



Cuyahoga  
Valley Church

# SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 9.21.25  
Mark 1:16-20 // Kyle Gustafson

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

## CONNECT (10 MIN)

- ① On Sunday, elder Kyle Gustafson told a story about his three year old daughter over-valuing scrap paper she scribbled on, and being upset that her scribbles were thrown away. Can you think of a time when you were a child when you over-valued something that seemed important then, but that makes you laugh now? Can you think of a time when a child in your life did or has done something similar?

## 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 1:16-20.

- ② Think again about the story Kyle told about his daughter. In this season of your life, what are you tempted to overvalue? To put it another way, what are you tempted to value more than following Jesus?
- ③ In order to follow Jesus, the disciples had to lay down three things: their identity, their possessions, and their relationships. Which element of following Jesus strikes you as the most challenging for you, and why?
- ④ What did it look like for you to lay down your identity when you first invited Jesus to be the forgiver and leader of your life? What does it look like for you to continue to lay down your identity as you follow Him, and to continually submit to God's vision for your life ahead of your own?



- ⑤ Read Psalm 33:6. Kyle said on Sunday that "when Jesus commands, He carries the same weight as God in creation." Later on, he made the statement that "our call is to follow - Jesus' job is to transform."
- Why is it important for us to understand the weight that the words of Jesus carry, both to his original hearers and to us reading His words in Scripture today?
  - With your answer to the above question in mind, what does it look like for Jesus to transform us as we seek to follow Him (as He's called us to do)?
- ⑥ Read Mark 1:15. Kyle stated in his sermon, "The kingdom of God is not built by human effort... and yet, that doesn't mean that we sit passively by and wait. God has already sent Christ, and the arrival of that kingdom demands a response to us. That response is discipleship."
- Read Ephesians 2:10. How do we balance, on the one hand, trusting that God is the one who builds His kingdom, and on the other hand, remembering that we are called to do the good works that God has prepared for us to do?
  - What do you think it looks like for you right now to "respond in discipleship" to what God has done and is doing in the world and in your life? What is your next step in faithfulness to the call of Christ (examples could be inviting Jesus to be the forgiver and leader of your life, asking an older believer if they could mentor you, asking a younger believer if you could mentor them, getting involved in a LifeGroup or WorkShop, deciding to serve in CVCYouth - and these are just a few!)?
- ⑦ When we think about laying down our relationships to follow Jesus, what does it look like practically to balance family and community responsibilities, and fulfill those in a way that honors the Lord, while also understanding that we are to love the Lord first above all else? As Kyle said on Sunday, "The principle here is reordering our priorities."



## PRAY AND APPLY

### Surrendering Identity to Christ

- Pray that we would lay down identities rooted in our careers, achievements, or status, and instead embrace the identity given to us in Christ (Mark 1:16–18; Philippians 2:5–11).

### Releasing Possessions security

- Ask God to free us from clinging to material “nets” that keep us from wholehearted obedience, trusting instead in His Word that created and sustains all things (Psalm 33:6; Mark 1:18).

### Yielding Relationships to Jesus

- Pray that we would honor family and relationships while placing Christ above all else, balancing biblical commands to care for family (Ephesians 6:2–3; 1 Timothy 5:8) with loyalty to Jesus (Mark 1:20).

### Living in Urgent Obedience

- Seek a heart that responds quickly and joyfully to the call of Christ, stepping into His kingdom mission with faith and courage (Mark 1:15, 18–20).

### Humility and Christlike Mindset

- Pray that we would cultivate the mindset of Christ—laying down self-centeredness and embracing humility and obedience, even when costly (Philippians 2:5–11).

## 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 9.21.25

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

## COMMUNITY LIFE

### **Men's Fall Retreat 2025**

The Men's Retreat is intended to give men the opportunity to advance and grow spiritually. Through fellowship, worship, God's Word, God's creation, and preparation every man will be built up to continue following Christ. We intend to enjoy and be edified by each other and the Lord Jesus. Register individually [HERE](#) or Text Retreat" to 440.276.5575  
Registration closes September 30.

## 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.

### **High School Fall Retreat: November 21**

Escape the noise, slow down, and press in—Fall Retreat is here. Three days away with your friends and leaders, incredible worship, and teaching that will challenge and encourage you. This is the weekend you'll look back on all year—don't miss it. More details will be released as we get closer to the event!