

Subject: A Glimpse of Our Eternal Hope - Revelation 21:1-8 Recap

Resources: [[TEACHING LINK](#)] AND [DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCES LINK]

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope this message finds you purposing to please God. I wanted to take a moment to recap our recent study through Revelation 21:1-8, where we were given a remarkable glimpse into our eternal future with Christ.

Summary: The sermon explored the breathtaking vision John witnessed of our eternal home—a new heaven and new earth where God dwells with His people forever. We examined how Christ has made a way for believers to live eternally in His holy presence, free from sin, death, and sorrow. This passage reveals the stark contrast between the inheritance awaiting those who overcome through faith in Christ and the destiny of those who reject Him. The implications for our spiritual life are profound: we can live today with confident hope, knowing our faithful Savior has prepared an incorruptible home for us and will fulfill every promise He has made.

Takeaways:

1. Our Future Home is Secure: Jesus is preparing a literal, beautiful dwelling place—the New Jerusalem—where believers will live with God for eternity. This is not symbolic wishful thinking but the guaranteed inheritance for all who are adopted into God's family through faith in Christ.
2. Complete Restoration Awaits: The curse of Genesis 3 will be fully lifted. No more tears, death, mourning, crying, or pain. Our glorified bodies, transformed hearts, and perfect peace with God represent a restoration beyond our current comprehension—purchased at the infinite cost of Christ's own life.
3. The Choice is Made Now: Verse 8 reminds us that our eternal destination is determined on this side of heaven. It takes supernatural courage to stand for Christ against our flesh, Satan, and the world. We must examine ourselves: are we living with the bold confidence of those who belong to Christ, or are we among the cowardly who are ashamed of the Lord?

I encourage you to spend time this week meditating on the reality of these promises. Let the hope of eternity with Christ give you courage to stand firm in your faith today, regardless of what opposition you may face. If you have not yet placed your faith in Jesus as Lord, I urge you to do so while there is still time.

May the Lord strengthen your faith and fill you with the peace that comes from knowing you are His.

In Christ,

Pastor Jim

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A Peak at Heaven

Revelation 21:1-8

I. Introduction: Jesus, Our All-in-All

1. As we come into chapter 21, I pray our hearts are stirred with the everlasting hope of the Messiah. Here, John seems to be struggling to take it all in, much less describe it. What's clear is that we have come to the fulfillment of Jesus' promises to His heirs, the children of God, as we read in Ephesians 1:10:

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¹⁰ that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. - Ephesians 1:10

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II. Revelation 21:1-6: The Believers Home Revealed

1. First up, John is witness to our future home...a new heaven and earth. This was promised in **2 Peter 3:13** for the former had passed away (as we read in **Matthew 24:35**) in a fiery storm as noted in **2 Peter 3:10**.
 - A. Next, in v2 we read that a new Jerusalem comes down out of heaven...this Jerusalem is stunningly beautiful. Let's stop and consider a few things here:
 - i. First, to be new again does NOT mean that it is necessarily new in terms of existence. It certainly does mean that, having been cleansed of all unrighteousness, the new heaven and earth is no longer contaminated by sin.
 - ii. Second, the sea makes up some 70% of the surface of planet earth with its procurement and use being essential to life. Yet, in being made new, Jesus either makes other accommodations for water that life may

continue as before OR perhaps that in our glorified bodies we need little to no earthly water with Christ as our living water as described in v6.

- iii. Third, we read that the new Jerusalem is not created but is lowered. *That is, it existed before this moment.* While in no way definitive, this has led me to consider the abode of the saints during the millennial reign of Christ.

It could well be that these saints were resident here and this city was a staging base for the glorified saints to fulfill their duties while not living among the sons and daughters of Adam populating the earth during this time.

- iv. Fourth, we note that the city reminds John of a beautiful bride, pure and ready for her groom. *While some suggest John's description of the bride means the new Jerusalem is populated solely by the church (elsewhere referred to as the bride of Christ), this interpretive conclusion requires us to apply a more symbolic or figurative methodology and to move away from the natural, literal reading of the text. What's more, if the terminology of the "bride" points solely to the church, what are we to do with the numerous scriptures painting Israel as God's bride?* I think the straightforward takeaway is that we will be living in a beautiful custom home made by Jesus.

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In comparing this passage with [Revelation 11:8](#), (where we read, "And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified"), the stark difference between the old and new Jerusalem becomes apparent.

