



Cuyahoga
Valley Church

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 10.11.26

Revelation 4 // Joe Valenti

Please take the opportunity to revisit the CVC Equip

Portrait of a Healthy LifeGroup on a regular basis

CONNECT (10 MIN)

- 1 Think about an experience or a time when you've seen something truly awe-inspiring and wonderful. Now think about trying to describe this to a friend or to a room full of people. Next, take some time to try and describe this experience or time to those in your LifeGroup. Then take some time to reflect on the chasm between experiencing something and then trying to talk about it - why do you think this chasm exists? Have you ever experienced this "chasm" in trying to share with someone your relationship with Jesus - why or why not?

EXPLORE (30 MIN)

Create Context (5 min):

HERE is the Sermon Recap video playlist on Vimeo.

Study & Discussion (25 min)

Read Revelation 4.

- 1 "On the whole, I do not find Christians, outside of the catacombs, sufficiently sensible of conditions. Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we so blithely invoke? Or, as I suspect, does no one believe a word of it? The churches are children playing on the floor with their chemistry sets, mixing up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning. It is madness to wear ladies' straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews."

On Sunday, Joe referenced this quote from author Annie Dillard in her essay "An Expedition to the Pole." In this essay, Dillard compares what she might call the "unpreparedness" of Christians to encounter the glory of God with the unpreparedness of arctic explorers in the 1800s and early 1900s to encounter the actual conditions of the arctic. Just as those arctic explorers did not have proper respect for and understanding of the reality of their surroundings (many of them died because of their unpreparedness), Christians and churchgoers sometimes lack understanding of and awe and respect for the God whom we worship.

- Have someone in your LifeGroup read this Annie Dillard quote out loud. What stands out to you, interests you, resonates with you, or confuses you in her writing?
- Would you agree with Dillard's assessment, and Joe's mention of it on Sunday, that some churchgoers and Christians fail to grasp the glory and power of God and to respond accordingly in their worship? If so, what have you seen that causes you to agree with Dillard (and Joe)? If not, why do you disagree with this assessment?



Previous question continues onto this page:

- Have you ever, holistically or for a season, lacked understanding of or respect and awe for the glory and majesty of the God we worship? If so, what called you back (or is calling you back) from that misunderstanding toward a more right understanding of who God is and what He is like?
- Have you ever experienced moments of being overwhelmed by the power and glory of God? If so, what were those moments like, and what kind of response to God did they stir in you? If not, why do you think you haven't experienced moments like this or remembered them to share about now?

② Reflect on the letters to the churches that we've been considering over the past weeks in our Revelatoin series. On Sunday, Pastor Joe stated that in these letters we encounter two categories: Christians who are suffering and Christians who are compromising. To the suffering, Jesus says "ENDURE!" To the compromising, Jesus says, "REPENT!"

- Can you think of some examples from Revelation 1-3 where these messages of Jesus (to endure or to repent) are especially evident? Share some examples in your LifeGroup.
- Can you think of a time in your life when the Lord pressed on your heart, through Scripture or through the words of another Christian, the fact that you needed to endure in the midst of suffering, or repent in the midst of compromise? What have you learned from those experiences that has equipped you as you continue to follow Jesus, to love Him and live for Him?

③ Review Revelation 4 and then read Ezekiel 1:26-28 and Isaiah 6:1-7.

- What similarities do you see in the passage from Revelation and the passages from Ezekiel and Isaiah? What differences do you see?
- In what ways are you encouraged to see (either for the first time or for one of many times) that the Old Testament and the New Testament both point to and speak about the same God, and the same spiritual realities? Is this a new idea for you, or is it something you have known about and been taught about for a long time?

④ On Sunday, we considered three ways this vision in Revelation chapter 4 should change our behavior:

1. ON SUNDAY - Don't come as a spectator. Come ready to worship. Sing like you mean it. Put the phone away. Listen to the Word like it matters. If you don't feel it, worship with what you know and ask God to stir what you feel. We join a song that is already happening in heaven.

2. IN DAILY LIFE - Compromise happens Monday through Saturday: in the email, the conversation, the way you speak at home, the secret no one else sees. Live like the real Teacher is in the room - because he is. For the compromising, that is a warning; for the suffering, it is comfort: he sees you.

3. TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH - We can take the gospel to everyone, everywhere because the One who is in charge of everything goes with us. Pray for someone by name. Invite them. And remain open to wherever God may call you to go.

- Which of these three ways is most convicting to you today, and why? What changes can you make in order to respond to this vision with behavior that befits who God is, what He is like, and the worship with which we are to respond to Him?
- Who is someone in your life that you can talk about these changes you feel called to make? What is the next step you can take into inviting them into this conversation and into holding you accountable as you seek to respond to who God is in the way you live your life?

⑤ Reflect on and discuss this question together in your LifeGroup: What crown - control, comfort, reputation, ambition, preference - do I need to cast before the throne this week?

RESOURCES

A Tale of Two Kingdoms Recommended Resources: https://cvconline.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/TaleOfTwo_Resources_CVC.pdf

CVC Blog: <https://cvconline.org/category/articles/>

PRAY AND APPLY

- Pray that God would increase our knowledge of who he is so that our awe of him - deepens and our lives change.
- Pray for believers who are suffering, that the vision of God's throne would strengthen their endurance and assure them that he sees and reigns.
- Pray for believers who are compromising, that God's holiness, justice, and power would lead them to genuine repentance.
- Pray that our gathered worship would reflect the reality of the throne room - attentive, wholehearted, reverent, and joyful.
- Pray for courage to carry the gospel to the people God has placed around us and, when he calls, to the ends of the earth.



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WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

CONNECT

Baptisms - October 18

Jesus commanded us to be baptized as an outward symbol of an inward commitment. It lets others know that we have left the old life behind and we have entered into new life in Christ. And every time we see a baptism, we'll remember the day we publicly promise that we will live for Jesus. Click [here](#) to learn more about baptism and apply for upcoming opportunities.

Pizza with the Pastor - Virtual - October 20

We'd love the opportunity to get to know you and help you get to know us. Join us for Pizza with the Pastor. It's a relaxed, informal time to connect with one of our pastors, hear more about CVC, ask questions, and discover your next steps. For this virtual gathering, we'll send you a digital gift card for pizza and Zoom link before the event. We look forward to meeting you! Register [HERE](#)

COMMUNITY LIFE

Sunday Sessions - October 25

In this three-week series, we'll take a look at the importance of story, the gospel as story, the way that stories shape us, the story that digital technology is telling in our homes and in our hands, and some practical ways to intentionally teach and disciple our children as Christian parents living in an increasingly digital age and world. Join us in Room 104/106 at 9:30 am on Sunday, October 25, November 1 & November 8.

CVC YOUTH

High School Fall Retreat - November 20-22

Join us for CVCYouth's High School Retreat as we invite students to put down the things competing for their attention, spend intentional time with Jesus, and consider what it looks like to trust Him when life feels anything but still. Register [here](#).