



UNEARTHED

Week 6 Group Discussion Guide (~60 minutes needed)

Begin your group by catching + reintroduce the Unearthed series by reading the recap of Sunday's sermon below (10 minutes).

Where have you felt joy in the past week? Where have you felt challenged recently?

RECAP: After pausing in our Unearthed series last week, we are jumping back in for Week 6 and talking about the story of Jonah and what his life can help us discover about selfishness! From the beginning of Jonah's story when he "ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish" (Jonah 1:3) to the end of his journey when Jonah "became angry" (4:1) that God would share His saving mercies with the Ninevites, this prophet of God had a selfish streak about him. In many ways, he thought his selfishness was justified. But ultimately, he was in the wrong. Luckily for the Ninevites (and for us!), God is *not* selfish. Thus, this story shows us the self-destructive impact of selfishness from Jonah's life as well as the life-giving power of selflessness, by way of God's grace.

Take turns in your group reading all of the book of Jonah (should only take about 10 minutes) and then discuss the following questions (10 minutes):

- What examples of selfishness do you see in Jonah's life?
- How does selfishness threaten Jonah's vocation as God's prophet?
- In what ways was Jonah's selfishness threatening to the people around him?
- Why is selfishness so spiritually harmful do you think?

Break into smaller groups to dive deeper (20 minutes).

- In his sermon, Mike talked about how the first way selfishness often manifests itself is in stubbornness towards God. Have you ever felt this way towards Him? What caused it? How'd you get past it?

- The second dimension that Mike talked about regarding selfishness was how it manifests itself in a lack of empathy for others. Name a time in your life where your selfishness caused you to disregard someone.
- What do you think might be some underlying beliefs that contribute to a selfish spirit? What have some of those underlying beliefs been for you?
- The last dimension of selfishness Mike talked about was self-pity. How has selfishness led to self-pity in your own life?
- What truths of the gospel do you hold onto to help you overcome selfishness?
- What Scriptures do you lean on to help you cultivate selflessness?

Come back as a large group and 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 something we can be praying about for you?

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

EXTRA:

1. If you did not complete it during group time, do the Week 6 practice in your Unearthed devotional book.
2. Also, be sure to listen to this week's Unearthed bonus podcast episode which you can find on our website at thecreek.org/unearthed.