



Cuyahoga
Valley Church

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 1.21.24
Exodus 19 // Joe Valenti

Please take the opportunity to revisit the CVC Equip
Portrait of a Healthy LifeGroup on a regular basis

① CONNECT (10 MIN)

Joe stated in the sermon, “God is less concerned about how quickly we get to His blessings, and more concerned about the process of developing relationship with Him.” What “detour” has God taken you on that ended up being a key stop on your journey of knowing Him?

EXPLORE (30 MIN)

Create Context (5 min):

Sorry, we don't have a sermon recap video this week.

Study & Discussion (25 min)

- ② Was there anything uniquely helpful to you in the sermon or especially confusing to you?
- ③ Read Exodus 19:1-2. Why do you think God chose the wilderness as the place for the Hebrew people to meet Him, instead of having this conversation with them (that we see in Exodus 19) in the Promised Land?
- ④ Joe stated that, “Obedience can never earn God's love. But obedience is the natural response to being God's people.” This statement is an important step towards understanding the differences between justification and sanctification.

The New City Catechism provides us with a few helpful definitions and distinctions.

Justification

Our declared righteousness before God, made possible by Christ's death and resurrection for us. This is similar to the idea of imputed righteousness that Joe mentioned on Sunday.

Sanctification

Our gradual, growing righteousness, made possible by the Spirit's work in us. This refers to the process of ongoing obedience once saved.

- Read Deut. 7:6-8, Ephesians 1:1-11, and Ephesians 2:1-11.
 - How do these passages build up our understanding of why and how Jesus saves us?
 - How are we called to live after Jesus has saved us?



⑤ Read Hebrews 3:1-6, Hebrews 9:11-14, and Hebrews 10:16-18. On Sunday, Joe talked about how Moses' temporary mediation between the people and God pointed to the day when Jesus Christ would come and be the better mediator, between God and His people. The Old Testament sacrifices mediated through the Israelite priests (beginning with Aaron, Moses' brother) would one day be fulfilled, accomplished with finality, through the work of Jesus.

- The passages above compare and contrast some of the ways that Moses' mediation differs from Christ. Using those passages, name some of the ways that the work of Moses and the work of Christ are similar, and some ways they are different.
- In the Old Testament, the people needed repeated mediation so that they can be in the presence of God. Moses and the priests provide one example of this in the OT. In Christ, mediation between God and man is accomplished once and for all, and after the death and resurrection of Jesus, "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13) with finality. How does this finished work (justification) give us hope as we continue to walk in obedience to God because of what He has done for us (sanctification)?
- In your own life, have you spent much time studying the ways that the New Testament (specifically the person and work of Jesus) fulfill God's Old Testament promises and plans? Why or why not?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Ryle: Justification and Sanctification, by Kevin DeYoung - The Gospel Coalition: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/ryle-justification-and-sanctification/#:~:text=Sanctification%20is%20the%20actual%20making,made%20our%20own%20by%20faith.>
- The New City Catechism - Question 32: What do justification and sanctification mean? - <http://newcitycatechism.com/new-city-catechism/#32>
- Got Questions: Why does Christ's righteousness need to be imputed to us? - <https://www.gotquestions.org/imputed-righteousness.html>

APPLY (20 MIN)

Joe asked the question on Sunday, "Are you ready to meet God?"

- How could you answer this question if someone asked you who was not a Christian?
- How could you pose this question to a lost friend or family member?



PRAY (15 MINS)

Spend some time in prayer this week with your LifeGroup:

- Thanking God for His wonderful plan to create a way for His people to know and be saved by Him.
- (For those of you who have already invited Jesus to be the leader and forgiver of your lives) - Asking God to give you strength and wisdom as you continue to walk with Him, being sanctified day by day.
- Praying for those in your life who do not yet know God, that He will give you boldness in sharing His love with them in word and deed and that He will do the work in their hearts to reveal to them their need for Him.



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EQUIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of 1.21.24

Please take a moment to share these announcements with your group.

CVCKIDS

Night To Shine Volunteer Registration.

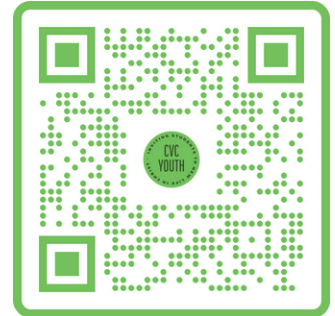
Recently a visitor to our church said to one of our volunteers, “Night to Shine is the most loving thing that you all do for our community.” Regardless of whether they are correct in that statement, it surely shows how much Night to Shine offers us an opportunity to be salt and light in our region. It literally takes hundreds of volunteers to serve our special guests and their caregivers. Please consider volunteering as a LifeGroup, family, or individual for this important night.



CVCYOUTH

CVC Youth - Winter Retreat

At CVCYouth's Winter Retreat, we are inviting students into a life of freedom in Christ, not out of obligation, but out of obedience. Join High School and Middle School students from all around North East Ohio as we enjoy one of our favorite weekends of the year. Winter Retreat 24, night & day will be filled with new friendships, fun memories, new adventures, and lots of laughs.



CHURCH - WIDE

Pursue Prayer Gathering

How's this? Join us every Sunday night in January from 6:30-7:30pm as we Pursue a deeper walk with Christ individually and corporately in 2024. Childcare is available.



SAVE - THE - DATES

Night To Shine: February 9th, 2024.

CVCYouth Winter Retreat: February 23-25, 2024