



Cuyahoga  
Valley Church

# SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 5.24.26  
Mark 9: 42-50 // Tony Scialabba

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

## CONNECT (10 MIN)

- ① what was one thing that especially stood out to you from the passage of sermon this past Sunday?

## EXPLORE (30 MIN)

### Create Context (5 min):

HERE is the Sermon Recap video playlist on Vimeo.

### Study & Discussion (25 min)

#### Read Mark 9:42-50

- ① Jesus takes our influence on others seriously. In verse 42, Jesus warns against causing “one of these little ones who believe in me” to sin. Jesus’ words remind us that our lives do not affect only us. The way we speak, respond, joke, confess, repent, and resist sin can either encourage others toward faithfulness or make sin seem less serious than Jesus says it is.

Why do you think Jesus speaks so strongly about causing another believer to stumble?

What are some ways our example can make sin seem lighter or less dangerous to others?

Where might your words, attitudes, habits, or choices be shaping others toward compromise rather than faithfulness?

How can taking your influence seriously become an act of love for others?



- ② Jesus takes the danger of sin seriously. In verses 43–48, Jesus uses repeated images of cutting off a hand, cutting off a foot, and tearing out an eye. Each image points to something valuable, useful, and personal. Yet Jesus says it is better to lose what seems valuable than to keep what leads us away from life with God.

What do the repeated references to the hand, foot, and eye suggest about the seriousness and personal nature of sin?

How does this passage confront the idea that sin can be managed, excused, hidden, or kept under control?

What is the difference between taking sin seriously and trying to save ourselves by our own effort? Where might Jesus be calling you to take a concrete step of repentance or obedience?

- ③ Jesus takes the reality of judgment seriously. Jesus repeatedly contrasts “life” and “the kingdom of God” with “hell,” “unquenchable fire,” and the place “where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.” His words echo the language of Isaiah 66:24 and present judgment as dreadful, final, and not to be ignored.

Why is it important that we receive Jesus’ warning about judgment as coming from the same Savior who welcomes, heals, serves, and gives His life as a ransom?

How does this passage challenge the way our culture often speaks about sin, hell, and eternity?

How should the reality of eternal judgment shape the way we think about repentance, holiness, evangelism, and compassion?

- ④ Jesus calls His people to holiness and peace. Verse 50 ends with the command, “Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.” This is not disconnected from the earlier context. The disciples had been arguing about greatness, struggling with pride, and showing an “us versus them” attitude toward someone ministering in Jesus’ name.

How can pride, comparison, jealousy, or self-importance make peace with others difficult?

What does it look like for holiness before God to show up in humility and peace toward other people?

Is there someone with whom God may be calling you to pursue peace, humility, confession, forgiveness, or reconciliation?



## **PRAY AND APPLY**

Pray that CVC would be a church that helps believers move toward Jesus. Jesus gives a serious warning about causing “little ones who believe in Him” to stumble. Pray that our church would feel the weight of our influence on one another as fellow believers. Ask God to make us careful with our words, attitudes, examples, jokes, habits, and hidden compromises, so that we do not make sin seem lighter than Jesus says it is. Pray that CVC would be a church where we help one another follow Jesus with greater faithfulness, seriousness, and joy.

Pray that eternity would shape our urgency and compassion. Jesus’ warning about judgment is sobering. Pray that we would not become numb to eternal realities or embarrassed by Jesus’ words. Ask God to give our church a deeper love for people who are far from Him, a greater urgency in sharing the gospel, and a tender compassion that reflects the heart of Christ.

Pray that our whole church would be offered to God. Jesus says, “Everyone will be salted with fire.” Pray that God would purify and preserve us as a church that belongs fully to Him. Ask Him to refine our ministries, homes, relationships, habits, desires, and priorities so that we are not compartmentalized disciples, but people who offer our whole lives to the Lord.

Pray that holiness would make us humble and peaceable. Jesus ends by saying, “Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.” Pray that our pursuit of holiness would not make us harsh, proud, suspicious, or self-righteous. Ask God to make CVC a church marked by humility, reconciliation, patience, and peace – a people who take sin seriously because we take Jesus seriously.



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# WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of 5.24.26

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

## COMMUNITY LIFE

### **Women's Breakfast - June 6**

We are excited to invite you to our next Women's Breakfast at the Cuyahoga Valley Church - Broadview Heights Campus on Saturday, June 6 from 9-11:00 am. Join us for food fellowship, and teaching from Kalyn Scialabba. Please register [HERE](#) and let us know if you can join us. The cost is \$5 per person.

### **Group Connect - June 7**

You're invited to Group Connect at the CVC Broadview Heights Campus on Sunday, June 7. Members of the Community Life Team will be in the foyer after each service to help you learn more about how you can get plugged into a group that will help you grow spiritually and build meaningful community with others. Don't miss this opportunity to connect, grow, and take your next step in building relationships within our church.

## CVC YOUTH

### **Movin Up' - June 14**

Goodbye middle school—hello high school! Moving Up is our welcome to all incoming 9th graders. Come meet your new high school leaders in room 104/106 at 11:15am where Collide meets. The countdown to your high school CVC Youth journey starts now!

### **Frontlines Summer Camp - June 21-26**

The best week of your summer—guaranteed. Frontlines is packed with powerful worship, deep teaching, games and friendships you'll carry for life. Get ready to grow in your faith, make incredible memories, and have more fun than you thought possible. Register [HERE](#)