



WEEK 3: All Breath is Sacred

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.

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.

Take a few minutes for everyone to respond to this question:

1. *If you could visit one place in the world, where would it be 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 explored that the Spirit is a mystery. As Jesus says, "She blows wherever she pleases, no one knows where she comes from or where she is going." And we interact with this mystery every moment of our life. Not just in our nostrils and lungs, but in living things we interact with. This teaches us a foundational truth: we live in a world imbued with the Sacred.
4. **Scripture:** read Ezekiel 37:1-14

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. Jonathan shared his prayer to God, “Why have you brought me here.” Have you asked this question before? Can you share about that experience with the group?
3. The Spirit poses a question to Ezekiel, “Tell me, oh mortal one, can these bones live?” Reflect on Jonathan’s thoughts below.
 1. “This isn’t just a question for Ezekiel. Oh no. This is a question for anyone who has ever been led to a valley of desolation, a question for anyone who has found themselves encircled by despair. It’s a question for anyone who has ever found themselves in a place where all life and vitality has been drained away and dried out.”
 2. Have you been in a season like this? What does this question stir in you as you consider seasons of suffering? This question is perhaps the central question pecking away at every human heart in this broken world. “Can these bones live?” What do these words stir in you?
4. In these valleys we are reminded that “God will often take you where no one dares so that God can do what no one can.” Such hope in this statement. Have you had an experience like this before? What does this truth stir in you? What’s coming up?
5. This is a story of resurrection. Resurrection is powerful and beautiful. “You can’t rush a resurrection and there is no way to predict how long it will take” Have you had an experience like this before? Where you have experienced new life, resurrection in your story? Can you share about that with the Group?

Spiritual Practice: Lent Week 3

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 Three](#)

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. What new insight are you walking away from this time with?
2. Do you sense God is inviting you to take any next steps?

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



WEEK 3: The Long View

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 the the Beatitudes in Matthew's Gospel. The beatitudes are a description of what a community committed to imitating the life of Jesus looks like. This is not a list of things we are to try to do, to achieve, nor a list of rules to live by that if we can pull them off we will receive divine blessing. Rather, they describe a way of life that for us are identifiers of what we are and will become as we follow Jesus. As we consider the Beatitudes in our Lent Groups this year, our prayer is that all of us will root ourselves in Gods love, so that we can become who we were created to be.

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.

Take a few minutes for everyone to respond to this question:

5. *If you could visit one place in the world, where would it be and why?*

Beginning the Discussion

6. **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).
7. **Background for our discussion:** Faithfulness is about the long view. This is not something that happens overnight, but a discipline, a long obedience in the same direction. This is the context of mercy. This invites us to consider how often we are "task oriented" people who want to know what to do. But mercy asks not what we can do, but how we can live.
8. **Scripture:** read Matthew 5.7

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.

Spiritual Practice: Lent Week 4

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 Four](#)

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. What has this time stirred in you?
2. Are you feeling invited by God to take any next steps?

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