



Cuyahoga  
Valley Church

CVCONLINE.ORG

# SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 1.11.26  
Luke 22:24-34 // Joe Valenti

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

## CONNECT (10 MIN)

① On Sunday, Pastor Joe shared a story about learning to ski. Can you think of a time when you tried to learn something new that was difficult or challenging for you?

## EXPLORE (30 MIN)

### Create Context (5 min):

[HERE](#) is the Sermon Recap video playlist on Vimeo!

### Study & Discussion (25 min)

**Read Luke 22:24-34.**

① On Sunday, Pastor Joe stated several times that, “Every time you mess up, you don’t have to give up.” He talked about how this statement can apply to activities in everyday life (such as learning to ski, or learning to ride a bicycle without training wheels, etc.) and it can also apply to our Christian walk as well. We will at times, like Peter, stumble while seeking to follow Christ.

- Why do you think it can be tempting to believe that if we mess up, we need to give up?
- Can you think of a time you tried to learn a new skill and wanted to give up? Did you persevere, or did you quit? What, if anything, influenced the decision you chose to make (to persevere or to quit)?
- Look back on your life and consider - what has helped you grow in understanding that “every time you mess up, you don’t have to give up” - especially as it applies to the Christian life (this could be a person who has helped you learn this, a sermon or book that impacted you, etc.)?



**②** Peter's story is one of reliance on Jesus, drift, repentance, and restoration. Joe stated on Sunday, "Drift is what happens when growth collides with pressure and we default to self-reliance instead of continued dependence on God." Peter wanted Jesus to know that he (Peter) could do it! Peter felt he was strong enough to rely on Jesus unwaveringly - in his own power. But Jesus, who knew that Peter would falter, loved him - and Jesus already saw that Peter would return to reliance on Christ in repentance, and be restored. As Joe put it - Jesus Sees the Battle and Prays Before the Fall. This was true in regard to Peter, and it's true for us, too.

- Are you ever tempted to rely on yourself (seek self-reliance) instead of continually depending on God? Why do you think it can be so easy to slip back into self-dependence and self-reliance?
- Just like with Peter, Jesus sees our story, knows where we have failed already and where we will stumble in the future, and still loves us and desires that we repent, are restored, and involved in kingdom work He's prepared for us to do. Why is this hopeful and encouraging for Christians to know and consider?
- Think about Christians you know that you are able to equip and encourage. Can you think of a believer in your life who needs to be reminded that Jesus sees them, prays for them, and invites them to continue to depend upon Him - even after failure? If yes, how can you intentionally encourage them in this reality this week?

**③** Pastor Joe said that in the Christian life, "failure is part of growth - but it is not the end."

- What does it look like to believe this well as Christians?
- How can we be careful to remember that we are called to a pattern of repentance and restoration, a pattern of continued dependence on Jesus for all of our days, without slipping into discouragement on the one hand or minimizing our sin on the other hand?

**④** Think about Sunday's sermon and our passage from Scripture. Is there anything else that challenged or encouraged you that we haven't yet talked about in our time together today? If so, share it with the group now!



## PRAY AND APPLY

- Pray for spiritual alertness under pressure
- Ask the Lord to open eyes to the real battle behind the visible conflict so that when stress, fear, temptation, or relational tension rises, our church would not drift into self-reliance, blame, control, or comparison, but would recognize the enemy's schemes and run to Jesus.
- Pray for those currently drifting to be protected from destruction.
- Intercede for men and women who are trying to grow but feel discouraged by recent failure—especially those most vulnerable to relapse, isolation, or despair. Ask God to guard them from the enemy “picking them apart piece by piece,” and to keep their faith from collapsing into quitting.
- Pray for repentance that is honest, quick, and hopeful.
- Pray that when people fall, they would not justify sin or minimize it, but also wouldn't drown in shame. Ask the Spirit to produce clear conviction, real turning, and humble returning to Christ.
- Pray for our church to experience Jesus' patience like a “good instructor.”
- Ask God to make CVC a place where strugglers are helped back up, not shamed. Ask that our church would be a place where accountability is strong and grace is deep. Pray that CVC elders and staff, LifeGroup leaders, volunteers, friends, and families would mirror Jesus' steady, forming love: truth without harshness, compassion without compromise.
- Pray that restored people would strengthen others.
- Pray that God would redeem failures into ministry and turn past drift into future usefulness. Ask the Lord to raise up Peters who, having turned again, strengthen their brothers and sisters: sharing hope, offering wise counsel, modeling perseverance, and building a church culture where “every time you mess up, you don't need to give up.”



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

## COMMUNITY LIFE

### **Women's Breakfast - February 7**

We are excited to invite you to our next Women's Breakfast at the Cuyahoga Valley Church - Broadview Heights Campus on Saturday, February 7 from 9-11:00 am. Join us for food fellowship, and teaching from former CVC Ministry Director Lauren Meyer. We would love for you to bring along your friends, family, and neighbors to join us for this uplifting morning. Please register [HERE](#) and let us know if you can join us. The cost is \$5 per person.

## INVITE

### **Child Dedications - February 1**

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, February 1 at all services. [Apply here!](#)

## YOUTH

### **Winter Retreat - February 20 - 22**

Skyview Ranch. 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. Find out more about the event [HERE](#). Sign up for the retreat [HERE](#).