

UNEARTHED

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

Week 1: "It Was Never Meant to Be This Way"

Day 1:

Our world is broken. One scroll through social media or a few moments of the news will confirm it easily. At times it seems that everywhere you turn there's just more evidence of it. Maybe you've even thought to yourself, "Things are worse than they've ever been."

Since sin entered the scene in the Garden, Eden has been broken. It's not new, but sometimes we feel the effects in fresh ways. The truth of it all, though, is that our story doesn't begin in Genesis 3 with the first sin; it begins in a much more peaceful setting—in the Garden where God's perfection in creation was known.

It was never meant to be this way.

When God spoke creation into existence, the intention was good and beautiful. God's perfect peace, or *shalom*, was present. But when the man and woman chose sin over God, everything changed.

Read Genesis 1-3.

As you read today, notice the character of God. How do you see God's goodness woven throughout these three chapters? Where do you see brokenness in the world today?

Day 2:

Our God is working to redeem and restore everything broken from sin. Take time today to read these passages and notice the redemptive work of Jesus.

Psalm 19

1 Peter 1:17-21

John 14:27; 16:33

Ephesians 2:1-20

Revelation 21:1-8

Which passage impacted you the most? Why?

What is God communicating through His Word to you today?

Day 3:

Today we will spend some time looking at our own story to see how Genesis 1-3 affects our own lives. As you begin, look back over the Scripture passages from this week.

- *How do you see God's goodness woven through the creation account? How have you seen God's goodness in your own story?*
- *How has sin affected your story—your own sin and the sin of others?*
- *Just as God made garments of skin to cover the man and woman, God's grace has covered you. How has God's covering of grace changed you?*

Day 4:

Just like your current location is needed to give accurate directions, you must be able to pinpoint your location in a GPS navigation system. When sin entered Eden, God pursued the man and woman, asking them where they were as they hid. Today he asks us the same question: "Where are you?"

Take time today to locate where *you* are as you work through the Spiritual GPS practice in the *Unearthed* workbook on page 11.

Day 5:

It truly was never meant to be this way. The world God created was good, holy, pure, beautiful, and without sin. Sin arrived and Eden was broken. Our relationship with God was broken. Sin has poisoned our world. We need a Savior. We need to be rescued. We need to be redeemed.

Your story and mine cannot escape sin. We've all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. But God's goodness didn't exit Eden when sin entered. His goodness, grace, and love are restoring us, making all things new. We have a Savior in Jesus who has rescued us. Even though it wasn't meant to be this way, we have hope because of Jesus!

Look back over your notes from this week.

What do you notice?

What new thing did God reveal to you?

How has God spoken to you through Scripture or the discoveries you've made?

What's God inviting you to as a result?

Consider . . .

- Taking time each day to look for God's goodness in your day. He is present even in the hard things.
- Take extended time to begin writing out your story. Look for the thread of God's goodness throughout your life. Ask him to show you where he was in the difficult places.
- Spend some time doing a radical inventory of the sin in your life. Invite God to show you where you are contributing to the brokenness sin creates. Confess your sin, receive God's forgiveness, and be covered by his love. Do what Jesus often commanded those he healed: "Go and sin no more."