

# Surprised by Eternity

## The New Jerusalem — Small Group Discussion Guide

### Revelation 21:9–22:5

#### Opening Prayer

Begin by asking God to open your imagination to the beauty of His eternal kingdom and to open your heart to His invitation through Jesus.

#### Icebreaker

If someone handed you a box of crayons and asked you to draw heaven—or the New Jerusalem—what would you draw? What colors would you choose? Why do those images come to mind?

#### Introduction

Revelation closes with one of the most breathtaking portraits in Scripture: the New Jerusalem descending from heaven. John paints with images and symbols more like a watercolor than an architectural blueprint. Tonight we explore four pictures John gives us of our eternal home.

#### 1. Picture the New Jerusalem as the Wedding of the Lamb

Read Revelation 21:9–14.

The New Jerusalem is both a people and a place—the redeemed people of God in perfect union with Christ.

#### Discussion:

- What details stand out to you?
- Why is the church described as a bride?
- What does it mean to live now as those preparing for that wedding?

#### 2. Picture the New Jerusalem as the City of Nations

Read Revelation 21:24–26 and 22:2.

The nations walk by God's light. Heaven is redeemed diversity united in worship before the Lamb.

Discussion:

- What do you notice about the nations entering the city?
- What does this reveal about God's heart for all peoples?
- How can our church reflect this vision today?

### 3. Picture the New Jerusalem as the Temple of God

Read Revelation 21:15–22 and 22:4.

There is no temple building because God Himself is present among His people. The entire city becomes the Holy of Holies.

Discussion:

- Why does John emphasize the measurements of the city?
- Why is seeing God's face the greatest promise of eternity?
- How do we experience God's presence now as we wait for that day?

### 4. Picture the New Jerusalem as the Garden of Life

Read Revelation 22:1–5.

The river of life flows through the city. The tree of life bears fruit. The curse is gone. Eden is restored and surpassed.

Discussion:

- What connections do you see to Genesis?
- What part of this picture gives you the most hope?
- How does this strengthen your faith today?

### The Final Invitation

Revelation 21:27 reminds us that only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life will enter the city.

Reflection:

- What part of the New Jerusalem most captures your imagination?
- Is your hope for eternity anchored in Jesus?
- Who is someone in your life who is not yet "in the picture"? Pray for them this week and ask God for courage to share Christ with them.

### Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for preparing an eternal home for Your people. Fill our hearts with longing

for Your presence. Give us courage to invite others to know You while there is still time. May we live now as citizens of Your coming kingdom. Amen.