

# LETTING GO

LENT 2024 | DIOCESE OF ATLANTA

## WEEK 4: LETTING GO...OF CONDEMNATION

These reflection guides are designed to supplement the videos, for use in a small group Bible study. They are created for the leader's ease of use, and with links to free web-based resources.

### REFLECTION

As recipients of this gracious purpose and act of God, we have to let go of the right to condemn others.

Foregoing condemnation of others or even ourselves is deeper than performing politeness towards each other, or better, kinder, self-talk.

Letting go of condemnation is about the appreciation of how God uses power. Mercy is a sublime expression of power.

Letting go of condemnation is a God-prompted transformation of orientation.

~Bishop Wright

### SCRIPTURE

**Read John 3:14-21:** Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus about what he came to do.

**Read Numbers 21:4-9:** God made a way of life and healing for the people.

**Read Ephesians 2:1-10:** God again made a way of life and healing for the people.

Where do you see God's mercy and freedom from condemnation in these passages?

### DISCUSSION

- Share about a time when you experienced mercy when you expected condemnation. How did that affect you?
- Share about a time when you gave mercy rather than condemnation. What was that experience like?
- How has your experience of mercy transformed your orientation toward others and yourself (or how do you want it to)? How do you try to live this out in everyday life and show this to the world?
- Who might need an experience of God's mercy and freedom from condemnation today? How might you offer that?

### ARTICLES

For Further Reading:  
Micah 6:8 talks about mercy and justice. More thoughts about "Just Mercy" from Bryan Stevenson, author of a book by that name, and what justice & mercy might look like in today's world:  
<https://www.eastern.edu/news/just-mercy-movie-qa-bryan-stevenson>

### PRAYER

*Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget... Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy.... Amen*

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### TAKE-AWAY

Learn more about work going on around justice and mercy for those who society most easily condemns by learning more about the work of the Equal Justice Initiative:  
<https://eji.org/about/>

In what other ways are you/your church working for justice and mercy for those most easily dismissed or condemned? How can you?