

# Discussion Questions

Date: May 31, 2026

Preacher: Josh Ratliff

## Sermon Outline

## Talking Points

### *The Good Shepherd and the Worthless Shepherd | Zechariah 9-11*

#### *The Lord Acts as Israel's Salvation and Strength (Zech 9-10)*

- God defeats all of Israel's enemies. "God will save and protect everyone who trusts in Him!" (Zech. 9:1-8)
- God regathers, blesses, and strengthens His people. "Sin gives us bad consequences. But God can reverse them!" (9:11-17; 10:3b-12)
- **Question for Adults:** Where have you seen God's power in rescuing you?
- **Question for Kids:** Think of a time when you wished something bad that happened could be "undone". Do you know that Jesus does this with our sin? Have you trusted him as your Savior?

#### *The Lord Provides an Ideal Shepherd for the People (Zech 9-11)*

- God Replaces False Leaders with a Good Shepherd (9:9-10; 10:1-3a) "A godly leader is a humble leader, like Jesus!"
- The Good Shepherd is rejected by the people. (Zech. 11:4-17) "Sometimes, people don't see the good gift God has for them, like the way Jesus was and is still rejected by so many people!"
- **Question for Adults:** What are the false shepherds you are turning to?
- **Question for Kids:** How can you follow the leading of Jesus, our Good Shepherd in how you serve God and treat others?

**Bottom Line: Jesus is the ultimate King and Shepherd whose victory is won by peace.**

\* How does viewing God as only a passive viewer (rather than a vigilant defender as described in the text) create a false picture of Him? What problems would you foresee someone having in their walk with Christ if they saw God as passive, not active?

\* What are some challenges you going through right now? Do you believe that God is with you and watching over you through these problems and struggles?

\* Are there past mistakes or sins in your life that you regret? How does knowing that Jesus took on the punishment for those sins impact your regret?

\* Without Christ, where would you be right now? What has God rescued you from?

\* What does the image of a king riding on a donkey tell us about the nature of Jesus's kingdom?

\* "A godly leader is a humble leader." What is it about Jesus's humility that draws people to Him? Where in your life are you fighting or asserting control rather than leading with humility?

\* Why do people reject the good gifts of God? What leads to this rebellion? Ignorance? Pride? Anger?

\* What are "false shepherds" and how do we identify them in our lives? Are you submitting to the Good Shepherd/God's word, or looking for guidance that itches your ears? (2 Timothy 4:3)

Who can walk with you through this and help you to stay focused on Jesus and His word?

## Understanding Scripture

### 1. Read the passage aloud.

- Question: How would the original audience have understood this passage?
- Question: What was God's desire for them?

### 2. Reread key verse(s) aloud.

- Question: What does this teach us about the human soul, desires, or behavior?
- Question: What does this teach us about the nature, desires, or behavior of God?

### 3. Ask if anything is difficult to understand in the passage, or simply point it out yourself.

- Back up from the confusing verse and reread the whole section slowly—highlight the author's flow of thought.
- Ask everyone, "What are some possible interpretations?" Encourage curiosity!
- If needed, provide clarification, but admit if you don't have a satisfactory explanation, and volunteer to research answers. Share your findings over text or at the next meeting.

### 4. Summarize the passage in 1-3 sentences to refocus the group ("Okay, so far we've seen in Amos...")

- Question: What does this say about our relationship with God and/or each other?
- Question: How do the teachings, actions, or person of Jesus shed light on this passage?

## Prayer Requests

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