

UNEARTHED

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

Job: “Finding God in the Dark” Group Discussion Guide

~65 minutes needed

Begin your group by catching up and reading the recap of Sunday’s sermon below (10 minutes).

RECAP: Job, a righteous and blessed man, faced severe trials orchestrated by Satan with God's permission. He lost his wealth, children, and health, leaving him in deep despair. Despite the misguided accusations of his friends, Job clung to his unwavering faith and sought understanding from God. By showcasing His divine grandeur, God revealed His power and wisdom to Job, reminding him of the boundless depths of His creation and the unfathomable mysteries of the universe. Because of this, his perspective shifted. Job humbly surrendered to God's sovereignty and learned to trust in God and His goodness.

Read through the main sections of Job’s story and his friends’ responses to his suffering, and then discuss the questions below (30 minutes):

- **Read Job 1:1-2:11** for the beginning of Job’s story.
- **Read Job 22:23, 26; 8:4-6; 11:14-16** for his friends’ responses.
- **Read Job 38:1-41** for God’s response to Job.

Questions for reflection:

- Paraphrase the things you just read about Job. How would you describe Job’s story?
- In Dan’s sermon, he talked about how Job’s friends’ responses fell short of what Job needed or what was accurate. In what ways was this the case? How can you discern between helpful and unhelpful responses when offering or seeking comfort in the face of suffering?
- What would it look like for this group to love each other well in times of hardship?

Break into gendered smaller groups to dive deeper (30 minutes).

- How does Job's story challenge your understanding of suffering and the nature of God's sovereignty? How does Job's encounter with God's grandeur and wisdom reshape his perspective on suffering?

- Are you carrying any suffering or hardship right now that you'd like to share?
- Dan mentioned in his sermon that God didn't answer all of Job's questions. If you could talk to God right now or back at a time when you were in a place of heartache, what questions would you have for him?
- How do you normally respond – physically, emotionally, mentally, spiritually – when you go through something painful? Is there any takeaway from this story for you for the next time something hard comes your way? Explain.
- Have there been inappropriate ways you've handled a time of suffering? What are ways to lean into God's grandeur the next time you go through something difficult?
- What hope does Christianity offer those who suffer (see **Revelation 21**)?

Come back as a large group and finish with intercessory prayer (10 minutes).

As we 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.

- How can we be praying for you?

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

Extra resources:

1. If you did not complete it during group time, do the Week 10 practice in your Unearthed devotional book.
2. Also, be sure to listen to this week's Unearthed bonus podcast episode. Find it at thecreek.org/unearthed.