



REVELATION 21:9-27

GETTING STARTED...

Have you ever felt out of place? Everyone at some point or another feels out of place, like they don't really belong. Whether it is a new group of people or a new country, lots of things can make us feel that way. As Christians this is a normal feeling for us, because we don't belong in this world. The Bible tells us that we are exiles, strangers, or foreigners in a land that isn't ours. But one day, we will have a home. When we come to Heaven, God is preparing a place for his people, a place where they can belong. And it is there, that God promises to dwell with his people. As John unfolds more of the picture of Heaven for us, we see a holy city come from Heaven where God will dwell with his people. This is our true home!

READ THE TEXT: REVELATION 21:9-27

⁹ Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb." ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, ¹¹ having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. ¹² It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— ¹³ on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. ¹⁴ And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

¹⁵ And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. ¹⁶ The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod,

12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal. ¹⁷ He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement. ¹⁸ The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. ¹⁹ The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, ²⁰ the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. ²¹ And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

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.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. There are a number of elements of a city that are mentioned in this passage, what are they? How does each element build a picture of the heavenly city for us?
2. What are the nations bringing into this city? How does this help shape our understanding of what heaven will be like?

REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been impressing on your heart from the sermon?

APPLYING THE POINT

5. How do we put this into practice?

Agassiz & Lake Errock Why do some people think Heaven will be boring? Is this belief taking its cue from Revelation or some other sources? Is your name written in the Lamb's book of life? How do you know?

Chilliwack Using your imagination and Revelation 21-22 as a guide, what aspects of the city of God do you get most excited

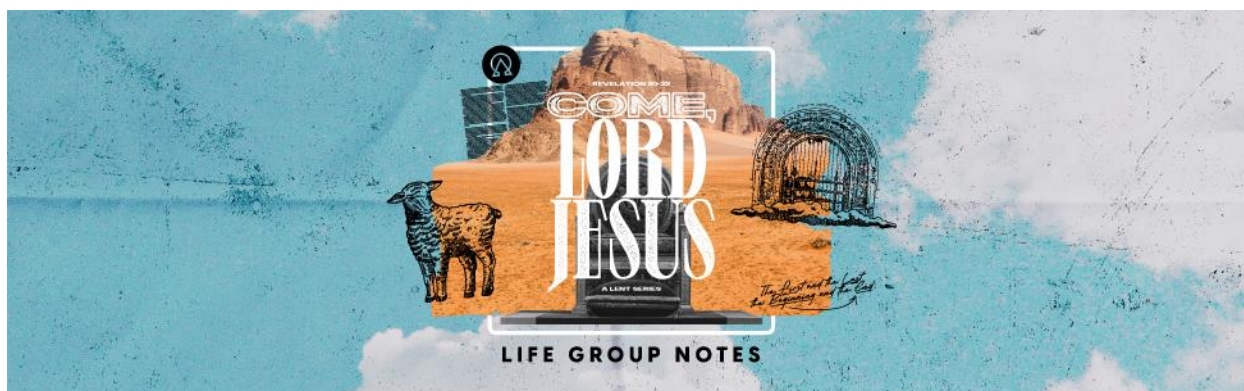
about? How does our understanding the future “glory of the nations” change how you see your life and work today? How can the church today be a better “city on a hill” and love our city for Jesus’ sake? What role can you play in that?

Harrison Why do you think John goes to such great lengths to describe the glories of heaven? How do these heavenly glories personally bring you encouragement and comfort in your trials, sickness, loneliness, etc?

Promontory How does the picture of the heavenly city show us the importance that God places on us as his people? What does living in this world as citizens of this heavenly city mean for our day to day lives?

PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer?
An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Central Life Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Life Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Life Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word, Reflecting on the Sermon, and Applying the Point.* We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

While the meaning of a text doesn't change, the way that we are called to apply it may look different from campus to campus, and even person to person. To reflect this distinction, you will see application questions from each campus in this guide. Start with the question(s) from your campus and then look at others to see if they are helpful for your group. You may be surprised how similar or different they end up being and how the diversity brings a fuller understanding to how we can apply the Word of God.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*“Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.” - Psalm 111:2*