



Cuyahoga
Valley Church

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 5.12.25
2 Cor. 12:1-10 // Joe Valenti

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

CONNECT (10 MIN)

- ① This past Sunday we celebrated Mother's Day. What sorts of emotions does Mother's Day bring up for you, and why (possible emotions could include joy, thankfulness, grief, anger, sadness, or more)?

EXPLORE (30 MIN)

Create Context (5 min): There is no Sermon Recap this week.

Study & Discussion (25 min)

Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

- ② In the sermon on Sunday, Pastor Joe talked about some of the ways that weakness can push us to closeness with and reliance on God. In his main points, he mentioned four reasons that we might reject or resist weakness. These reasons are:

1. We want to impress.
2. We want to fix things.
3. We want control.
4. We want relief.

Which of these resonates the most with you, and why?

- ③ There was a second part to each of the bullets in the list above, too. The first full point was that "we want to impress - weakness keeps us humble." Pastor Joe also quoted St. Augustine on Sunday, who once stated that, "For those who would learn God's ways, humility is the first thing, humility is the second thing, humility is the third."

- How has God used weakness to foster humility in your life?
- Why do you think Augustine stated so strongly that learning humility is so very important when one wants to learn the ways of God?



④ Next, Pastor Joe stated that “we want to fix things - humility drives us to prayer.” He told us that mature faith rejects self-sufficiency, instead running to God.

- Are you ever tempted to try and fix things before bringing them to the Lord? Why do you think this can be such a prevalent temptation today?
- In your life right now, what would it look like to reject self-sufficiency and instead run to God in prayer?

⑤ Read 2 Corinthians 12:8. Pastor Joe said on Sunday that, “God’s grace being sufficient means that what God gives you in your weakness is more powerful than what you could gain in your own strength.”

- How have you seen God use some of the weaknesses or struggles in your life to bring glory and honor to His name?
- Have you ever felt that God’s plan was less efficient or less good than your own plan for your life? If so, how have you responded to this feeling - in prayer, in desperation, in surrender - or in another way entirely?
- Paul didn’t glorify his suffering, but he glorified God in his suffering. Why do you think this distinction is important? What do you think it looks like to glorify God in suffering - both in general, and in your own life right now or in seasons of suffering?



PRAY AND APPLY

- Pray for Humility in Our Church
 - That people would boast in Christ, not in their accomplishments.
- Pray for Deeper Prayer Lives
 - That weaknesses would not lead to self-reliance, but persistent pleading.
- Pray for Greater Trust in Grace
 - That we would believe God's grace is truly sufficient, even when His answers aren't what we hoped for.
- Pray for Contentment in Difficulty
 - That our people would learn to rejoice in trials, seeing them as opportunities for God's power to rest on them.
- Pray for Mothers Specifically
 - That weary moms would experience God's power in their weakness and learn to rest in His grace

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/>



Cuyahoga
Valley Church

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of 5.5.25

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](#).