



WEEK 2: Dirt

Lent is a special time of reflection and contemplation of who we are and how we live as God's people. For Lent this year, we will consider how the Biblical Narrative Begins with a stunning picture of human beings claiming they are "the image of God." This is our first and foundational identity. It is an identity that is easily forgotten in our world today - by the way we view ourselves and by the way we view others. But, how might we be transformed if we considered the weight and the glory of this identity? As we consider our identity as "the image of God" in our Lent Groups this year, our prayer is that all of us will root ourselves in God's love, so that we can become who we were created to be.

Here is a reminder of what we'll be doing each week:

Knowing Each Other, a time to let everyone briefly share with the group their thoughts in response to a question which is provided for you.

Beginning the Discussion, a short summary of the previous Sunday's teaching along with some additional insights, Scripture or information relevant to the teaching.

Questions for Reflection is as the name describes it – some questions for group discussion and reflection. Don't feel like you have to answer every question, and maybe you have some other questions you would rather discuss. Please use all of this as you see fit.

Spiritual Practice: Life transformation often happens more through experiences than through just accumulating more knowledge. So, each week there is a spiritual practice for you to experience together as a group that has been specifically designed to compliment the Sunday morning teaching and Lent Group discussion. Each spiritual practice has step- by-step instructions on how to do the Spiritual Practice together in your group.

Final Thoughts: this part is for you to use as a way to close things out with an opportunity for final reflections and thoughts, as well as next steps.

Knowing Each Other

As you get started, you may want to ask an opening question like the one suggested here. It gives everyone a chance to share in the group context with something that anyone can answer.

Go around the room and give everyone a chance to introduce (or re-introduce) them selves and respond to this question:

1. *Have you ever given up something for Lent? If so, what and why? If not, what would you give up for Lent if you chose to do so and why?*

Beginning the Discussion

2. **Listen to the Teaching** : Listen to the teaching [online](#) or on the DCC App. (Please note that teaching Podcast will be available Sunday, the video teaching will be posted Tuesday).
3. **Background for our discussion:** We will explore our interconnectedness to all things as a way of recognizing our call to be those who care, cultivate and steward the earth from which we have come. In our time we are seeing that when we abuse the world it makes an impact on us.
4. **Scripture:** read Genesis 2.4-7

Questions for Discussion

(There are probably more questions here than you can cover in the time you have, so feel free to only use one or two, or ask the group what question or questions they would like to discuss and go with that.)

1. What stands out from this week's teaching? Did anything specific catch your attention as you listened?
2. What is your favorite or funniest family or friend story?
3. What does a good story do for you and those closest to you?
4. What story do we really, deeply trust?
5. What stories do you believe? Do they lead toward relationship or division?
6. How can we tell better stories?

Spiritual Practice: Lent Week 2

This week for our formation practice, we invite you to listen to our guided time of reflection for the first week of Lent on our DCC spiritual formation podcast. You can listen to this guided prayer by clicking on the link below. You can also access the spiritual formation podcast through the DCC App.

[Spiritual Formation Podcast: Lent Week Two](#)

Final Thoughts

Often as we spend time discussing and reflecting, we gain new insights about ourselves, others and God. To close out your time, take a few moments to reflect on the questions below. You can journal or take a few minutes of silence, whatever is most comfortable for you.

1. Based on our discussion, what do you sense God may be saying to you?
2. What action step would you like to take this week?

Spend a few more minutes before you go sharing with each other (whatever you can or feel comfortable with) from what you wrote.