

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE: THE NEW JERUSALEM

Revelation 21:9–22:5

1. CONNECT

Icebreaker Question

What is something that makes a place feel like “home” to you—and why?

2. READ

Read Revelation 21:9–22:5 aloud together.

Encourage one person to read the whole passage, or have several group members share the reading.

3. DISCUSS

A. The Bride and the City (21:9–11)

Scripture: Revelation 21:9–11

Summary:

John is invited to see “the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.” Instead of seeing a woman, he sees a holy city—shining with God’s glory, pure and radiant.

Questions:

Why do you think God would describe His people both as a *bride* and a *city*?

What does it mean that the city shines with the glory of God?

How does the idea of God’s people “radiating His glory” encourage you?

B. A City Made for God’s People (21:12–14)

Scripture: Revelation 21:12–14

Summary:

The twelve gates represent the twelve tribes of Israel. The twelve foundations bear the names of the apostles. Together they show the unity of all God’s people—Old Testament and New.

Questions:

What does this imagery teach us about God's one people across history?

How does this picture encourage unity in the church today?

Why is it important that both Israel and the apostles are honored in the New Jerusalem?

C. A Perfect, Holy Dwelling (21:15–21)

Scripture: Revelation 21:15–21

Summary:

The city is a perfect cube—like the Holy of Holies in the temple. It shines with gold and jewels, and even the gates are made of pearl.

Questions:

What is the importance of the city being the shape of the Holy of Holies?

Which part of this description stands out to you most—and why?

How does the beauty of this city strengthen your hope in eternity?

D. God's Presence Fills Everything (21:22–27)

Scripture: Revelation 21:22–27

Summary:

There is no temple because God Himself is the temple. There is no sun or moon because God's glory gives all the light. And nothing unclean can enter—only those written in the Lamb's book of life.

Questions:

What does it mean for God Himself to be the "temple"?

What does it feel like to imagine a life with no darkness, no fear, and no sin?

How does this passage motivate us to pursue holiness now?

E. Life Restored and Perfected (22:1–5)

Scripture: Revelation 22:1–5

Summary:

A river flows from the throne. The tree of life bears fruit every month. No curse remains. God's people see His face and reign with Him forever.

Questions:

How does this scene remind you of the Garden of Eden?

What does it mean that God's servants "will see His face"?

Which promise in this paragraph fills you with the most hope?

4. RESPOND

Going Deeper in Scripture

Choose one (or more) of these passages and discuss how it connects with Revelation 21–22.

- **Revelation 21:3** — God dwelling with His people
- **John 14:1–3** — Jesus prepares a place for us
- **Psalms 16:11** — Fullness of joy in God's presence
- **Genesis 2:8–10** — A garden watered by a river
- **1 Thessalonians 4:17** — "We will always be with the Lord"

Reflection Questions:

What does this passage teach you about God's heart for His people?

How do these promises reshape the way we face suffering, fear, or daily life?

What stands out most to you about God's desire to dwell with His people?

5. APPLY

Practical Takeaways for Everyday Life

Live in hope.

When life feels broken, remember that God is preparing a perfect home where all things are made new.

Pursue holiness.

The New Jerusalem is pure, radiant, and holy. Ask God to grow this same character in you now.

Seek community.

Heaven is a family gathering with God at the center. Make intentional steps toward deeper fellowship here on earth.

Stay focused on Jesus.

The city's light is the Lamb. Fix your heart on Him in worship, prayer, and Scripture.

Application Question:

What is one step you can take this week to draw nearer to God and to His people?

Closing Thought

Revelation gives us more than a picture of a beautiful city. It gives us a picture of a beautiful **home**—a place where God lives with His people forever. No more curse. No more night. Only the fullness of His presence and the joy of being with Him.

One day, we won't just read about this place.

We will see it.

We will walk in its light.

We will be home—with Him.