



Cuyahoga
Valley Church

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 11.16.25

Mark 3:7-21// Joe Valenti

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

CONNECT (10 MIN)

- 1 Do you or your family have any Thanksgiving traditions that you particularly enjoy? If so, why?

What might it look like for you to extend hospitality in some way this Thanksgiving to someone who lives far from friends and family (ideas could include inviting someone into your family's Thanksgiving meal, visiting an assisted living facility, hosting a breakfast for friends, anything else you can think of)?

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 3:7-21.

- 1 What is one thing that stood out to you about CVC's "Govember" emphasis on Sunday? What is one way that you could get involved in local or global missions in the coming year?
- 2 On Sunday, Pastor Joe said that, "If our purpose does not direct us, our pressures and preferences will." He also stated that in the U.S. today, oftentimes the things that others want from and for us, and the things we want for ourselves, can crowd out God's plan and purpose.
 - Would you agree with Joe's statement that in the United States, the things we want and the things others want from/for us can crowd out God's plans and purposes? Why or why not?
 - Can you think of a time in your life, or a certain situation in your past, when you allowed pressures or preferences to be the primary "directors" in your life? Do you look back at that time with regret now? Why or why not?



- ③ On Sunday, Joe stated that the crowds around Jesus wanted something FROM Him - they were moved and directed most by the pressure of their urgent needs. On the other hand, the disciples were being trained to live FOR Jesus - they were called by purpose to know and become like Him.
- When you think about CVC, do you think that the average member or regular attender here is shaped most by pressure (wanting something from Jesus) or by purpose (desire to know and become more like Him, and live for Him)?
 - When you think about your own life, would you say you are most motivated by what you want from Jesus, or how you might know and live for Him? How would you answer this question thinking about your family? About your closest friends?
- ④ Revisit Mark 3:13-19. On Sunday, Joe mentioned that Jesus called the disciples not based on their skills or ability, but based on Jesus' plan and His purposes. Joe said, "Jesus is not collecting talent - He's creating something that did not previously exist."
- How is this reality from Scripture good news for someone doubting if God can use them to accomplish His plan and purposes?
 - How can this give you boldness as you consider sharing the gospel with your family and friends who don't know Jesus as the leader and forgiver of their lives?
- ⑤ Joe shared the statistics that 52% of practicing Christians say they believe it is their responsibility to share their faith with others, and over 70% of Christians have not shared their faith with someone in the last 6 months.
- What stands out to you about these numbers, and why?
 - Why do you think so many Christians either a) think it's not their responsibility to share their faith, and b) haven't shared the gospel with anyone in the last six months?
 - When was the last time you explicitly shared the gospel with someone, and how did that go? When is the next time you plan to try and share the gospel with someone?
- ⑥ In what ways have pressure and preferences tempted or caused you to lose sight of your purpose in the Kingdom of God, in this or other seasons of life?

PRAY AND APPLY

- Pray that people in our church would move from “crowd-like closeness” to true discipleship.
- Pray that CVC becomes a people who are truly “with Jesus” – abiding, listening, obeying.
- Pray that our people would embrace Jesus’ purpose – being sent to preach the good news.
- Pray for clarity in calling – that every believer would recognize who God is sending them to this week. Pray for those who may be being called to full time ministry as well
- Pray that pressure and preference would not derail the mission of our church.

RESOURCES

1. The Gospel Coalition Course - Knowing the Bible: Mark
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/knowning-bible-mark/>
2. [How to Share Jesus: A Guide to Gospel Conversations](#) with Tony Scialabba (CVC’s Equipped Podcast, Fall 2025) at cvconline.org/sundaysessions
 - tune in to CVC’s Equipped podcast in the coming weeks to listen to Rick Duncan’s recent miniseries, “Equipped Grandparenting: How to Intentionally Disciple Your Grandchildren.”



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WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of 11.16.25

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

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!](#)

YOUTH

CVC Youth Bowling Night: December 7

Strikes, spares, and endless laughs—CVC Youth is going bowling! Invite your friends and join us for an epic night of competition and fun. Whether you're a pro or you just want the nachos, this night is for you. Cost \$5. 6:00pm. North Wood Lane Bowling Center.

YOUNG ADULTS

Young Adults Christmas Party: December 14

Join us for our Christmas Party at Primer Coffee! Food and beverages will be provided. Please fill out the form below if you plan on attending. Come ready for good company, holiday cheer and lots of fun! Primer Coffee. 9000 Canvas Pkwy Brecksville 6pm-9:00pm. Sign up [HERE](#).