



Cuyahoga
Valley Church

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 4.19.26
Mark 9: 1-13 // Tony Scialabba

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

CONNECT (10 MIN)

- ① In the beginning of his sermon, Pastor Tony talked about the show “Undercover Boss.” He mentioned how in the show, the employees start out being unaware their boss is working with them for a short time, but at the end of the show the boss’s identity is revealed. At the end, as Tony put it, nothing about the boss had changed except for the perspective of the employee regarding who the boss was - a shift in perspective regarding his or her identity.
 - Can you think of a story you enjoy, in a movie or show or book, where a character’s shift in perspective plays a role in the narrative (for example, in the movie the Lion King, Pumbaa and Timon don’t realize that Simba is the king until Nalah reveals his identity to them)?

EXPLORE (30 MIN)

Create Context (5 min):

HERE is the Sermon Recap video playlist on Vimeo.

Study & Discussion (25 min)

Read Mark 9:1-13.

- ① Revisit Mark 9:1-8. In our passage for this week, we encounter the Transfiguration of Jesus. As Tony stated Sunday, a transfiguration is a metamorphosis - a change in form; a transformation. The glory that the disciples saw in the Transfiguration of Jesus wasn’t added - it was a glory unveiled. (As a side note, God’s glory is the “visible expression of who God really is”)
 - This can be a confusing passage sometimes, especially for new or newer followers of Jesus. What stood out to you in Tony’s explanation of what was going on in this passage, and why it was so important for the disciples (and so important for followers of Jesus today)?
 - Can you think of a time in your life when God revealed His glory to you in a significant or meaningful way?

- ② In verse 5, Peter proposes that they should build 3 tents - one for Jesus, one for Elijah, and one for Moses. As Tony put it, this verse shows that Peter didn’t quite understand who Jesus was yet. Peter was putting Jesus on the same level as Moses and Elijah - he wasn’t rejecting Jesus, but he was reducing Jesus. In contrast to Peter’s assumption here, God speaks out of a cloud in verse 7 and states, “This is my beloved Son; listen to Him.” As Tony said on Sunday, “God wants to make sure that they (Peter, James, and John) don’t miss who Jesus is.” (Questions on next page)



- Where else in Mark have we seen Peter, or even other characters, reduce Jesus instead of understanding and accepting who He truly is?
- Tony asserted in his sermon that, “You will not trust a Jesus you have reduced when your life starts to fall apart.” Just like Peter, we can have a tendency to reduce Jesus to something less than who He actually is - God Himself. We can think that Jesus is just a good teacher, or a nice historical figure, or an example for us to try and emulate - when in reality, Jesus is much more than that. He is God. How do you think you can be tempted to “reduce” Jesus, instead of seeing and accepting Him as He truly is?

③ Revisit Mark 9:9-13. The disciples were confused about what Jesus was telling them on the way down from the mountain. They expected a Messiah who would come and accomplish in power, not a suffering servant (see Isaiah 53:3-4) who would die in humiliation and rise again (see 1 Corinthians 15:3-4). They expected a Messiah who was all glory - not one who would choose to suffer and invite His followers to suffer alongside Him.

- Tony said on Sunday that “following Jesus doesn’t remove suffering. It gives it meaning.” How have you seen glimpses of God’s work or goodness in some of the suffering you’ve experienced in this life? How do you see ways that God has been glorified, in your heart or in your community, because of suffering you or someone you love has endured?
- “Jesus reveals his glory so that we will trust Him in His suffering and follow Him in ours.” Read Revelation 21:1-4. As Christians, we find hope in the glory and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We also find hope in the reality that one day our Savior will return and we will be with Him, and one day there will be no more suffering. How do you think suffering serves to give us eyes to live for not only today, but also live for the hope of eternity?

④ We can find other stories - in the pages of Scripture, in the annals of Christian history, and in our own lives today - of Christians who suffered for the cause of Christ. Take a moment to reflect on some of these now.

- How can these all of these stories, in Scripture and in Christian history and in our experiences, give us hope as we seek to “fight the good fight, finish the race, and keep the faith (see 2 Timothy 4:7)” as we walk with Jesus?
- If someone were to take a long look at your life, would they see in your suffering the story of someone who trusts Jesus above all else? To put this a different way - do you allow the way that you suffer to bring glory to God by the way you cling to Him in the midst of unexpected confusion or pain in this life? Where do you have room to grow in this area?



PRAY AND APPLY

1. Pray for Clear Vision of Christ's Glory

- Ask that God would remove distraction, dullness, and familiarity so that people don't just hear about Jesus—but truly see Him.
- Pray that His glory would be unmistakable—more compelling than anything else competing for our attention.

2. Pray for Receptive and Transformed Hearts

- Ask that as people behold Christ, their hearts would be softened and changed.
- Pray that this wouldn't stay at the level of information, but lead to worship, repentance, and deeper trust.

3. Pray for Trust in the Midst of Suffering

- Ask that those walking through hardship would see both the glory and the suffering of Christ—and trust Him in their own pain.
- Pray that God would anchor people in the truth that His path included suffering, and He is still worthy of trust.

4. Pray for Salvation and Spiritual Awakening

- Ask that those who do not yet know Christ would have their eyes opened to His glory.
- Pray for conviction of sin, clarity of the gospel, and a genuine response of repentance and faith.

5. Pray for a Deepened Love for God

- Ask that seeing Christ more clearly would stir greater affection for Him.
- Pray that love for God would grow—not out of duty, but as a response to His revealed glory.

6. Pray for Boldness to Share His Glory

- Ask that those who see Christ would not keep it to themselves.
- Pray for courage and urgency to speak about Jesus—to reflect His glory in everyday life and point others to Him.



Cuyahoga
Valley Church

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of 4.19.26

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

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!

CVC KIDS

Child Dedications: May 10

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, May 10 at all services. [Apply here!](#)

YOUNG ADULTS

CVC Young Adult Spring Retreat - May 15-17

Young Adult Spring Retreat Getaway! Join us for a weekend away to Old Stone Acres in Uniontown Oh on May 15-17. It's a chance to step away from the busyness of everyday life, spend time growing in faith, and make great memories together. Whether you're new or have been part of the group for a while, we'd love to have you come along. Register [HERE](#).