



Cuyahoga
Valley Church

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 10.05.25

Mark 1:35-39 // Joe Valenti

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

CONNECT (10 MIN)

- ① On Sunday, Pastor Joe shared a quote from John Piper, theologian and former pastor at Bethlehem Baptist Church. While pastor at Bethlehem Baptist, John Piper would say, “At Bethlehem, we care about all suffering, but we care most about eternal suffering.” Joe shared that John Piper has been one of his favorite preachers to listen to throughout his years in ministry.
 - Can you think of a public teacher, author, or Christian leader you’ve learned a lot from as you’ve walked with Christ? What is something you’ve learned from their life or ministry that continues to impact you today?
 - Can you think of someone you know personally whose life and/or ministry has impacted you, that you’ve learned a lot from, as you’ve walked with Christ? What is something you’ve learned from them that continues to impact you today?

EXPLORE (30 MIN)

Create Context (5 min):

HERE is the Sermon Recap video playlist on Vimeo, which includes the recap video from this week.

Study & Discussion (25 min)

Read Mark 1:35-39.

- ② Refer again to Mark 1:35-39. On Sunday, Pastor Joe reframed the quote from the connect question (above) and stated, “Jesus cares about all suffering, but He cares most about eternal suffering.”
 - In your own words, what do you think this means, and how do we see support for this statement in our passage from Sunday?
 - As we think about how to share the gospel with those around us who don’t know Jesus, how does it benefit us to keep in mind that while we should care about all suffering, we should care most about eternal suffering?



③ Refer to Mark 1:36-37. Joe stated on Sunday that, “No one seems to be concerned about what Jesus is teaching, they’re more interested in what he’s able to do for them immediately.

- Why do you think the people in Capernaum, and even the disciples themselves, might’ve been tempted to see first the tangible physical ministry (especially healing) that Jesus was providing?
- In what ways do you think Christians today face this same temptation? In what ways are you tempted to care more about what you think God can do for you than about how to submit to His teaching, His Word, and His will?

④ Pastor Joe said on Sunday that when Jesus healed people in Capernaum, it was a great day in Capernaum! But he invited us also to consider what happened after that day, in the future, in Capernaum. “Do you know what happened to every single person that was healed in Capernaum that day? They got sick again, and they died. All of them.”

This is ultimately what we mean when we say that “Jesus cares about all suffering, but He cares most about eternal suffering.” While we have a tendency to get our eyes so focused on today that we forget to think about eternity, Jesus could (and can) see it all. And He never forgot (and never forgets) to keep eternity in view in the way that He loved (and loves) people.

- What does it look like for us to have this same type of thinking, this type of eternal perspective, when we think about our own lives?
- How does this kind of perspective change the way we think about, and care for, others around us?

⑤ On Sunday, James Fruits shared about his late wife Christie and her battle with cancer, and her desire to glorify God with her life whether her healing from cancer took place on this side of heaven or once she was with Jesus. After sharing, James invited us to walk through the following prayer prompts (read these prompts again and go to the following page to find some questions to discuss):

1. God, if You choose to heal me in this life, may it deepen my trust in You and point others to Your power and compassion.
2. God, if You choose not to heal me in this life, may my perseverance in faith draw others to the hope of eternal healing in Christ.
3. God, in my suffering – whether relieved or ongoing – help me remember that Jesus cares for all my pain but has already secured victory over my greatest need: sin and death.
4. God, guard my heart from seeking You only for what You can do for me today. Teach me to treasure You as my Savior, not just my problem-solver.
5. God, use my story – whether through healing, waiting, or weakness – as a testimony that Your kingdom is already breaking in and will one day come in full glory.



- Which of these prompts especially stands out to you, and why? What about James' testimony especially stood out to or encouraged you on Sunday?
- What does it look like in your life right now to trust God and His plan and goodness in the midst of your own suffering?
- What has it looked like in your life in the past to trust God and His plan and goodness in the midst of your own past suffering?
- Is there anyone you know personally who has walked through seasons of suffering in a way that intentionally glorified the Lord and exhibited His goodness in unique ways? What did that look like, and how did it impact or shape you?

PRAY AND APPLY

1. Pray for those who are suffering right now.

Ask the Father to comfort and heal those in our church family who are battling illness, chronic pain, or emotional burdens. Thank Him that Jesus cares deeply about all suffering and draw near to the hurting with His compassion.

2. Pray for faith that endures even when healing doesn't come.

Ask God to strengthen our trust in Christ when prayers seem unanswered. Pray that, like Christy's testimony, we would hold fast to the promise that eternal healing is guaranteed in Jesus, even if it does not come in this life.

3. Pray for clarity about Jesus' mission.

Ask the Spirit to guard us from seeking Jesus only for what He can do for us now. Pray that our hearts would treasure Him as Savior and Lord – the One who came not just to remove temporary pain but to conquer sin, death, and eternal suffering.

4. Pray for gospel urgency.

Ask God to awaken in us a deep desire to share the good news of His kingdom with others. Just as Jesus prioritized preaching, pray that we would not keep silent but point others to the eternal hope found in Him.

5. Pray for perseverance in prayer and communion with God.

Ask that we, like Jesus, would make prayer a priority in the midst of busyness and need. Pray that our private time with the Father would shape our perspective, deepen our dependence, and align our hearts with His mission.

RESOURCES

1. The Gospel Coalition Course - Knowing the Bible: Mark

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/knowning-bible-mark/>

2. TGC "Recorded" Podcast: No Chance of Survival: How a Deadly Plane Crash Yielded a Growing Spiritual Harvest:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/podcasts/recorded/deadly-crash-spiritual-harvest/>

"Two and a half years ago, a plane went down in a Texas pasture. On board were five men: the lead pastor, the executive pastor, an elder, and two faithful members of Harvest Church near Memphis, Tennessee. Four of the men were killed instantly; experts later determined the chances of survival were zero percent. But one of the men—lead pastor Kennon Vaughan—lived. This is his story. But this is also the story of what happens when a church of disciple-makers walks through their darkest hours together. And this is the story of what God can do when lives—and deaths—are surrendered to him."



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WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of 10.05.25

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

CHURCH WIDE

Baptism Class: Sunday October 12

Baptism is a kind of marker—a watermark, if you will. Baptism is the mark of a new life in Christ. Click [HERE](#) to find out more.

CVC YOUTH

Collide Fall Fest: October 11

Pumpkin spice, crisp fall nights, and middle school madness—it's Collide Fall Fest! Join us for games, snacks, and a night packed with autumn fun. This is the perfect invite event for your friends—don't miss it! You can find out more about event updates [HERE](#) and when registration opens.

High School Fall Retreat: November 21

Escape the noise, slow down, and press in—Fall Retreat is here. Three days away with your friends and leaders, incredible worship, and teaching that will challenge and encourage you. This is the weekend you'll look back on all year—don't miss it. More details will be released as we get closer to the event!