

INTRO

- Can you tell us about one of the happiest days of your life?

In this series, we want to understand the grand story the Bible is telling from beginning to end: God's Story.

READ

Revelation 21

REFLECT

In this chapter we see God bringing about the long-promised restoration of the entire creation. With evil defeated, His plan of having creation working as it should, and us in a right relationship with Him, can finally happen. Let's see what the Bible has to tell us about our future eternity.

Qu: What has been the most common picture in your mind when hearing the word "heaven"? Is it something you have always looked forward to? Why?

WHAT HEAVEN WILL BE LIKE (v. 1-2 & 9-14)

Although this book is full of symbols and metaphors, the Bible assures us that our eternity with God will be physical, that is, lived in real bodies, just like the resurrected Christ. The heaven waiting for us is both material and glorious. It is God's creation as it was meant to be.

Qu: Does a physical heaven strike you as odd? Knowing that we will have bodies, is there anything you look forward to?

WHAT WE'LL DO IN HEAVEN (v. 3-7 & 22-26)

The most striking thing about heaven is that God can finally dwell with man everywhere. There was no Temple in John's vision because the entire creation is His temple. Our lives will be

forever lived with and for Him. All we do will be worship.

Qu: How would you define worship? How does your answer shape the way you think about Heaven?

There are many passages in the Bible that tell us that we will have much to do in Heaven. There will be eating, working, ruling, and even judging the world and the angels! John saw gates that never closed in the holy city, implying that we will be coming and going places, doing the things God has entrusted us to do.

Qu: What would you like to do first in the perfect world that is to come? What would be a perfect job, a perfect meal or a perfect restful evening?

Qu: What do you think it'll be like to do those things in God's presence? How will those things bring glory to Him? Can we live like that today?

BUT... (v. 8 & 27)

John ends his vision with this warning: nothing evil or unclean will ever enter Heaven. But we see that those who enter are not the "good people" (who have a book full of their good deeds) but the "cleansed people" (who have their names in the Lamb's book of life). There is peace and assurance for those who trust God for their salvation.

Qu: How do we live in light of these prophecies? How do we wait for it faithfully?

Qu: What "heaven-pointers" can we set up in our lives to remind us of our true home?

RESPOND & PRAY

- In what way/s does this part of God's Story encourage and or challenge you?
- How will you apply this to your life?
- Pray for one another in light of the discussion.