



Cuyahoga
Valley Church

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 9.14.25

Mark 1:9-15 // Joe Valenti

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

CONNECT (10 MIN)

- ① On Sunday, we watched Nellie Spacek's baptism testimony from CVC's recent outdoor baptism celebration. What stood out to you about Nellie's story? What encouraged or challenged you when we watched it together on Sunday, and why?

EXPLORE (30 MIN)

Create Context (5 min):

HERE is the Sermon Recap video this week. (This link works a little differently now. From now on, this link will take you to a Vimeo playlist that houses our sermons AND our Sermon Recap Videos for the whole Mark series. At the top of the playlist each week you'll be able to find the newest sermon and the newest Sermon Recap Video whenever they are available.

Study & Discussion (25 min)

Read Mark 1:9-15

- ② Re-read Mark 1:9-13. On Sunday, Pastor Joe said that Jesus stands in our place and He faces our struggle. He is more than just our example (because He is also our Lord and Savior), but He is not less than that - Jesus' life encapsulates the pattern that all Christian lives should emulate. Jesus underwent testing, trial, and temptation, and yet never sinned. Jesus was baptized, although as Pastor Joe put it, Jesus had no personal need to be baptized - nor did He have any personal need to go to the cross. He did these things to be our example, AND so that in his life, death, and resurrection, our sins could be paid for and His righteousness could be imputed to us (imputed righteousness is another term Pastor Joe used in the sermon on Sunday).

As the resource "Got Questions" puts it, "Having Christ's righteousness imputed to us does not mean we automatically do what is right—that will come through the process of sanctification (which we looked at in our study guide from last week). What it does mean is that we are positionally righteous; even though we still sin, we are forensically or legally righteous. God has credited the righteousness of Christ to our account, and He did this when He saved us. In grace, the holiness of Jesus Christ is ascribed to us. Christ "has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption" (1 Corinthians 1:30).

- Have you ever heard of or studied the idea of imputed righteousness before? If so, when and where? If not, what is your first impression of this theological idea?

(Question Set #2 is continued on the next page of the study guide)



- Why is it such good news that when we invite Jesus to be the forgiver and leader of our lives, not only are our sins forgiven, but we also are justified before God because of the imputed righteousness of Jesus? Why is it important that as Christians we understand both sides of this coin?

- How should this idea affect the way that we talk about and share the good news about Jesus with those in our lives who are far from Jesus? (as a reminder, this Sunday we are launching Fall 2025 Sunday Sessions with a class taught by Tony Scialabba called, “How to Share Jesus: A Guide to Gospel Conversations”)

③ On Sunday we talked about the testing and temptation that Jesus faced in the wilderness by Satan. J.B. Gibson defines this kind of testing as “being probed and proved, often through hardship and adversity, in order to determine the extent of one’s loyalty to a given commission.” Just like Jesus, there will be times in the lives of Christians when testing, temptation, and trial will come.

- As we see in the book of Job and elsewhere in Scripture, sometimes we will get to understand some of what God is doing and accomplishing in the difficult things that come our way. But other times, we won’t understand His will and purposes and plan on this side of heaven. What does it look like for us to walk in faithfulness and a deep trust in God, even when we are confused about the tests, trials, or temptations that God is allowing into our lives?
- Pastor Joe said on Sunday that when we are tempted, often our temptations center around wanting to put ourselves first in the way that we seek (1) our own satisfaction, (2) our own desire to prove ourselves to others (our reputation), or (3) our own exultation. We are tempted put ourselves first in these things rather than submitting to what God says is good and best for us in His Word. Are you ever tempted to put your satisfaction, your reputation, or your own exultation ahead of trusting in and walking with Jesus? If so, in what ways have you seen this play out in your life specifically? As you’re able and comfortable, share some specific examples.



④ Re-read Mark 1:14-15. On Sunday we talked about the already/not yet tension inherent in the kingdom of God on this side of eternity. On one hand, Jesus' coming launched the kingdom – it is already here. Every healing, every exorcism, every act of mercy is a foretaste of God's reign breaking into the world. But it is also not yet fully here. Sin, suffering, hatred, conflict, and death are still present until Jesus returns to bring the kingdom in all its fullness.

- In addition to our passage from Sunday, where else in the New Testament do we see this tension of the already/not yet kingdom of God play out?
- Where in our world today do we see this tension right now? How can we remind ourselves and others of gospel truth as we wait for “Jesus to return to bring the kingdom in all its fullness?”

PRAY AND APPLY

Pray that we would marvel at Jesus stepping into our place in baptism.

Pray for strength and endurance for those facing trials and temptations.

Pray that we would live with clear eyes on the “already/not yet” Kingdom.

Pray for the gift of true repentance and faith in Christ.

Pray for boldness to live out Jesus' revolution of sacrifice and love.

RESOURCES

The Gospel Coalition Course - Knowing the Bible: Mark
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/knowning-bible-mark/>

The Gospel Coalition Course - Introduction to Mark
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/mark/>

Got Questions: The Gospel of Mark
<https://www.gotquestions.org/Gospel-of-Mark.html>



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WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of 9.14.25

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

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 starting on September 21st! If you can't make it or miss a week, catch up via our podcast [HERE](#).

COMMUNITY LIFE

Women's Conference

Join the CVC Women's Ministry for our 2025 Women's Ministry Conference on Saturday, September 20 from 8am - 4pm where we will consider together what it means to live lives that are completely surrendered to Jesus Christ. When we talk about surrendering all we have and all we are to Jesus, there's a lot to consider! In our relationships, in the work that we do, in the decisions we make - how can our lives be lived in such a way that we can confidently say, "All to Jesus, I surrender." Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Cost is \$35. Register [HERE](#).

CVC YOUTH

Collide Fall Fest: October 11

Pumpkin spice, crisp fall nights, and middle school madness—it's Collide Fall Fest! Join us for games, snacks, and a night packed with autumn fun. This is the perfect invite event for your friends—don't miss it! You can find out more about event updates [HERE](#) and when registration opens.