



Cuyahoga
Valley Church

CVCONLINE.ORG

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 1.18.26
John 21:1-19 // Rick Duncan

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

CONNECT (10 MIN)

① Can you think of a time that you were ashamed or embarrassed about something, and someone spoke to you or treated you in a way that helped free you from that shame or embarrassment?

EXPLORE (30 MIN)

Create Context (5 min):

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

Study & Discussion (25 min)

Read John 21:1-19.

① On Sunday, Pastor Rick said that “Every time you mess up, you don’t have to give up. Because Jesus doesn’t give up on you.”

- How do you feel knowing that Jesus does not, and will not, ever give up on you?
- Can you think of a time in your life when you felt like Jesus might, or maybe should, give up on you? If you can think of a time like this, share a little bit about this time with your LifeGroup. What, if anything, reminded you in that season of the reality that Jesus doesn’t give up on you, ever?
- Can you think of a time that you’ve been able to remind someone you know of the truth that Jesus doesn’t give up on them? Share about this experience with your group.

② In John 21, Jesus used the circumstances of the moment to remind Peter of when Peter first decided to follow Jesus. In both instances, Jesus told Peter and his fellow fishermen to let down their nets again after a night of not catching any fish - and in both instances, when they listened to Jesus their nets were overflowing.

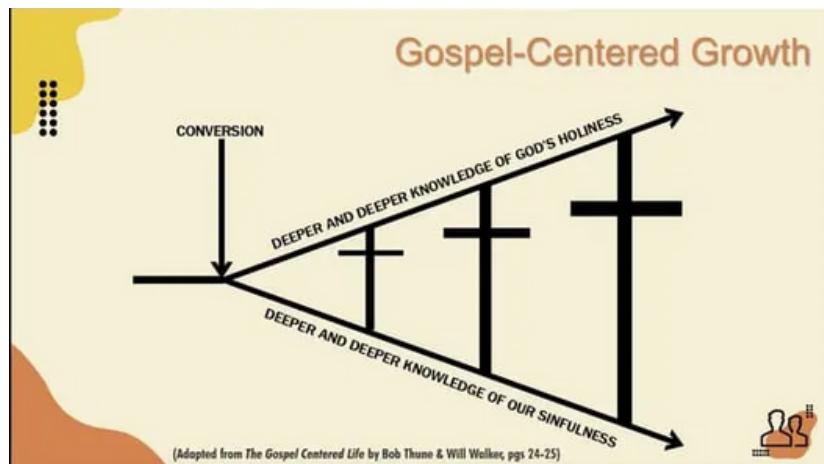
- As Pastor Rick asked on Sunday - what has the Lord used in your life - a memory, a song, a place, a person, etc. - to remind you of when He first began His work in your life?



③ Pastor Rick said in his sermon that sometimes when we fail, we want to rationalize or minimize our sin. This self effort will keep us stuck in sin. But there's a better way - the Jesus way. Jesus is full of grace and truth, and He invites us to trust in Him.

In their book The Gospel Centered Life, Bob Thune and Will Walker use the image below to show how after conversion (that is, after we invite Jesus to be our forgiver and leader) as we grow in knowledge of our sinfulness, we should also be growing in knowledge and understanding of God's holiness and forgiveness. As Rick put it on Sunday - we are flawed, and accepted - and forgiven!

- As you look at the graphic below, what stands out to you? What encourages you or challenges you?
- Is there anything confusing to you about this image? Why or why not?



④ As Pastor Rick put it on Sunday, "God uses suffering to sanctify and equip us, and prove to us and to the world that He is more valuable than a life of peace and affluence."

- Where in your life are you tempted to believe that peace, affluence, or something else is more valuable than knowing and walking with God?
- How has God used suffering to sanctify and equip you? How has God used suffering in your life to prove to you (and perhaps to others around you) that knowing, loving, and walking with Him is more valuable than anything else?



PRAY AND APPLY

- Pray that the Holy Spirit would empower and anoint every part of the gathering—worship leaders, musicians, Sunday School teachers, and the preaching of the Word—so that Jesus is clearly seen and gladly heard. “Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.” (Zechariah 4:6, ESV)
- Pray that those who gather would come with soft, open hearts and attentive ears, ready to receive what the Lord wants to say rather than defending themselves or hiding behind shame. “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” (Mark 4:9, ESV)
- Pray that the Word of God would run swiftly and be received not as human words, but as the very Word of God that is at work in those who believe. “When you received the word of God... you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God.” (1 Thessalonians 2:13, ESV)
- Pray that those who do not yet know Christ would hear the invitation of Jesus clearly and respond in repentance and faith, trusting Him as Savior and Lord. “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.” (Hebrews 3:15, ESV)
- Pray that believers who have been discouraged or disqualified by past failure would be reminded that Jesus still invites them to Himself. “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28, ESV)
- Pray that Jesus would feed weary souls with His grace and truth, replacing self-condemnation with the assurance of His sustaining love. “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger.” (John 6:35, ESV)
- Pray that the Spirit would help people name the shame that has them stuck—bringing it into the light where forgiveness and healing are found. “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9, ESV)
- Pray that those carrying deep regret would hear Jesus’ words of forgiveness and know that their sin does not have the final word. “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 8:1, ESV)
- Pray that believers would hear Jesus commissioning them afresh—that restored people are still sent people, called to love and serve in His name. “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.” (2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV)
- Pray that during the week ahead, many would take time to walk and talk with Jesus, listening for His voice and responding with renewed love and obedience. “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.” (John 10:27, ESV)



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](#).