Some with a more symbolic or figurative interpretative approach suggest that the city is not a literal city but a representation of the saved entering the final state of

eternity with Christ. Since the text doesn't suggest a reason for shifting our interpretive methods, I suggest that just as the heavens, earth, and sea are literal, so is the new Jerusalem coming down as John witnesses here.

- B. The emphasis in v3 is on God's literal dwelling with man. In some sense this draws us back to God's shekinah glory dwelling with man in the OT tabernacle as a foreshadowing to what is unfolding in front of John.

Yet, this dwelling together is infinitely richer and more consequential for today's believer. Because of Jesus death and resurrection cleansing the believer of our sins and because of our glorified bodies, we are holy and able to remain in God's presence for all eternity as one family abiding in He and He in us.

- i. One passing note representing the unity of our complete restoration with God is found in **Zephaniah 3:8-9** where we learn all of His people will share the same language.

- C. V4 goes on to speak of the depth of transformation as not just the environment or the physical body, but in the seat of our existence...our heart, mind, and soul. The great curse, birthed in **Genesis 3:17-19**, that each of us has lived through is fully lifted at a beyond-imaginable cost...the very life of Christ Himself.

Ponder on that for just a moment. Becoming man, suffering great persecution, being made a curse for us (Gal 3:13), rejected by those who He loves, and the inconceivable agony of being separated from the Father...Imagine if you had to endure the penalty for your sins...

2. In verse 5 and 6, we move from a great voice speaking to the Lord Himself speaking. There are 4 main points in these verses:

- A. First, Christ's absolute and infinite power and authority as the initiator and sustainer of life.
- B. Second, Christ word is truth and is His bond. Simply put, He is faithful and trustworthy.
- C. Third, and I will leave this to explore on your own, these verses seemingly reflect that Christ is delivering His kingdom to the Father as we read in **1 Corinthians 15:24-28**. This does not indicate that Christ is done, but that mankind has entered the fulness of relationship with the triune Godhead.
- D. Fourth and finally, we are given the clear sense that Christ will fulfill our needs. From the tree of life to the water of life, in Him is where we find contentment. The great contrast is that instead of contentment, death is found outside of Christ. While this IS TRUE today as well, John is witnessing its eternal establishment for believing mankind.

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III. Revelation 21:7-8: It's Personal

1. As part of grasping the thrust of what Jesus is saying to John, consider **Romans 8:16-17** where Paul says:

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¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together. - Romans 8:16–17

2. Here in verses 7-8, there are three things I want to draw attention to for the believer:
 - A. First, we note that we are not simply present with Jesus, but that we are adopted into His family...we are heirs to the very promises we are witnessing being fulfilled in these verses.
 - B. Second, consider what it means to be an overcomer. In **John 16:33**, we are told we, in Christ, can be of “good cheer” for He has overcome the world. He has overcome the Genesis 3

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curse. In their eternal state, believing overcomers will have 24x7 Biblical peace...the perfect peace **with** God (Is 26:3) AND **of** God ruling in our hearts (Col 3:15) as we, with the entire family of believers, have arrived at that place of fully living in God's holy presence. The child of the living God is alive...fully and eternally separated from the power, penalty, and presence of sin.

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C. Finally, verse 8 again makes clear the contrasting destination in store for unbelievers. Unrepentant sinners of all types and stripes are also heirs, but heirs of destruction and death...heirs of everything that wars against the holiness of God Himself.

It's important to note that the distinction between the groups in verses 7 and 8 is NOT race, power, position, nationality, intelligence, and not even in sin. The distinction is in the receiving Christ as LORD...it is in repentance...that is, turning away from our flesh, Satan, and the world AND toward Jesus.

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IV. Closing: A Choice On This Side of Heaven

1. The future scene being presented in our passage today is straightforward and clear. Many Scriptures speak of the binary choice of either being for or against God. In our passage today the consequence of this choice is revealed...heaven (with Christ) OR hell (without Christ). That this choice is made on this side of heaven is the centerpiece of our closing today.
2. Consider the first item on the list in verse 8 (cowardly) along with 1 **John 2:28** as we close:

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And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

- 1 John 2:28

- A. The natural man, unlike the child of God, is cowardly - meaning he or she IS NOT confident in and IS ashamed of the LORD. I point us to this because:

- i. It takes courage to stand against our natural state of a depraved heart.
- ii. It takes courage to stand against the ruler of this world - Satan.
- iii. It takes courage to submit to the LORD when family, friends, work, and culture beckon AND demand loyalty.
- iv. It takes a courage NOT possible of ourselves, but a supernatural courage freely given and strengthened by the Spirit of God.

