



So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them;

male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23

## **Conversation Starters** ( Read through all of the questions and pick 2 or 3 to start. Question #8 is really good! You will not have time to engage with all the questions! )

1. How did your family of origin deal with “stumbling”? How do you think about, prepare for, deal with your own stumbling and the stumbling of the people you care most about? Ie. Pretend it didn’t happen, warn and warn and warn about the dangers of stumbling, Blow up and say things you wish you could take back, make light of it and pass over it, Keep it secret? Some other way?
2. Do you sometimes think, “Stumbling is something I shouldn’t struggle with anymore”? What is wrong with me that I **still** stumble over \_\_\_\_\_? Why do you think so many people think this way?
3. What makes you most afraid of stumbling? Seeing yourself as a failure? Fear that God won’t love me? Fear that others will no longer trust me?
4. Read Luke 22:31-34. Can you see the before, during and after parts of Jesus’ love for Peter? Is it difficult for you to believe God loves you before, during and after the stumble? Why or why not?
5. Everybody stumbles. Dave encouraged us not to keep it a secret. Who do you tell? Why do you tell? What makes you afraid of telling someone?
6. Dave shared that confessing our stumbles to God and others does several things. Can you think of more positive reasons to confess your stumbling?
  - a. Models the reality for others that we all stumble on our spiritual hike.
  - b. We have more compassion and understanding for people who stumble.

Realizing that **you will stumble** is the antidote for the Bad Religion that says, “God won’t love you if you stumble.” This reality keeps you from having **too high or too low** view of yourself. Dave encourages us to have a healthy spiritual identity that is realistic and includes stumbling. Why? Because you will get up quicker when you stumble, you will be able to get up quicker and move forward. You will be free to talk about it with those we love.

7. How good are you at allowing yourself and others to stumble without remaining hurt, angry and resentful?
8. **Read the two verses above depicting the two sides of our identity in Christ. Which side of the coin do you more naturally identify? Why?**