

## **Week of May 14, 2023**

Group Discussion Guide (~60 minutes needed)

### **Begin your group by catching up and with an opening prayer (10 minutes).**

What's been the high from this past week? What's been your low point?

Have someone pray to begin your discussion time. Ask for God to lead your time, and that your hearts would be encouraged, your faith strengthened, and your love for one another deepened.

### **Read Genesis 3 and this summary of the sermon, then discuss the following questions (30 minutes):**

In this weekend's sermon, Eric talked about how we have all had hopes, dreams, failures, heartbreak, and more. Sometimes we cause these things ourselves. Other times, they are caused by others. This brokenness is a result of sin (which we read about in **Genesis 3**). Despite this reality (of sin, hurt, heartbreak, and more), Jesus loves you. As Eric mentioned, Jesus "stands at the door and knocks" (**Revelation 3:20**). He wants to make you a new creation (**2 Corinthians 5:17**). Will you let Him?

*Pick a few of the following questions to guide your time of discussion.*

- What are some expectations that you had for your life that have not turned out the way you thought they would? What is something that you have learned about yourself from experiencing disappointment or failure?
- What does it mean to you that God's love is offered to everyone, regardless of their actions or past mistakes?
- Do you ever struggle with the idea that God loves you? How have you wrestled with this recently?
- What Scriptures do you hold fast to when you need reminders of God's grace or mercy or love? Share them with your group.
- Describe a time in your life when you felt like Jesus was knocking on the door of your heart. When did you open it to Him? When did you ignore Him? What were the effects of those decisions?
- Can you share a time when God's love transformed your heart, your mind, or your behavior?

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

In his sermon, Eric mentioned three ways we can connect with Jesus in a deeper way:

- (1) Reading the Bible
- (2) Prayer
- (3) Being with friends who love Jesus

- How has your time in the Word been lately?
- What is your prayer life like right now?
- How are the people you spending time around impacting your love for Christ?

**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 one thing you can be grateful for this 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 Confession practice on page 40-41 of the Unearthed devotional book to help rewire your view of self, suffering, others, and God.
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](http://thecreek.org/unearthed).