



CHURCH OF THE

Good Shepherd

Sermon Discussion Questions: January 11, 2026

The Beginning of Discipleship

Sermon Series: Learning the Way of Jesus

Passage: Mark 2:1-12

1. Felt Needs vs. Deepest Needs

The sermon contrasts our felt needs with our greatest need. What are some needs that most press on your life right now, and how do you sense Jesus might want to address something deeper beneath them?

2. “Come Down” Instead of “Go Up”

Jesus challenges the assumption that our greatest need is to keep climbing—career, success, stability, or control. Where do you feel pressure to “go up,” and what might it look like for Jesus to invite you to “come down” in trust or humility?

3. The Paralytic and His Friends

The friends go to great lengths to bring the paralytic to Jesus, believing healing is his greatest need. How do you relate to the paralytic, and how do you relate to the friends? What does their faith teach us about bringing ourselves and others to Jesus?

4. Authority to Forgive

Jesus’ declaration, “Your sins are forgiven,” unsettles both the friends and the scribes. How do you personally respond to the claim that Jesus has authority to forgive all sin—past, present, and future? Where do you find that easy or difficult to believe?

5. Coming Home

The sermon ends with the image of forgiveness as an invitation to “come home.” What might it look like for you to receive that invitation more fully right now? Are there voices—internal or external—that make it hard to believe forgiveness is really for you?