



## WEEK 4: Off the Mark

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. Let's begin this journey!

### 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:

- *We are 4 weeks into this Lenten season. Can you share some of how you have experienced this season so far?*

### Beginning the Discussion

1. **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).
2. **Background for our discussion:** We will reflect on the glory of being human, and how sin is something that scars the beauty with which we are born. In this then, our contrition is admitting we have stooped below the identity we've been given and trusting that God is one who freely restores our beauty.
3. **Scripture:** read Genesis 3

### 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 comes up in you when you hear the word "sin"?
3. How does thinking about the Jewish understanding of *shalom* influence the way you think about sin?

4. What are unhealthy ways you've heard sin spoken about?
5. Why are we as humans often quick to deny the moments when we disrupt shalom?
6. What would it take for you to experience a love that runs down the road to welcome you home?

### **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.