of sin in our lives and in the world?
- Where do you begin to see this gospel hope even here in Genesis 3? What does the text say about this hope?

Split your group up into smaller groups to talk more personally (20 minutes).

- In what ways has your understanding of sin changed over time? What factors have influenced that?
- How has sin decayed your relationship with others and with God in your past?
- Where is sin wreaking havoc on your own life today?
- Where do you need help or accountability to overcome sin?

Finish with intercessory prayer (10 minutes).

As you do each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone’s prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.

EXTRA:

1. Be sure to check out the Spiritual Practice on page 11 of the Unearthed devotional book where you’ll be given the tools to do a “Spiritual GPS” and learn how God wants to meet us despite our brokenness.
2. Also, be sure to listen to this week’s Unearthed bonus podcast episode, which you can find on Apple Podcasts by searching “The Creek Indy.”