



Cuyahoga  
Valley Church

CVCONLINE.ORG

# SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 1.25.26

1 Peter 5:5-11 // Joe Valenti

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

## CONNECT (10 MIN)

① Looking back on the entire Unstuck series from this January - what is one phrase, verse, or big idea that has continued to encourage or challenge you throughout the series?

## EXPLORE (30 MIN)

### Create Context (5 min):

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

### Study & Discussion (25 min)

#### Read 1 Peter 1:5-11.

① On Sunday, Pastor Joe shared the story /of Bill Fay, a man who ran very far from God in his early life, but later in life came to know Jesus as his leader and forgiver. After becoming a Christian, Bill Fay shared the gospel one on one with over 25,000 people. Bill Bright, the founder of the ministry Cru, once said that he had met very few people in his life who were as effective for the Lord as Bill Fay.

- How does Bill Fay's story encourage you as you reflect on all that we've talked about in the Unstuck series, and as you reflect on your own life?
- Do you have a tendency to doubt how much, or in what ways, God could use you to accomplish Kingdom work? Why or why not? If yes - what fuels this doubt, and what can you do to combat it?

② In the sermon on Sunday, Pastor Joe talked about moving from self-dependence to God-dependence. We can see this transition in the life of the apostle Peter - early Peter was "sincere but self-reliant." Over time in his life, a shift happened because of God's work in Peter's life: a change "not just on what Peter does but on whom Peter depends." Throughout his life, Peter grew in reliance and dependence on the chief Shepherd.

(Questions on following page)



- What are some ways that we can see this pattern in Peter's life from the passages that we've looked at throughout this Unstuck series?
- In what ways have you grown in God-dependence as you've walked with Him? Where do you see yourself still having room to grow in this area, and why?

**③** Review 1 Peter 5:6-9. Joe said on Sunday that "one of the greatest marks of spiritual immaturity is not seeing, or neglecting, the spiritual aspects of our problems." He said that we can be tempted to believe that our problems are ordinary, physical problems; problems without spiritual elements. No matter how spiritually mature we become, we all have moments of spiritual immaturity on this side of heaven.

- Why do you think it can be so easy, even for Christians, to forget the spiritual aspects of the problems and challenges we face in this life?
- Can you think of a time in your past when you didn't see or understand the spiritual aspect of a problem or challenge you were facing? Did anything or anyone help you see that aspect more clearly?
- What are some ways that you can grow in your ability to see the challenges in your life more clearly, seeing both the "ordinary" and the spiritual?

**④** Review 1 Peter 5:10-11. Joe said in his sermon that when we lose eternal perspective, there is a danger of living only for the present. He also said, "We have not only a spiritual battle but also an eternal hope."

Along these same lines, author and lay theologian C.S. Lewis once wrote, "If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this."

- Why do you think it can be so tempting, or so easy at times, for Christians to forget to think about the eternal hope that we have?
- What are some ways that you can grow, and help those around you grow, in holding this tension of living in this world but putting hope (and placing our treasure) in the eternity that is to come?



## PRAY AND APPLY

There are no official prayer targets this week.

In your group, take some time to pray over the following things:

- For people across the U.S. still struggling with the effects of this big storm - for wisdom, safety, and also that this experience will somehow point them to Jesus and allow them to see and trust Him in a new or deeper way.
- For those who have heard the Unstuck series at CVC over this past month and have not yet invited Jesus to be their forgiver and leader - pray that these God will soften the hearts of these people, that they might come to know Him in a new and saving way.
- For eyes to see those in our lives who might feel stuck, and for boldness to share the good news about Jesus with them.
- For faith in our own lives and hearts that continues to grow as we walk with Jesus throughout our lives, and for a growing desire to be used for the kingdom of God (and a growing trust that God can restore, redeem, and use us - no matter our past or our background!).



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

## COMMUNITY LIFE

### **Women's Breakfast - February 7**

We are excited to invite you to our next Women's Breakfast at the Cuyahoga Valley Church - Broadview Heights Campus on Saturday, February 7 from 9-11:00 am. Join us for food fellowship, and teaching from former CVC Ministry Director Lauren Meyer. We would love for you to bring along your friends, family, and neighbors to join us for this uplifting morning. Please register [HERE](#) and let us know if you can join us. The cost is \$5 per person.

## INVITE

### **Child Dedications - February 1**

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, February 1 at all services. [Apply here!](#)

## YOUTH

### **Winter Retreat - February 20 - 22**

Skyview Ranch. One weekend. Two days away from the routine. A lifetime of impact. Winter Retreat is your chance to grow in your faith, deepen friendships, and make unforgettable memories. Bring your warmest gear, your best attitude, and maybe a sled or two. Find out more about the event [HERE](#). Sign up for the retreat [HERE](#).