



Cuyahoga
Valley Church

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 4.27.25
2 Corinthians 2:12-17// Joe Valenti

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

CONNECT (10 MIN)

- ① Think about a smell that instantly takes you back to a certain memory or time in your life. What is significant about this smell, and why do you think this association (between the smell and the memory) has stuck with you for so long?

What is one of your favorite smells, and why?

EXPLORE (30 MIN)

Create Context (5 min): The Sermon Recap Video is coming soon!

Study & Discussion (25 min)

Read 2 Corinthians 2:12-17.

- ② Reread 2 Corinthians 2:12-14. In his sermon on Sunday, Pastor Joe talked about how Paul trusted that everywhere he went, Christ would use him to spread the gospel. To put it another way, Paul “wore the same hat” or “had the same smell” no matter where he went. We also are to spread the aroma of Christ wherever we go.
 - Where (in what place or setting) is it most difficult for you to spread the aroma of Christ (examples could include when stuck in traffic, in a difficult meeting, at a family gathering, in line at the DMV, etc.)?
 - Why do you think it can be so difficult for us to “have the same aroma” everywhere we go? Why can we sometimes be so tempted to act differently in different places or with different people?
 - Read 1 Corinthians 15:58. Why is it important for Christians to have the aroma of Christ everywhere - to “smell the same” everywhere we go and with everyone we encounter?



- ③ Read 1 Corinthians 1:18. Pastor Joe said on Sunday that the gospel message is offensive enough - we don't need to be offensive when we share it!
- What does it mean that the message of the gospel is offensive to the lost?
 - How can we share the good news about Jesus in a way that is winsome and inviting? To put it another way, how can we stay faithful to the gospel message while taking care not to personally offend those with whom we share?
 - Have I ever softened or hidden the truth of the gospel in order to avoid making others - or myself - uncomfortable?
- ④ In our world today, Christianity is often commodified and commercialized, and peddled as a product. Oftentimes, the Christianity peddled by the world for a profit is not even authentic Christianity, but a warped and twisted version made to appeal to the masses that obscures or hides the true message of Jesus.
- Am I careful about the voices that I allow to shape my faith and my thoughts about who God is and what He is like?
 - Am I prepared to lovingly confront brothers and sisters in Christ when they are being influenced or led astray by false teaching or a false gospel?
 - How can we, as individuals and as a church, seek to be careful whose aroma we breathe in and are influenced by?
- ⑤ Consider all you have discussed today in LifeGroup. Based on the sermon on Sunday and on your discussion today, what is one area where you need prayer as you seek to live your life being the aroma of Christ to those around you?



PRAY AND APPLY

Pray for Endurance in the Race of Faith

- Ask God to help believers fix their eyes on Jesus and not grow weary.
- Pray for those struggling with discouragement, doubt, or exhaustion.

2. Pray for Strength in Suffering

- Pray that people would see God's discipline as training, not punishment.
- Ask for wisdom and peace for those walking through pain.

3. Pray for Spiritual Growth and Maturity

- Ask God to use trials to make His people holy (Hebrews 12:10).
- Pray that suffering would produce the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

4. Pray for Those on the Verge of Giving Up

- Lift up those who feel spiritually weak, isolated, or ready to quit.
- Ask that they would "lift their drooping hands and strengthen their weak knees."



PRAY AND APPLY

- Pray for Consistent Witnesses
 - Ask God to help His people carry the aroma of Christ consistently, no matter where they are or who they're with.
- Pray for Courageous Faithfulness
 - Pray that we would not water down the gospel to avoid conflict, but proclaim the truth in love.
- Pray for Discernment
 - Ask God to give wisdom to our people to recognize false teachers and reject the "peddlers" of God's Word.
- Pray for Purity and Sincerity in Leadership
 - Pray that our church leaders would speak with sincerity, humility, and in the sight of God.

RESOURCES

The Gospel Coalition Course - Knowing the Bible: 2 Corinthians:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/knowning-bible-2-corinthians/>

The Gospel Coalition Course - Introduction to 2 Corinthians:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/2-corinthians/>

The Cradle, the Cross, and the Crown: An Introduction to the New Testament

by Dr. Andreas J. Köstenberger Ph.D., L. Scott Kellum, Charles L. Quarles:

<https://www.amazon.com/Cradle-Cross-Crown-Introduction-Testament/dp/1433684004>



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WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of 4.27.25

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

More information on each item can be found by scanning the QR codes.

EQUIP

Sunday Sessions Podcast

Sunday Sessions is a weekly theology class offered in the fall and spring. Each week various topics of doctrine and practice are explored from a conservative, evangelical viewpoint. Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30am in Room 104/106 in the spring! If you can't make it or miss a week, catch up via our podcast [HERE](#).



COMMUNITY LIFE

Women's Breakfast: June 7, 2025

Come enjoy food, fellowship, worship, and discussion! We will be joined by Linda Valenti, who will share with us about God's faithfulness to her in the different seasons of her life.

Because God is faithful, He never changes, He is true to His Word, and He keeps His promises. We will learn about and rest in these truths together as we take time to seek God, learn from our speaker, and connect and grow alongside one another! You can register [HERE](#).