



Cuyahoga
Valley Church

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 9.7.25

Mark 1:1-8 // Joe Valenti

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

CONNECT (10 MIN)

- ① Have you ever studied the book of Mark? If so, what has stood out to you in past study? If not, what stood out to you especially in the sermon on Sunday?

To open his sermon on Sunday, Pastor Joe asked the question, “What are some of the things you long to change in the world?” How would you answer this question today?

EXPLORE (30 MIN)

Create Context (5 min): HERE is the Sermon Recap video this week.

Study & Discussion (25 min)

Read Mark 1:1-8

- ② On Sunday, Pastor Joe stated that the revolution brought by Jesus was “a revolution marked by humility and servanthood... (of) Jesus modeling that humility and servanthood all the way to the cross... (this was) a different type of revolution - of servanthood, humility, and of repentance.”
 - How is this revolution different from what the Jewish people might have been expecting from their Messiah?
 - How does the revolution of Jesus challenge our own expectations of the ways we might expect or want God to act in the world today?
- ③ Read Mark 1:1-3. On Sunday, Pastor Joe stated that “the scope of this good news is significant - it extends into history past and into eternity future.” Mark 1:1-3 references the book of Isaiah, and reminds us that the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ were all part of God’s plan for the very beginning.
 - How does remembering the scope of God’s plan affect the way that we study all of Scripture?
 - How does remembering the scope of God’s plan affect the way that we trust in and walk with Him in our own lives today?

- ④ The Greek word for repentance is *metanoia* (μετάνοια), which means “a change of one’s mind.” However, like Pastor Joe mentioned on Sunday, this is more than just an intellectual shift. The underlying picture is a complete reorientation of life – a decisive turn. Repentance is a gift and work of God that causes people to turn away from sin and toward God.

When talking about repentance, it can be helpful to think about the theological ideas of justification and sanctification. Justification happens when a person invites Jesus to be the leader and forgiver of her life - right then, she is justified by the finished work and person of Jesus Christ, and her sins are forgiven because of Jesus. Sanctification happens as a Christian continues from that point on to keep walking closely with and being led by Jesus, becoming more and more like Him in the power of the Holy Spirit and in the perseverance of someone saved and being shaped by God.

Repentance happens at the beginning of the Christian walk, when a person invites Jesus to be the leader and forgiver of her life and is justified once and for all. But repentance also happens throughout the life of the Christian, as she slowly becomes more like Jesus, and slowly begins to hate her sin and desire holiness more and more, because she desires to be like and to please the God who made her and then saved her from her sin. This second type of repentance, this “sanctification repentance” never ends on this side of heaven - as we talked about on Sunday, an ongoing pattern of repentance is a hallmark of a vibrant relationship with Jesus.

- Why do you think it’s important for us to note that repentance is not just an intellectual shift, but a “complete reorientation of life”?
- Do you remember the first time that you repented of your sin, when you trusted Jesus to be the leader and forgiver of your life? What did God use in your life to show you your need for repentance and your need for Jesus to forgive and lead you?
- What does “sanctification repentance” look like in your life right now? Do you have anyone who helps hold you accountable, who encourages and challenges you as you seek to live a life that is pleasing to God (see CVC’s Accountability Questions [at this link](#) or at cvonline.org/aq)?
- What do you think it means that “an ongoing pattern of repentance is a hallmark of a vibrant relationship with Jesus?”
- Think about people in Scripture who loved God and sought to know, worship, and follow Him faithfully. Can you think of episodes of ongoing repentance in the lives of any well-known Biblical characters?

PRAY AND APPLY

Hearts Prepared for Repentance

- Pray that God would soften hearts in the congregation, convicting people of specific sins and granting the gift of true repentance that leads to forgiveness and life.

Clarity and Power in Preaching

- Pray that Pastor Joe and Pastor Josh will proclaim the message of Mark 1:1-7 with boldness and precision, clearly showing how Jesus' revolution is different and why it demands a response.

Breakthrough for the Lost

- Pray that those who do not yet know Christ would see the futility of worldly "revolutions" and turn to Jesus in faith, receiving Him as Lord and Savior for the first time.

Strengthening of Believers

- Pray that followers of Jesus would be renewed in their love for the gospel, freshly assured of their forgiveness, and empowered by the Spirit to walk in holiness this week.

Engagement in LifeGroups

- Pray for those who are not yet connected in community to be drawn by the Spirit to a group over the next few weeks where they can grow relationally and spiritually.

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>



Cuyahoga
Valley Church

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of 9.7.25

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

COMMUNITY LIFE

Men's Breakfast: Saturday, September 13

You are invited to join us for a free Men's Breakfast. This event promises to be a morning of inspiration and fellowship, and we would be honored to have you with us. The breakfast will include a time of teaching, personal testimonies, prayer, and fellowship among men from our community. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect, grow spiritually, and enjoy a hearty breakfast together. We encourage you to invite a guest to come along with you and share in this meaningful experience. We look forward to seeing you there! You can register by clicking [HERE](#).

CVCYOUTH

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.