Cuyahoga Valley Church

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 11.9.25

Mark 2:23-3:6// Joe Valenti

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

CONNECT (10 MIN)

1. For those of you who attended the Night of Prayer last Wednesday, what is one thing that encouraged you or stood out to you about that time?

EXPLORE (30 MIN)

Create Context (5 min):

HERE is the Sermon Recap video playlist on Vimeo, which includes the recap video from this week.

Study & Discussion (25 min)

Read Mark 2:23-3:6.

2. What is one thing that encouraged you, stood out to you, or challenged you from the service on Sunday (this could include anything from the announcements, the sermon, musical worship, or our baptism celebrations)(If you'd like more information about the Blessing Boxes mentioned on Sunday, you can learn more and jump in to help at this link)?

3. What is something about Jesus' character and His heart for the hungry and the broken that stands out to you in our passage from Sunday?

4. Revisit Mark 2:23-28. What good gift do you think our evangelical Christian subculture in the U.S. today is quick to turn into into a grind or a god (Joe mentioned rest, prayer, Scripture, community, marriage, and serving in his sermon - you might relate to these or think of others)?

What good gifts from God are you personally quick to turn into into a grind or a god, and why?

Consider and discuss with your LifeGroup, "What one specific act of trust will I practice this week to receive this gift as grace rather than manage it as law?"

Cuyahoga Valley Church

5. Reread Mark 3:3. Pastor Joe stated on Sunday, "There is a danger in evangelicalism that we allow rules to replace relationship." He talked about how this can manifest itself in the way that we think about people who are hurting and broken, and he gave us a litmus test to consider where our hearts are right now. When you engage someone whose brokenness is clear, what's your gut reaction? Is it, "Go away!"? Or is it, like Jesus' response, "Come here."?

   - How do you think that CVC as a whole engages those whose brokenness is clear? Where do we as a church do this well, and where do we have room to grow?

   - What other ministries and churches in Cleveland do you think do this well, and why? How have you seen this firsthand? (For information on the ministry partners that CVC works with in our city, our state, and around the world (and how you can get involved), you can visit https://cvconline.org/send-old/local-missions/ or https://cvcmissions.gomethod.app/!/.

   - Who is someone that you know personally, or that you've read or heard about, who has exhibited Jesus' posture of "Come here" very intentionally in their life?

6. Revisit Mark 3:1-6. Who in your life has a "withered hand" that you've been wanting them to hide—someone you silently expect to "come back (to the church, or to Jesus) when…"? Name the person (or the type of person) and the fence you have built—and consider and discuss two questions:

   - What one tangible move of mercy can you take toward them this week that will reflect Jesus' authority and compassion?

   - In what ways can you pray that the Lord will soften your heart for this person or group/type of people? Spend some time in your LifeGroup discussing, and then praying, about this (don't forget, the prayer targets on the next page are also a great resource as your LifeGroup prays together).

Cuyahoga Valley Church

PRAY AND APPLY

- Pray for soft hearts under Jesus' authority.

Ask God to humble us before the Lord of the Sabbath—to help us see where we've taken His good gifts and tried to control them. Pray that our congregation would submit joyfully to the authority of Jesus, trusting that His commands are for our flourishing, not our burden.

- Pray for freedom from striving and performance.

Ask the Spirit to free our people from the exhausting cycle of trying to prove their worth to God or others. Pray that today would be a reminder that rest is a gift from the Creator—and that true rest is found only in Christ.

- Pray for a church marked by compassion over control.

Pray that CVC would be a place where people experience the mercy and welcome of Jesus, not the weight of religion. Ask God to make us quick to move toward the broken, not away from them—to see needs and respond with the heart of Christ.

- Pray for courage to extend grace to those who seem "too far gone."

Pray that we would recognize the authority and power of Jesus to heal even the most withered hearts. Ask God to give us faith that no sin, no story, and no situation is beyond His redemption.

- Pray that the glory of Jesus would capture every heart.

As the Word is preached, pray that people would see Jesus as He truly is—the Son of Man, Lord of the Sabbath, the compassionate King who restores what sin and religion have ruined. Pray that every heart would respond with worship, surrender, and rest in Him.

RESOURCES

1. The Gospel Coalition Course - Knowing the Bible: Mark
https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/knowing-bible-mark/

Cuyahoga Valley Church

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of 11.9.25

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

INVITE

Widows/Widowers Luncheon with CVC Staff: November 18

Our CVC staff will be hosting a luncheon for anyone in our church family who has lost a spouse – whether recently or many years ago. This will be a time to enjoy a meal together, find encouragement, and connect with others who understand that kind of loss. If you are a widow or widower, we would love for you to join us. You can sign up HERE. And even if you're not able to attend the luncheon, we'd still love to know who you are, so that we can stay in touch, care for you, and walk with you in meaningful ways.

YOUNG ADULTS

Young Adult Thanksgiving Potluck: November 14

We are looking forward to our Thanksgiving Potluck again on November 14th from 6-9PM in the Lower Level Lower of CVC in Room 100. Please bring a dish to share. Sign up here.

WORSHIP CHOIR

Linked Generations Worship Choir: November 30

We're bringing all ages together for our Linked Generations Worship Choir on Sunday, November 30! Kids (Kindergarten and up), students, and adults are invited to join us for this special day of worship and celebration. Come add your voice as we lift up praise together! CVC Kids (Grades K-5) SIGN UP HERE! Students and Adults SIGN UP HERE!

CHILD DEDICATIONS

BVH Child Dedications: November 23

Child Dedication is a time where parents declare their commitment to raise their children in the ways of the Lord. It's a beautiful moment for families to publicly affirm their dedication, and for the church to pledge its support in this important journey of faith and upbringing. Together, let's embrace this sacred calling. Next opportunity: Sunday, November 23 at all services. Apply here!