



Cuyahoga
Valley Church

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 12.14.25

Mark 4:21-34// Rick Duncan

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

CONNECT (10 MIN)

- 1 In the announcements, James Fruits encouraged members and regular attenders at CVC to 1) invite someone to one of the Christmas Eve services and 2) consider attending one service and serving at another one. How can you in your LifeGroup encourage and equip one another in one or both of these challenges? Why is it important for CVC members and attenders to serve as able at these services, and invite others to a Christmas Eve service?

EXPLORE (30 MIN)

Create Context (5 min):

There is no Sermon Recap Video this week. HERE is the Sermon Recap video playlist on Vimeo, if you'd like to reference other weeks.

Study & Discussion (25 min)

Read Mark 4:21-34.

- 1 On Sunday, Pastor Rick said several times, "When Jesus is King, ordinary people produce extraordinary fruit."
 - As you reflect on your life since you invited Jesus to be your forgiver and leader, what fruit have you seen in your life because Jesus is King of your life?
 - What work do you think God has accomplished in your heart and life specifically in the past year (in 2025)?
- 2 Revisit Mark 4:24-25 and read Proverbs 11:24-25. What does it look like for you to be intentionally generous during the Christmas season this year, so that you can bless others and so that you can reflect the generosity that God has bestowed on you in the gift of the gospel?



- ③ Pastor Rick said on Sunday, “God grows what we can’t grow. Our job is faithfulness, His job is fruitfulness... just because you can’t see progress happening in your life isn’t proof that it’s not happening. God does His deepest work in hidden places: on quiet days, through ordinary faithfulness. The kingdom doesn’t grow in a hurry.”
- How is all of this good news as you reflect on the prayers you have been praying repeatedly this year?
 - How is this good news as you reflect on the work that you see God is still doing and working on in your heart? To put this another way - how do Rick’s words encourage you as you reflect on the areas that you see need for growth in your heart and in your walk with the Lord?
 - Are you ever tempted to believe that YOU are the one who is supposed to produce spiritual fruit, instead of God? Are you ever tempted, when you don’t see progress in your life, to believe that it’s not happening? Why or why not?
 - What does ordinary faithfulness look like in your life in this season?
- ④ Rick said on Sunday that “Jesus can do for us that we can’t do for ourselves.” What do you think that Jesus is calling you to trust Him with right now, in this season - for yourself, or for someone else you have been praying for?



PRAY AND APPLY

- **Pray for the Lamp to Shine Clearly**

Praise Jesus as the Light of the world. Ask Him to shine through every song, Scripture reading, and sermon moment. Pray that anything hidden—fear, confusion, unbelief—would come into His healing light so people walk in clarity and courage.

- **Pray for Anointing on the Teaching and Worship Leaders**

Thank God for giving gifts to His church. Ask the Spirit to empower every leader with humility, joy, and unction. Pray that the Word would be preached with clarity and that worship would lead the congregation into awe before Christ.

- **Pray for Good Soil in Every Heart**

Acknowledge that only God opens the heart. Ask Him to break up hardness, uproot thorns, and clear distractions. Pray that listeners would receive the Word with faith, repentance, and expectancy, bearing fruit that remains.

- **Pray for the Seed of the Word to Grow**

Thank God that the Word is living and active. Ask Him to plant it deeply in minds, marriages, families, and workplaces. Pray that unseen, supernatural growth happens long after the service ends.

- **Pray for the Work of the Lord to Spread**

Celebrate the kingdom that starts small and grows into shelter. Ask God to multiply gospel influence through conversations, acts of love, and everyday obedience. Pray that our church becomes a tree of refuge for the weary and wandering.

- **Pray for the Measure of Christ to Multiply in Us**

Thank Jesus for giving Himself fully. Ask the Spirit to help the church imitate His generosity—His patience, His sacrifice, His love. Pray that with the measure we use, more will be added, so our community overflows with grace.

- **Pray for Understanding and Application of the Message**

Ask God to grant spiritual sight and conviction. Pray that people not only understand truth but also obey it—turning from sin, trusting Christ, and embodying His way in their daily lives.

- **Pray for the Lost to See Jesus Clearly**

Thank God for bringing unbelievers into our gathering. Ask Him to open blind eyes, soften resistant spirits, and awaken new faith. Pray that Jesus would be so compelling as the Light, the Seed, the One who exemplifies the Measure, and the Branch/Tree that people can't leave unchanged.

- **Pray for Unity, Love, and Joy in the Body**

Praise God for forming us into a family. Ask Him to remove division, cynicism, and coldness. Pray that the congregation reflects the warmth of Christ—bearing burdens, celebrating wins, and growing together.

- **Pray for Lasting Fruit Beyond the Service**

Thank God that He finishes what He starts. Ask Him to carry the Word into Monday morning—into homes, schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods. Pray that the light keeps shining, the seed keeps growing, the shelter keeps spreading, and the measure keeps multiplying.



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WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of 12.14.25

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

YOUTH

CVC Youth Ice Skating - January 4

Lace up your skates and hit the ice with CVC Youth! We'll have music, hot cocoa, and plenty of time to show off your spins (or your best "trying not to fall" moves). Start the year off with a night of winter fun and great friends. Price: \$5 per person. 2:45 PM Brooklyn Rec Center

COMMUNITY LIFE

Group Connect - January 4 & 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. Don't miss this opportunity to connect, grow, and take your next step in building relationships within our church.

INVITE

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!