



Cuyahoga  
Valley Church

# SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 2.22.26

Mark 6:7-32 // Joe Valenti

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 decided to make a drastic change in your life and step into something new and different (could be moving to a new place, starting a new job, getting a new haircut, going on a big trip, etc.)? What, if anything, led to you (or prompted you) to make this change?

## EXPLORE (30 MIN)

### Create Context (5 min):

HERE is the Sermon Recap video playlist on Vimeo.

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

#### **Read Mark 6:7-32.**

- 1 In his sermon on Sunday, Joe asked the question, “What is the motivation for someone to move from comfort to costly” - especially as it pertains to following Jesus? He answered with a couple of main points, beginning with faith in God’s power and provision.

Joe pointed out that the disciples followed Jesus’ command to “go” because they believed that His authority was greater than their insecurity. They did not let doubt, fear, or comfort hold them back from answering God’s call.

- When you think about going and being a part of the mission of God (in your neighborhood, in your workplace, or across the world), what are some insecurities that hold you back? What would it look like for you, in this season, to really trust that Jesus’ authority is greater than any insecurity that you have or face?
  
- Where do you think that doubt, fear, or comfort could be holding you back from stepping into something God is calling you to do, or somewhere He is calling you to serve?



- ② In his sermon, Joe drew a contrast between the disciples of Jesus, who step out in faith and see the fruit of that decision quite clearly (verses 7-13), and John the Baptist, who steps out in faith and ultimately does not see how God is working in the last moments of his life (verses 14-29).

Joe stated that “faithfulness in Jesus is not always followed by a visible reward in this life.” Faith in God’s purpose means you believe that your life is measured by obedience, not by outcome.

Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8. At the end of his life, the apostle Paul was also facing some dire earthly circumstances - just like John the Baptist did. But Paul had his eyes fixed on Jesus, and on the next life - life with God in eternity. He knew, like Joe said in his sermon, that his faithfulness to God was measured by his obedience - not by his earthly outcome.

- How do the lives of John the Baptist, and of Paul, challenge you as you think about the purpose of a life in this world spent following Jesus?
- As you consider your own life, how do Mark 6:7-32 and 2 Timothy 4:6-8 equip you with courage and endurance as you seek to, as Paul put it - fight the good fight, finish the race, and keep the faith?
- In what ways do you think our culture today has a hard time with the reality that “faithfulness in Jesus is not always followed by a visible reward in this life?” Why do you think this is a message that is hard for people today, especially in the United States or in Western culture, to accept and live out?

- ③ In the sermon on Sunday, a definition of the word “providence” was given: God is never absent, never surprised, and never out of control - even when we cannot see what He is doing.

John the Baptist did not know how his story would be used, after his death, in the kingdom and plan of God - and neither do we. We do not always see how God is working and moving in our lives, and we do not always see how He is working and moving in our small acts of faithfulness for His eternal glory and our eternal good. And when we doubt, we are able to look to the ultimate example of God’s providence - Jesus Christ.

- When in your walk with Jesus have you struggled most to see or understand what God was doing? What did it look like - or what does it still look like - for you to trust in God in the moments when His will and His ways are unclear to you?
- How do Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection bring you hope and peace as you walk with the Lord, looking ahead to the day when you will see Him face to face?



## PRAY AND APPLY

1. Pray for hearts to be freed from comfort as a master.

Ask the Lord to expose where fear, reputation, security, or comfort have quietly become ruling forces in people's lives. Pray that the Spirit would gently but clearly reveal misplaced trust – not to shame, but to liberate.

2. Pray for increased faith in God's power and provision.

Ask that as the Word is preached, people would freshly believe that Jesus' authority is real and sufficient. Pray that those who feel unqualified, underprepared, or insecure would be strengthened by the truth that transformation belongs to Him.

3. Pray for endurance rooted in God's purpose.

Ask that those who have stepped out in faith and not seen visible fruit would be steadied. Pray for discouraged servants, weary parents, stretched volunteers, faithful givers, and those who feel unseen. Ask that they would believe deeply that obedience is never wasted in God's providence.

4. Pray for a multiplication mindset to take root in the church.

Ask the Lord to shift the culture from comfort and consumption to courageous participation. Pray that people would not only serve, but also disciple. Not only attend, but multiply. Ask that God would raise up men and women willing to invest in the next generation, open their homes, share the gospel, and prepare others to be sent.

5. Pray for a transforming encounter with Christ Himself.

Above all, ask that Jesus would be seen as worthy. Pray that His love, authority, and sacrifice would grip hearts more than fear or comfort. Ask that people would leave not merely challenged, but changed – with a deeper allegiance to Christ and a renewed readiness to go wherever He sends.



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# WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of 2.22.26

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!](#)

### **Night of Worship and Prayer - March 11**

We would love for you to join us for a special Night of Prayer and Worship during this Lenten season on Wednesday, March 11 at 6:30pm. Lent is a time to slow down, refocus our hearts, and draw near to the Lord. This evening will be a space to worship together, seek God in prayer, and prepare our hearts for Easter. Whether you come carrying burdens, gratitude, questions, or simply a desire to be with Jesus—you are welcome. Childcare will be provided, so please feel free to bring your family.

## 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!](#)