



Cuyahoga
Valley Church

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 5.3.26

Mark 9: 30-41 // 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 someone you know who is a “servant of all” - who serves others faithfully, joyfully, and consistently? What is this person like? Describe this person in your LifeGroup.

EXPLORE (30 MIN)

Create Context (5 min):

HERE is the Sermon Recap video playlist on Vimeo.

Study & Discussion (25 min)

Read Mark 9:30-41.

- 1 In the sermon on Sunday, Pastor Rick talked about how greatness in the kingdom of God is very different than greatness in the eyes of the world. He shared what it looks like to follow the way of the Lord, and read the poem below:

Let me learn by paradox...
That the way down is the way up,
That to be low is to be high
That the broken heart is the healed heart
That the contrite spirit is the rejoicing spirit
That the repenting soul is the victorious soul
That to have nothing is to possess all
That to bear the cross is to wear the crown
That to give is to receive
That the valley is the place of vision
- From the Valley of Vision

- What in this poem especially stands out to you or strikes you as meaningful, and why? What most challenges you or encourages you in reading this poem?
- How and where do you think you are most likely to doubt what God says about greatness? To put the question a different way, how and where do you think you are most likely to believe what the world says about greatness (as you consider this question, think about how you believe with your head (the things you think) and your hands (the things you do))?



- ② In Mark 9:35, Jesus says to his disciples, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.” In Mark 10:43-45, he says, “But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” This idea is so central to the gospel that Mark includes it back to back in two chapters.
- Think about the book of Mark and the story of Jesus as a whole. How do we see Jesus coming “not to be served but to serve, and ... give his life as a ransom for many?”
 - Have you seen in your own life how servant actions and attitudes towards others can more effectively open the door for Gospel conversations? Have you experienced the impact that Biblical servanthood can bring about in your life, and the lives of others?
 - What are some bold and creative ways that you can seek to be a servant to people that the Lord has placed in your life in this week, month, year, or season?
- ③ On Sunday Rick quoted William Henderson, who once wrote, “Jesus is telling His disciples to forget all about rank, pre-eminence, prominence... Welcome the child - or anyone who in his weakness, need, and humble dependence, resembles a child...” Rick talked about how Jesus calls his followers to welcome the last and the least, and so image His compassion for all people in a tangible way in our world.
- What does it look like right now, in this season of your life, to welcome “the last and the least?” How can you get out of your comfort zone and connect with, and honor, someone who is different from you or has less than you in some way (less money, less community and connection, less family close by... the possibilities are many and varied!)?
 - In what ways does our secular culture today give us different messaging than Jesus does in this area? In what ways does our culture encourage us to put ourselves first, build relationships with people who can benefit us, or stay away from people who might need too much of our time or help?
- ④ What is a real and tangible way that you can “applaud the work of another” today, like Rick did in his sermon with both Maryanne and Linda? What fellow believer can you take time to intentionally encourage this week?



PRAY AND APPLY

Pray that the Lord would draw people to gather this Sunday - those who are weary, those who are skeptical, those who are wandering - and that He would meet us personally, encouraging the fainthearted, challenging the complacent, and saving the lost.

Pray that the Spirit would anoint the preaching of the Word, giving us clarity, so that the message of following our servant-hearted, crucified King would land not just in our minds but deep in our hearts.

Pray that the Lord would anoint the music and worship, so that it is not performance but true praise, lifting our eyes to Christ and softening our hearts to receive His Word.

Pray that God would help our church see Jesus clearly in this passage—that we would behold His humility, His cross-shaped life, and be drawn to follow Him in the same way.

Pray that the Spirit would expose our pride, our comparison, and our competition, and replace them with humility, joy, and a willingness to be last place people.

Pray that we would receive the “least” - those who are overlooked, inconvenient, or unable to repay us - and that we would see Christ Himself in them.

Pray that God would free us from jealousy and tribalism, so that we would genuinely celebrate the work He is doing through others, even those outside our church, outside our tribe.

Pray that the Lord would give us discernment and courage to hold fast to sound doctrine, while also cultivating generous hearts that rejoice wherever people do good work in Christ’s name.

Pray that this message would not remain an idea but become a lived reality - that our church would increasingly be marked by a downward, cross-shaped life that reflects the beauty of Jesus to a watching world



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WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of 5.3.26

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

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!](#)

INVITE

Explore CVC - Membership Class - Part 1 - May 10

Membership moves us from an observer to a participant and from a consumer to a contributor. It is a public affirmation of a commitment to Christ and to a specific local body. To consider membership, your first step is attending Explore CVC. To become a member of our church, attendance at two classes is required. The first class is called Explore CVC, and the second is Join CVC. Completion of both is necessary for membership. [Register 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](#).