



Cuyahoga  
Valley Church

# SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 3.29.26  
Mark 7:31-8:20 // 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 in your past where you clearly saw God's provision for you or for someone you know in a significant and meaningful way? Share details about this season and this provision with your group.

## EXPLORE (30 MIN)

### Create Context (5 min):

HERE is the Sermon Recap video playlist on Vimeo.

### Study & Discussion (25 min)

#### Read Mark 7:31-8:20.

- ① Rick stated in his sermon on Sunday that sometimes we have or are tempted to have this kind of posture before God: "God, if You show up the way I want, when I want, and how I want, then I'll know that I can trust You. Then I'll know to take my next step. Then I'll do what You want me to do. Then I'll believe You care. But You need to prove yourself first."
  - How and why can this kind of posture before the Lord be detrimental to our faith in Him and to our ability to see His past goodness and providence?
  - Can you think of a time in your life when, consciously or subconsciously, you came before God with this kind of sentiment and posture?
- ② Rick said in his sermon that one reason Jesus performed signs and miracles during his earthly ministry was to fulfill Old Testament prophecies about His purpose and His calling. Read Isaiah 35 together out loud as a group.
  - What in this passage connects to our passage in Mark 7 and 8 for this week? Specifically, where do we see Old Testament prophecy from Isaiah 35 fulfilled in Mark 7:31-8:20?
  - What else in Isaiah 35 stands out to you, encourages you, or gives you hope as you consider who Jesus is, what He has done, and what He promises He will do?



- ③ Review Mark 8:14-21. Pastor Rick mentioned on Sunday that in the Bible, leaven is a symbol often used for sin. Leaven puffs up bread, and pride can “puff up” in the believer. This is a slow and gradual process, but a little leaven can leaven the whole lump (Galatians 5:9). The leaven of the Pharisees included hypocrisy, pride, and legalism - and skepticism about the person and work of Jesus. What leaven do you see having the potential to slowly rise in your life, and what guardrails can you put up to identify this and deal with it before it becomes something that defines your life or faith?
- ④ Rick stated that, “Before you ever ask Jesus for another sign... You need to remember the sign He has already given. The cross and the empty tomb. Jesus has already given us His most impressive and His most important sign. Clearly. Decisively. Powerfully.”
- Have you thought before about the cross and the tomb - Jesus’ death and resurrection - as a sign from Him to you, and to His people? If so, what first helped you see his work in this way? If not, what stands out to you as you consider this “sign” in a new way or with new vocabulary?
  - As we look to Easter coming on Sunday - how can you share this sign of Jesus’ power and love with someone in your life in a unique or specific way this week?
- ⑤ Take some time to read the Gospel Coalition article shared below. When we think about asking God for signs in our lives, sometimes we are tempted to ask for signs about what we should do, where we should serve, or what decision we should make. How do the ideas shared in this article give you peace as you think about making decisions that seek to honor God and equip you to live for Him faithfully?

### **Additional Resources:**

“Check Your Fleece at the Door: How to Discern God’s Will amid Tough Decisions”

by Timothy Cho for the Gospel Coalition:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/difficult-decisions/>



## PRAY AND APPLY

- Pray that our church would recognize and celebrate God's past provision instead of forgetting it, trusting Jesus fully and not testing Him by demanding more proofs of His love.
- Pray that any unbelief spreading in our hearts would be exposed and resisted early and that that God would soften hardened hearts and remove spiritual dullness.
- Pray that our faith would grow stronger even when we do not receive the signs we desire, trusting in God's proven character rather than require visible confirmation.
- Pray that God would give the preacher an anointing, a clarity, a boldness, and spiritual authority as he proclaims the Word.
- Pray that the greeters, ushers, musicians, tech team members, and worship leaders will serve and lead with sincerity, humility, and a clear focus on Christ.
- Pray that the congregation would come with open hearts, ready to receive and respond.
- Pray that those who do not know Christ would stop demanding proofs and begin to trust Him and that God would open blind eyes and draw many to salvation.
- Pray that believers would take their next step of obedience without waiting for yet another sign.



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# WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of 3.29.26

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

## INVITE

### **Easter Services 2026**

Friday, April 3

Family Tenebrae: 5:30 pm (Lower Level)

Traditional Tenebrae: 7:00pm

Easter Saturday: April 4

3:00pm, 5:00pm

Easter Sunday: April 5

8:00, 9:30, 11:15am

## YOUNG ADULTS

### **CVC Young Adult Volleyball: April 12**

Come join us for an evening of volleyball at the Blossom Fieldhouse in Brecksville, Sunday evening April 12th from 6:30-8:30PM. Free event - bring a friend and come and play!

## SEND

### **Disaster Relief Trip - North Carolina: April 21 - 24**

To find out more about how you can pray, give, or go [CLICK HERE!](#)

## COMMUNITY LIFE

### **Men's Breakfast: May 2**

You are invited to join us for a free Men's Breakfast at Cuyahoga Valley Church Broadview Heights Campus on May 2, 2026 from 8-10:00am. This event promises to be a morning of inspiration and fellowship, and we would be honored to have you with us. The breakfast is a wonderful opportunity to connect, grow spiritually, and enjoy a hearty breakfast together. We encourage you to invite a guest to come along with you and share in this meaningful experience. We look forward to seeing you there! Register [HERE](#) or text "Breakfast" to reserve your spot!