



WEEK 5: Saved for What?

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:

- *Can you share your high and low from this past week?*

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 explore the ideas of sin, exile, punishment and atonement and reconsider what it means for us to be saved, liberated and forgiven.
3. **Scripture:** read John 10.1-10

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. In what ways do the stories we tell about God shape us?
3. Why do you think has humanity historically seen "the gods" as angry?
4. What other stories have you heard about why Jesus died on the cross?
5. Discuss the following: "Sin" being punished by God versus "Jesus" being punished by God.

6. In what ways do you feel invited to rethink how you see God and yourself?

Spiritual Practice: Lent Week 5

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 Five](#)

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. Can you name one insight or invitation you are walking away with from the time?
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.