



Cuyahoga
Valley Church

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 5.10.26

Mark 10:13-16 // Joe Valenti

Please take the opportunity to revisit the CVC Equip
[Portrait of a Healthy LifeGroup](#) on a regular basis

CONNECT (10 MIN)

- ① In one of his illustration on Sunday, Pastor Joe shared about the experience of going on a road trip with his children when they were small. Have you ever gone on a really long road trip with friends or family? If so, what was fun and/or frustrating about this experience?

EXPLORE (30 MIN)

Create Context (5 min):

[HERE](#) is the Sermon Recap video playlist on Vimeo.

Study & Discussion (25 min)

Read Mark 10:13-16.

- ① Pastor Joe, in his sermon on Sunday, said that children are the mission (verse 14).
 - How was Jesus' treatment of the children in this passage radical compared to typical treatment of young children in his day and this society?
 - Jesus wanted the little children to come to Him, and He said, "For to such belong the kingdom of God." Jesus was speaking not only about children, but also about people that we might think don't deserve the kingdom or don't fit our mental picture of those who belong to the Kingdom of God. Again and again in Mark, Jesus steps toward those whom others might step away from.
 - Who are some people that you might be tempted to step away from that Jesus might be asking you to step toward in some way, like He would and does?
 - What are some practical steps you can take to show the compassion of Jesus to these people as a way to live out the Kingdom of God and reveal the gospel in a tangible way to them?



- ② On Sunday, Pastor Joe also talked about how children are not only the mission, they are also our model (verses 15-16). Pastor Joe also said that while being “childish” is about immaturity, being “childlike” is about mentality. We are called to cease being childish over time, but we are called as Christians to continue to be childlike in our dependence and reliance on Jesus. Read 1 Corinthians 13:11, and revisit Mark 10:15.
- What are some other places in Scripture that address “childishness?” What are some other places in Scripture that address “childlikeness?”
- ③ On Sunday, we learned about three ways that children can teach us about being childlike before the Lord. Children can teach us to: 1. Receive. 2. Reflect 3. Rely
- Receive: when a child wants more of a good thing from their parent, they expect to receive that good thing when they want it (Joe used the example of a baby wanting more food). We live in a world “where we have to earn everything we get; where we get what we deserve.” God calls us to live as humble recipients, to look at God as a good Father and say “I know You have what I need, and I would like some more, please, and I trust You with whatever You provide me.”
 - Where do you have room to grow in trusting and receiving from God in this way?
 - Reflect: Children mimic us, and we are called to reflect and image God in this same way. Where do you have room to grow in reflecting God in all you say and do?
 - Rely: Small children rely completely on their parents (Joe used the example of small children on a road trip, getting in the car and trusting their parents every step of the way). Where is God asking you to rely on Him in a new way or with a new intentionality today? Do you trust Christ enough to know that whatever plan and outcome He has for your life, it will be good and perfectly suited for you?
- ④ This Mother’s Day, what was something you were rejoicing about with or in the midst of your family? What was something you were grieving this Mother’s Day, and how might you invite your LifeGroup into praying for you and caring for you in this grief?



PRAY AND APPLY

- Pray for the unseen at CVC and in our lives.

Ask God to open our eyes to the people we are prone to ignore or rebuke. Pray that our church would never be a gatekeeper that blocks the messy, the broken, or the vulnerable from reaching Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit to convict us of any spiritual elitism or entitlement that makes us think the Kingdom is only for people who are "put together."

- Confessing the Drive to Achieve

Pray for those of us who are exhausted from trying to earn God's favor. Admit to the Lord that we often treat His grace like a paycheck rather than a gift. Pray that we would have the courage to "grow small," to drop our spiritual resumes, and to simply hold out empty hands to receive what only He can provide.

- Ask for the Grace to Imitate

Pray that we would stop overcomplicating our faith and return to the simple "game of follow the leader." Ask God to help us look at Jesus so intently that we naturally begin to mirror His kindness, His priorities, and His rhythm of life. Pray that our lives would be a clear "reflection" of the Father for our children and neighbors to see.

- Pray that We Would Release Control

Intercede for the drivers in the room—those who are white-knuckling the steering wheel of their lives, families, or careers. Ask God to replace their anxiety about the future with a total reliance on the Father who holds the future.

- Pray for Strength and Grace for Mothers

Lift up the mothers and grandmothers in our congregation. Pray that they would be released from the pressure of being perfect and instead find joy in being women who point others to Jesus. Ask God to sustain them in the weary moments of parenting and to remind them that they, too, are beloved children who are being held by a perfect Father.



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WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of 5.10.26

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

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](#).

SERVE

CVC Grounds Clean Up Day: May 16

We'd love your help for our upcoming Grounds Clean-Up Day at 9:00am on Saturday, May 16! This is a great opportunity to serve together and help make our space welcoming and beautiful. We'll be spreading mulch, planting flowers, planting bushes. Feel free to bring your own tools if you have them—gloves, shovels, rakes, etc. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pete at ptrybus@cvconline.org.

INVITE

Explore CVC Membership Class: May 17

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!](#)