



Cuyahoga
Valley Church

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 11.30.25

Mark 3:31-35// Dean Siley

Please take the opportunity to revisit the CVC Equip

Portrait of a Healthy LifeGroup on a regular basis

CONNECT (10 MIN)

- ① What was one thing that happened during the service on Sunday that particularly encouraged or challenged you (could be from musical worship, something shared from the front, or from the sermon itself)?

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 3:31-35.

- ① Revisit Mark 3:33-35. On Sunday, Pastor Dean said that in reading this passage, “some people might wonder if Jesus is being disrespectful to His family, because the Bible also says, “Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long upon the land” (Exodus 20:12). However, Jesus was not rejecting His mother but teaching that doing God’s will comes first.”
 - Have you ever been in a situation where it felt like you could not both honor God and fulfill the expectations of your family?
 - If so, how did you navigate this? If not, how do you think you might navigate this if it happens?
 - Either way, how does this example of Jesus encourage us as we consider honoring and loving God, and loving our families, too?
- ② Read Luke 6:45. Dean taught us that Jesus teaches that true righteousness is a matter of the heart, not simply external conformity to rules. On Sunday, he said, “This kind of righteousness grows from the heart. It is a righteousness where you do right because you crave God’s will, not just because you are trying to follow rules. God’s kingdom is not for those who obey out of obligation or fear, but for those whose hearts are transformed, producing a life of authentic love, devotion, and righteousness.”
 - Why do you think that Christians can be so quick to think that following Jesus means checking off boxes and following all the right rules?
 - Can you think of someone that you know whose heart is obviously transformed by love for Jesus, who clearly produces good fruit that comes from their hearts? What stands out to you about this person?



- ③ In the sermon, Pastor Dean stated that in Jesus' day, disciples followed their rabbi so closely that the dust of his sandals covered them. He told us that when we follow Jesus and invite Him to be our forgiver and leader, we must follow Him this closely and know Him this well. He said that "when we follow closely after Jesus, it will get messy. In Luke 6, Jesus does far more than give us commands to obey—He invites us into a deep transformation of the heart... Jesus must root out the dark, hardened parts of our hearts. Obedience is not just external compliance—it is a process of wrestling with what's inside us."

Dean gave some examples of questions that help us wrestle with what's inside us:

1. Why am I angry?
 2. Why am I not generous?
 3. Why do I judge and condemn others?
 4. Why do I withhold my time or compassion?
- Why do you think questions like these can be so challenging to slow down and ask ourselves, or ask others to speak into?
 - Do any of Dean's questions particularly challenge you? Is there another question that you've been afraid of asking yourself, that you think the Holy Spirit wants to speak into?

- ④ In the sermon, Dean shared 3 practical ways that a person can practicing submitting to God's will:

1. Seek God's will through His Word.
2. Surrender your plans to God.
3. Engage in the family of God.

Which one of these stands out to you, and why? Which of these steps do you think you have most room to grow in, and why?

- ⑤ At the end of his sermon, Dean prayed:

"Heavenly Father, thank You for the invitation to be part of Your family. We confess that at times, we seek You for the wrong reasons and fail to submit to Your will. We ask for Your forgiveness and pray that You would strengthen our faith, helping us to walk in obedience to You. Teach us to be faithful members of Your family, loving one another as You have loved us. Help us to walk in the dust of our Rabbi, following Jesus closely and experiencing the joy You have promised. In Jesus' name, Amen."

- What encourages you in this prayer, and why?
- How might this prayer guide the way that you pray over these same things in the coming days, weeks or months?

PRAY AND APPLY

- Pray for Hearts to be Transformed, not behavior modification.
- Pray for Healing for the Hurt, the Broken, and the Struggling
- Pray for a Shift from Seeking Miracles to Seeking Jesus
- Pray for True Discipleship—To Walk in the Dust of the Rabbi
- Pray as transformation occurs we can experience true freedom and Joy.

RESOURCES

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



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WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of 11.30.25

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

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.

CVC Youth Winter Retreat: February 20

One weekend. Two days away from the routine. A lifetime of impact. Winter Retreat is your chance to grow in your faith, deepen friendships, and make unforgettable memories. Bring your warmest gear, your best attitude, and maybe a sled or two. The retreat will be at Skyview Ranch in Millersburg OH. Event details will be released closer to the event weekend.

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](#).

COMMUNITY LIFE

Group Connect: January 4 & 11

You're invited to Group Connect at the CVC Broadview Heights Campus on Sunday, January 4 and 11. Members of the Community Life Team, LifeGroup and Workshop Leaders will be in the foyer after each service to help you learn more about how you can get plugged into a group that will help you grow spiritually and build meaningful community with others.