



Cuyahoga  
Valley Church

# SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 6.7.26

Mark 10:32-45 // 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 his sermon on Sunday, Pastor Joe mentioned the book The Pilgrim's Progress several times. Have you ever read or heard of this book? If so, where did you hear of it or when did you read it? (To learn more about where to find this book and which versions are most accessible, check out the Resources section at the end of the study guide.)

## EXPLORE (30 MIN)

### Create Context (5 min):

HERE is the Sermon Recap video playlist on Vimeo.

### **Study & Discussion (25 min)**

#### **Read Mark 10:32-35.**

- ① “The hill, though high, I covet to ascend; The difficulty will not me offend; For I perceive the way to life lies here: Come, pluck up heart, let's neither faint nor fear. Better, though difficult, the right way to go, Than wrong, though easy, where the end is woe.” -John Bunyan // Pilgrim's Progress

Pastor Joe shared the poem above as he began in his sermon on Sunday.

- What encourages you or stands out to you about this poem as you consider the Christian life and your own walk with Christ?
- What is confusing to you in the poem above, and what do you need to be clarified in order to understand it better/more fully?

- ② Revisit Mark 10:32-24. Then read Isaiah 50:7. Jesus knew what would happen when He reached Jerusalem, and still He walked there faithfully in obedience to the Father.

- What stands out to you about Jesus (about what He is like, and what He does here) as you read these passages?



- What about Jesus' faith and action here can relate to the way we are called to live our own lives as Christians today?

③ Revisit Mark 10:35-45. James and John wanted to share in the glory of Jesus, but they did not completely understand what that would mean. As Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" By cup, Jesus meant the destiny and plan that the Father had for Him, and for His followers. By baptism, Jesus was referencing imagery of the floodwaters of judgment.

- Joe mentioned on Sunday that maybe James and John thought Jesus would give them glory without suffering. Maybe this is what they hoped for. Where in our culture do you think we try to find "glory without suffering," or "comfort without pain?"
- Where do you think you are tempted to pursue comfort instead of, or alongside, Jesus Christ, instead of trusting in God in the midst of whatever circumstances God chooses to bring your way- even, and especially, when that includes suffering?

④ Revisit Mark 10:45.

- What does it look like for Christians today to follow in Jesus' footsteps and step into serving, instead of looking to be served?
- What are some tangible ways that you have stepped or can step into intentional service of others in order to show an example of Jesus Christ to someone who is far from Him, or someone who knows Him and needs to be encouraged in Him?

⑤ Revisit Mark 10:46-52. What can we learn from the contrast between Bartimaeus on the one hand, and the posture of the disciples on the other? How can you seek to receive from God that which He has sovereignly decided to give to you in this life, and trust Him in the midst of every circumstance and season?



## RESOURCES

Pilgrim's Progress free PDF from Desiring God: <https://document.desiringgod.org/the-pilgrim-s-progress-en.pdf?ts=1446648353>

Pilgrim's Progress in Modern English with John Bunyan Biography:  
<https://us.10ofthose.com/product/PILGRIM2PCK/the-pilgrim-2-pack-pack>

Pilgrim's Progress in Modern English Parts 1 and 2: <https://www.moodypublishers.com/pilgrims-progress-in-todays-english>

## PRAY AND APPLY

### 1. Standing in Awe of the Resolute Savior

Pray that the Holy Spirit would open our eyes to the staggering weight of Mark 10:32—the physical and spiritual posture of Jesus walking out front, setting the pace straight toward His own execution.

### 2. Exposing the Desire for a Painless Shortcut

Pray for a deep, protective conviction to sweep across the room where we have bought into the counterfeit, therapeutic "prosperity gospel" that dominates the modern culture. Ask the Holy Spirit to expose where we, like James and John, are trying to negotiate a deal with God to secure the crown while avoiding the cross.

### 3. Healing Blindness and Shattering False Comforts

Intercede for those in our rows who are spiritually blind—those who recognize Jesus' power or want Him to improve their earthly circumstances, but have never actually surrendered to Him.

### 4. Endurance for the "Hill Difficulty"

Pray specifically for believers in our church body who are currently on their hands and knees, crawling up the steepest, most agonizing stretches of their own mountain. Whether they are facing intense suffering, severe family brokenness, or costly persecution for the gospel, pray that they would not faint or fear.

### 5. Eternal Urgency and Final Perseverance

Pray that the solemn weight of the sermon's conclusion would settle heavily on every heart. Ask God to deliver us from the tragic fate of those who chose the easy bypasses of convenience only to end up ruined in the dark. Pray that our people would leave the service clearly seeing the eternal calculation: that following Jesus up the hill means temporary hardship but everlasting glory, and that we would resolve to follow Him.



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# WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of 6.7.26

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

## 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](#)

## INVITE

### **Explore CVC Membership Class- June 14**

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!](#)

## CVC KIDS

### **Sports Camp - July 27 -31**

Registration opens soon!