

UNEARTHED

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

Hagar and Leah: “Unseen and Unloved” Group Discussion Guide (~65 minutes needed)

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

What is something the Lord has been teaching you lately?

RECAP: This week, we are looking at the stories of Hagar and Leah. Hagar, unseen and unloved, found solace in God's compassionate gaze as He promised her blessings and a future for her and her son, Ishmael, despite their marginalized status in society. Leah, overshadowed and unloved, experienced rejection and heartache as she was given to Jacob as a wife in place of her sister Rachel. Yet, in her pain, God saw her and extended His love towards her, granting her the gift of children and ultimately using her lineage to bring forth the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ. BOTH of these stories exemplify God’s love for the overlooked and the forgotten, demonstrating His profound love for the unvalued and disregarded.

Break out into two groups to read Scripture + prepare a synopsis for the other group (20 minutes).

- Have one group read the story of Hagar (Genesis 16) and the other group read the story of Leah (Genesis 29).
- Once you’ve finished reading, work together to be able to articulate answers to the following questions to the other group:
 1. Briefly summarize the specifics of Hagar or Leah’s story.
 2. In what ways was Hagar or Leah unloved in this story?
 3. In what specific ways did the Lord meet them in that place?

Come back together to share and discuss (25 minutes).

- Share your small group’s responses to the above three questions with the other group.
- Reflect on the following questions:
 1. In what ways do you relate to Hagar and Leah’s experiences of feeling unseen and unloved? How have those feelings impacted your sense of self-worth and identity?

2. Can you recall a time when you felt invisible or unloved? How did that experience shape your perception of yourself and others? How does the idea of God's unwavering love for the unseen and unloved challenge or transform that perception?
3. Reflecting on Hagar and Leah's stories, how can we find healing and restoration from the wounds caused by feeling unseen and unloved? How does God's love play a role in that process?
4. In what ways can we find comfort and strength in the assurance that God sees and loves us, even when we feel unseen and unloved by others? How can this knowledge empower us to navigate challenging circumstances and relationships?
5. What are some practical ways we can apply the concept of God's love for the unseen and unloved in our interactions with those who feel marginalized or overlooked in society? How can we be agents of love and acceptance, reflecting God's compassion in our own lives?

Finish with prayer (10 minutes).

Once finished, take a few moments to be silent, listening to the Lord. Reflect on anything from your discussion and from the Scriptures that you feel would be good to pray about. Then, pray that.

Once finished with this silence and prayer, take turns sharing prayer requests.

End your group time with prayer out loud for one another.

EXTRA:

1. If you did not complete it during group time, do the Hagar and Leah practice in your Unearthed devotional book (found in the Week 5 material of the 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.