



Cuyahoga  
Valley Church

# SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 2.15.26  
Mark 6:1-6// 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 some times or seasons when the Lord has done something surprising or unexpected in your life?
  - Specifically, take a moment to think about unexpected things the Lord has done in your life that have seemed very good to you. Share some of these examples as a group.
  - Now, take a moment to think about unexpected things in your life that the Lord has done that have not seemed good to you, either at the time, or even now. Share some of these examples as a group.

## EXPLORE (30 MIN)

### Create Context (5 min):

HERE is the Sermon Recap video playlist on Vimeo.

### **Study & Discussion (25 min)**

#### **Read Mark 6:1-6.**

- 1 As Pastor Rick mentioned on Sunday, our passage in Mark 6 is also shared in a different version in Luke 4:16-30. In the Luke passage, Jesus reads from Isaiah 61:1-2 and tells his listeners, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing (Luke 4:21).”
  - After reading Mark 1:1-6, read also Luke 4:16-22. What is similar in these two stories, and what is different?
  - The book of Mark in particular is known for being short, punchy, and to the point. Mark often uses the word “immediately” to describe actions that take place in sequence. In what ways does the version of this story in Mark fit that bill - in what ways is it short or to the point compared to the passage in Luke (you can compare Mark 6:1-6 first to Luke 4:16-22, and if you like, to the entire sequence of Luke 4:16-30 as well).
  - Read Isaiah 61. How does this passage as a whole point to who Jesus is and what He was sent to do and accomplish? What stands out to you about Jesus as you read this Old Testament passage?



- ② Rick said in his sermon that for the people in Nazareth, Jesus showed up and challenged them to believe something about Him that they had never believed before. He challenged them to believe that He was the Messiah, their Savior. Jesus does this in our lives today, too. He shows up and challenges us to believe something new about Him - He asks us to invite Him to be both our forgiver, and our leader. He wants us to trust Him, and He asks us to trust Him no matter what He allows to come our way. He asks us to keep on trusting Him to lead us in the midst of any and every circumstance - those we would have chosen, and those we would never have chosen for ourselves.
- When Jesus shows up and challenges you to believe something about Him that you have never believed before, how do you respond? How would you like to respond? Are these the same, or different?
  - When Jesus shows up and asks you to surrender, to take a knee before Him, what do you do? Specifically, can you think of a time in your life when you resisted surrendering to Jesus, either initially or repeatedly? Can you think of a time in your life when Jesus asked you to surrender and take a knee before Him, and you did?
- ③ Rick said on Sunday: The question before the house is this: “Will you follow a God you do not understand? Will you follow a God who does not live up to your expectations?”
- Take a moment to think about these two questions and consider some characters in Scripture who were faced with these same questions and who ultimately sought to continue to trust in God - there are many examples! Discuss some of these together. How can the faith of these people in God’s Word equip and encourage you as you seek to trust and follow God?
  - How do Rick’s questions (Will you follow a God you do not understand? Will you follow a God who does not live up to your expectations?) help you think about or consider some of the times in your life that you’ve doubted God, or doubted what He was doing in your life?
  - These questions are important to consider, because all of us have faced, do face, and will continue to face seasons where we do not understand what God is doing, and where God does not live up to our expectations. How have you answered these questions in the past? How will you answer them today? How do you want to answer them tomorrow?
  - What unique role do you think the Church, and community within the Church, play as we seek to trust in and worship God together in the midst of the many different seasons of life?

## PRAY AND APPLY

- Pray that the preaching pastor would be freshly anointed by the Holy Spirit, speaking with clarity, courage, and humility, dependent on Christ to exalt Jesus and call people to take a knee rather than take offense.
- Pray that the musicians and vocalists would lead from hearts surrendered to Jesus, not seeking approval but seeking His glory, and that their worship would soften resistant hearts.
- Pray that the greeters and ushers would reflect the welcoming heart of Christ, helping people feel seen, known, and loved, creating an atmosphere of peace, order, and hospitality that points people toward the kindness of God - even those who arrive skeptical or guarded.
- Pray that the church staff would serve in unity and dependence on the Spirit, working behind the scenes with faith that God is at work beyond what they can see.
- Pray that the Sunday School teachers would teach with truth and tenderness, helping children and adults alike see Jesus clearly and respond in faith rather than familiarity.
- Pray that listening believers would resist the temptation of familiarity with Jesus, freshly submitting to Jesus, taking a knee in faith, repentance, and obedience.
- Pray that listening unbelievers would be astonished at Jesus in a saving way, moving from curiosity or offense to humble trust in Him as Lord and Savior.
- Pray that conversations in the foyer would be filled with grace, truth, and gospel hope, stirring one another to faith, courage, and love rather than cynicism or distraction.
- Pray that Jesus would marvel at faith in this congregation—that the Spirit would overcome unbelief, and that Christ would be honored as people choose surrender over resistance and faith over offense.



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# WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of 2.15.26

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

## INVITE

### **Baptism Class - March 1**

Our next baptism opportunity is Easter weekend. Join us for our next baptism class on Sunday, March 1 at 9:30am. Find out more [HERE!](#)

## COMMUNITY LIFE

### **Walk Worthy - February 28**

Walk Worthy exists to bring men together. Hosted by Moody Radio Cleveland, this one-day men's conference offers biblical insight, real encouragement, and practical guidance for every role God has entrusted to you—marriage, single life, parenting, friendships, church, workplace, and most importantly, your relationship with Christ. Location: The Chapel, 135 Fir Hill, Akron, Ohio. [Sign up here!](#)

## SEND

### **CULTURE Link - March 20**

CVC Send Ministry is excited to announce that the CULTURELink Seminar is coming back to CVC on March 20-21! Whether you are a former, current, or future mission trip leader, this practical and engaging training is designed to equip you for effective cross-cultural ministry. [REGISTER HERE!](#)