



Cuyahoga
Valley Church

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 9.28.25

Mark 1:21-34 // 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, Pastor Joe shared the example of having a substitute teacher when he was a student who had positional authority in his classroom as the substitute, but who did not have practical authority in that classroom, because his fellow high school classmates did not listen to the substitute teacher. Did you ever have a really wonderful or really not excellent teacher in elementary, middle, or high school? Do you have a particularly memorable experience with a substitute teacher being wonderful or not so wonderful?

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 1:21-34.

- ② Read Mark 1:21-22 again. In the sermon, Pastor Joe mentioned that when Jesus talked, people listened, because as the text of Scripture says, Jesus “spoke with authority.” Mark contrasts this with the way the scribes spoke, relying on tradition and the work of the rabbis.
 - Have you given Jesus the authority to speak into your life? If not, why not? If so, what does that look like, and what has that looked like, in your life?
 - What does it look like to trust in the authority of Scripture as a whole, living by it and applying it to our lives?



③ Read Philippians 2:5-11. On Sunday, Pastor Joe said that when Jesus became human, though He was fully and truly God, and fully and truly man, “He laid down his right to acting independently in His godly power, in His divinity.” In the Incarnation, Jesus had all of the powers of God, but he laid down the right to use them, and instead, in order to set an example for us, relied on the power of the Holy Spirit in Him. This is important for us “because the Christian life is not about how much you know, about what position you hold, but about you ... yielding to the power of the Holy Spirit in your life.” Knowledge is important, “but the Holy Spirit’s job is to point out the things in you and I that are wrong; to convict us of sin.”

- Why is it significant for us to know and understand that Jesus relied on the power of the Holy Spirit in the Incarnation? (When we use the word “Incarnation” we are talking about Jesus coming to earth and living life as fully and truly God and fully and truly man. Interestingly, the Incarnation has a beginning (when Jesus became man and was born as a baby) but not an end, because even today Jesus has a physical, resurrected body (and Jesus is still now, as He has always been and always will be, fully God.))
- Why is knowledge alone not enough when it comes to our Christian faith? What does the Holy Spirit do that knowledge alone can never do, in our hearts and lives?
- In what ways, or to what degree, are you satisfied with Bible knowledge and yet resistant to the power of the Holy Spirit to transform you? How have you seen the Holy Spirit’s transformative work in your life, practically speaking?
- How do, or should, these important ideas shape the way that we can share the gospel, the good news about Jesus, with other people?

④ Joe shared on Sunday that there are only two instances in the book of Acts of demons revealing themselves. We see the most instances of demons revealing themselves during the ministry of Jesus. Paul, in his epistles, never says we need to be watching out for demons. After the ministry of Jesus on earth, for the most part it seems demons “slink back into the background - and cause confusion, deception, false teaching, disunity, and doubt.”

- What was something Joe shared about spiritual warfare on Sunday that challenged or encouraged you?
- Why is it important for us to remember that spiritual warfare today can often look like “confusion, deception, false teaching, disunity, and doubt?”



⑤ Joe stated that “the power of the demons is insufficient in the face of the power of Jesus. The Spirit of God in Jesus has complete authority. And the same Spirit that empowered Jesus to resist Satan is the Spirit that lives inside of you.”

- Why is it important for us to have a robust understanding of the doctrine of the Trinity when we think and talk about the power of the Holy Spirit in Jesus and in us? (for more information about the Trinity, you can visit <https://www.gotquestions.org/Trinity-Bible.html>)

⑥ As we consider the idea of submission to the authority of Jesus:

- Where are you tempted to seek your own comfort over submitting to Jesus?
- Do you think you have a tendency to overvalue knowledge compared to submission to the Holy Spirit? Do you think CVC has this tendency? Why or why not? What can you do to grow in this? What can CVC do to grow in this and how can you be a part of that growth?

PRAY AND APPLY

1. Pray for Spirit-empowered preaching and teaching.

Ask God that Pastor Joe & Pastor Josh—that they would not rely on knowledge or position alone, but that the Spirit’s power would rest on them so that people hear with conviction and transformation, not just information.

2. Pray for hearts to move from amazement to submission.

Ask the Lord to guard our church from being impressed with Jesus but unchanged. Pray that the Spirit would bring repentance, trust, and obedience in the lives of those who hear

3. Pray for protection from the enemy’s schemes

Lift up the congregation, asking God to expose the subtle lies and distractions of Satan that would keep people satisfied with surface-level faith. Pray that the Spirit would give discernment, courage, and victory in the spiritual battle.

4. Pray for LifeGroups to be places of true transformation.

Ask God to move groups beyond comfort and knowledge alone, into confession, prayer, accountability, and Spirit-led growth. Pray that LifeGroups would become battlegrounds where believers put on the armor of God together.

5. Pray for confidence in Christ’s authority.

Intercede that the people of CVC would rest in the truth that Jesus has full authority over every dark power. Pray that this confidence would produce freedom, peace, and boldness to live under His reign today.

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/>



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WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of 9.28.25

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 this Thursday, September 30.

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.

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!