



Cuyahoga
Valley Church

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 12.07.25

Mark 4:1-20// Joe Valenti

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

CONNECT (10 MIN)

- ① What is a Christmas memory you have that reminds you of the Lord's faithfulness in your family and in your life? If you can't think of one, what is one way you can help your friends and family this year develop a Christmas memory that will continually remind them of the Lord's faithfulness in years to come?

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 4:1-20.

- ① On Sunday, Pastor Joe stated that, "Receiving information from Jesus without being transformed by Jesus is disobedience in disguise." Why do you think it can be so tempting (for others, and for ourselves) to hear information from Jesus without obeying and submitting to His will and His work in our lives?
- ② Revisit Mark 4:1-2, 9. On Sunday, Joe talked about how the crowds were only concerned about their own immediate needs - while Jesus was wanting them to listen to what He had to say about eternal truths.
 - Can you think of a time in your life when you were more concerned with an immediate need than with what the Lord was inviting you to lean into, to learn, and to grow in?
 - As you look back on that season now, are you able to see the ways in which the Lord continues to use that season in your life, even now, to draw you close to Him? Why or why not?



③ On Sunday, Joe shared four reflection questions at the end of his sermon. If you're able, take some time to reflect on these questions prior to your LifeGroup. Then, in your LifeGroup meeting, take time to discuss these together.

- When you're exposed to God's Word, what is going on in your heart that regularly causes you to ignore it or dismiss it?
- Has there been a recent time when God convicted you about something, but the pressures of following through has caused you to not follow through? What steps do you need to take to follow through?
- What competes most aggressively with Jesus for your affection, attention, and energy? Might you need to fast from that thing to see what level of control it has over your life?
- What step of obedience have you been delaying, even though you know God is calling you to it?

④ As Christmas, and CVC's Christmas Eve services, approach, now is a wonderful time to be thinking and praying about who you might be able to invite to attend a Christmas Eve service with you and your family. In the space below, make a list of 3 people that you could prayerfully extend this invitation to - these could be family members, someone you know from work or through school, or someone from your neighborhood.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

In your LifeGroups this week, take some time to pray over these names - pray for these people, and pray for boldness in inviting them to come worship with you at CVC. Pray that the Lord will soften their hearts to the gospel and to your invitation, and ask God for eyes to see when and how to invite them into community.

PRAY AND APPLY

Pray for softened, receptive hearts.

Ask God to remove hardness, distraction, and resistance so that people truly hear and receive the Word today.

Pray against the enemy's efforts to steal the Word.

Intercede for clarity and spiritual protection – that nothing would snatch away truth before it can take root.

Pray for deep roots that withstand pressure and trial.

Lift up those who are weary or wavering, asking God to strengthen their endurance and establish them firmly in His truth.

Pray for freedom from competing desires and choking distractions.

Ask the Spirit to expose and loosen the grip of worry, busyness, wealth, and “other things” that keep people spiritually stagnant.

Pray for abundant fruit in individuals, families, and our church.

Ask God to multiply obedience, transformation, repentance, bold witness, and disciple-making as the Word takes root.

RESOURCES

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



Cuyahoga
Valley Church

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of 12.07.25

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

INVITE

Explore CVC: December 14 (Membership Class - Part 1 - Virtual)

Explore CVC is our regularly-offered class that helps you explore the foundations of who we are as a church, including our history, what we believe, and our mission. It is also your next step toward membership.

To become a member of our church, attendance at two classes is required. The first class is called Explore CVC, and the second is Join CVC. Completion of both is necessary for membership.

[Register here!](#)

Night of Worship and Prayer: January 14

Join us on January 14 from 7:00–8:30 PM at the Cuyahoga Valley Church, Broadview Heights Campus for a meaningful evening of seeking God together through heartfelt worship, united prayer, and authentic community. All are welcome—invite your friends, neighbors, and anyone who might be encouraged by a time of worship and prayer. Childcare will be provided. We look forward to gathering with you!

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](#).