Worship Discussion and Reflection Questions

Sermon: Who Has The Authority?
Scripture: Mark 2:1-12

And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"— he said to the paralytic— "I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

Reflection Questions:

1. What comes to mind when you think about the word, "authority?" Does it have a positive, negative, or neutral connotation for you?
2. When you picture the four men carrying the paralytic to the house where Jesus was staying, how does that hit you? Have you ever been in that position of need? Have you ever been like one of the men carrying their friend?
3. Is there a detail in the story that confuses you or jumps out at you the most? What is it?
4. Where do you struggle most with acknowledging Jesus' authority over your life?
5. Where are you "assuming authority" over something you need to let go of?

Guided Prayer:

Praise God, Who is Lord over everything in heaven and on earth and pray that we would humbly submit to Him in all ways, surrendering to His loving authority over our lives.