

**Sermon Discussion Questions: January 4, 2026**

**Sermon Series: Learning the Way of Jesus**

**Sermon: *The Beginning of the Gospel***

**Passage: Mark 1:1-13**

**1. The sermon says, “*Stories are to people what water is to fish. We swim in them.*”**

How would you describe the story you are currently telling yourself about your life? In what ways might Jesus be inviting you to see your story differently?

**2. John’s baptism points to the desire to be clean on the inside, not just the outside.**

Where do you feel the temptation to “wash the outsides” of your life rather than bringing the deeper places to Jesus? What makes inside change feel harder?

**3. Jesus is baptized not for his sins, but for ours—fully entering and taking on our**

**story.** Why do you think it matters that Jesus doesn’t stay distant from our brokenness but steps directly into it? How does that shape the way you trust him with your own struggles?

**4. The Father’s words to Jesus— “*You are my beloved Son; with you I am well***

***pleased*”—are spoken over us in Christ.** What voices or lies most often compete with that truth in your life? What would it look like to receive God’s words as your primary identity this week?

**5. Repentance is described not as shame, but as turning toward the direction we were**

**made to go.** Are there areas of your life where Jesus might be calling you to “turn around”? What would taking one small step toward God’s kingdom look like right now?