



## LifeGroup Curriculum

*“As we wrap up our series on heaven, we have to look forward to the coming heaven on earth as it is described in the book of Revelation. What will the new heavens and the new earth look like? What will we be spending eternity doing? What picture of heaven do we really have? If we wanted to, we could continue researching and imagining what eternity will look like for... well, eternity. Join us this week as we seek to land somewhere, with a working understanding about what it is and what it isn't, leaving space for wonder and questions that we don't get to know answers to this side of... well, heaven.”*

### INTRODUCTION ACTIVITY:

Have everyone share what they think of when they think of Heaven.

### SCRIPTURE READING:

#### Revelation 21:1-8

*“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”*

*5 And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” 6 And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from*

## Heaven 1: Ascension

*the spring of the water of life without payment. 7 The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. 8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."*

### **Revelation 21:22-27**

*"22 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, 25 and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. 26 They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. 27 But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

**Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.**

*Revelation 21:1*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Read Genesis 1 and look at the similarities between the above verses and the garden of Eden. What are the differences? What are the similarities?
2. What does it mean that, "the first earth and heaven had passed away?"
3. Read Matthew 19:28; Acts 3:21; and Romans 8:21. What is the hope for the future of this planet?
4. What does the resurrected life look like in the new creation? (Phil. 3:20-21; Rom. 6:4-5; 1 Cor. 15:20-28)
5. Read Isaiah 65:17-25. How does this picture fit into the picture of Revelation's description of the New Creation?
6. Look at the description of the New Creation in Isaiah and in Revelation and make a list of characteristics of this renewed world.

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. When you flip to the book of Revelation, how do you feel? Does it freak you out? Do you avoid it or do you get a little too into the visions and metaphors located within its pages?
2. There are some heavy words in these verses from Revelation. In verse 8 there is a list of behaviors and practices. Honestly, which of these are you guilty of? Does this mean that you will not be welcomed into the New Creation? How does this fit with Jesus' sacrifice for our sins?
3. If we are not merely saved from this world, but saved for the sake of this world, how does this change how we live as Christians in this world?
4. Describe what you think it might be like to actually be in God's presence, but cleansed of sin as it will be in the end and as it was in the beginning. Can you imagine it?

## CLOSING PRAYER ACTIVITY:

Invite someone to close the group in prayer.