B. So, I invite you to examine yourself. Is your life marked by the supernatural courage it takes for you to receive Jesus as LORD of your life?

- i. If your answer is “yes”, right now give Him thanks and praise.
- ii. If your answer is “no” and you have confessed your faith to Christ, I encourage you to continually ask Him for this courage.
- iii. If your answer is “no” and you have NOT confessed your faith in Christ, I invite you to do so; [that His supernatural courage may be given to you so that your eternal destination will be heaven – the place where the hard struggles of this life are no more – the place where we may enjoy the very presence of Christ and the riches of the eternal life He promises.](#)

{Prayer}

Revelation 21:1-8

Discussion Prompts

Don't be shy or embarrassed, this is a safe place to talk, learn, and grow. All of us should walk with an attitude of grace and Godly love in encouraging one another to contribute to our shared growth in the Lord.

For more discussion questions helping your faith to grow, please download the sermon documents typically posted the day after each sermon on the watch tab of our App or website.

1. Spend some time sharing your thoughts and expectations about heaven. What will be your relationship with others (e.g., Jesus, friends, family, historical figures, etc)? What kinds of “jobs” or activities do you think will be part of our eternal home? What do you think the colors, smells, and landscapes will be like?
2. Working together, in plain English that may be grasped by an unbelieving (but open) person, present a compelling portrait of what it means to be an overcomer on this side of heaven.
3. Come up with a list of at least 20 items of what it means to be an heir of Jesus.

Revelation 21:1-8

A Peak at Heaven

I. Introduction: Jesus, Our All-in-All

- Stirring our hearts with the hope that is Jesus

Additional Scripture References: Eph 1:10

II. Revelation 21:1-6: The Believers Home Revealed

- The promise of a new, eternal home made good.
- Dwelling with God.

Additional Scripture References: 2 Pe 3:13; Mt 24:25; 2 Peter 3:10; Re 11:8; Zeph 3:8-9; Ge 3:17-19; Gal 3:13; 1 Co 15:24-28

III. Revelation 21:7-8: it's Personal

- Heirs...together for all eternity.
- Finally freed from the power, penalty, and presence of sin.

Additional Scripture References: Ro 8:16-17; John 16:33; Is 26:3; Col 3:15

IV. Closing: A Choice on This Side of Heaven

- The difference between the spiritual and natural man is as far as heaven is from hell.
- In the clear light of our own depraved hearts, the pressure of the world, and the work of the enemy, may God give each of us the courage to stand as spiritual man or woman of God.

Additional Scripture References: 1 Jn 2:28

5-Day Devotional Revelation 21:1-8 A Peak at Heaven

Day 1: All Things Made New

Reading: Rev 21:1-5, 2 Pet 3:10-13

Devotional: God's promise is not merely to repair what is broken but to make all things new. The earth we know, scarred by sin and suffering, will pass away, and a new creation will emerge—cleansed, pure, and holy. This isn't renovation; it's complete transformation. Just as God will renew creation, He is renewing you. The same power that will recreate the heavens and earth is at work in your heart today, purging sin and making you new in Christ.

When life feels contaminated by past mistakes or present struggles, remember: God specializes in new beginnings. He doesn't patch up—He makes new. What areas of your life need His transforming touch today?

Day 2: God Dwelling With His People

Reading: Re 21:3-4, Zep 3:8-9, Jn 14:1-3

Devotional: The greatest promise of eternity isn't streets of gold or mansions—it's God Himself dwelling among us. No more separation, no more distance, no more barriers between Creator and creation. The tears, death, mourning, and pain that mark our earthly existence will be completely erased. God doesn't just remove our suffering; He replaces it with His presence. This is what we were created for—unbroken fellowship with our Father.

Even now, through the Holy Spirit, God dwells within believers, but that day is coming when we'll experience His presence fully and perfectly. Let this hope anchor your soul today. Whatever sorrow you carry, it has an expiration date. God is preparing a home where pain cannot enter.

Day 3: The Alpha and Omega Speaks

Reading: Re 21:5-6, Is 55:1-3, Jn 7:37-39

Devotional: "It is done." With these words, Jesus declares the completion of His redemptive work. He who began creation will bring it to perfect fulfillment. As the Alpha and Omega, Christ is both the source and sustainer of all life. He offers living water freely to all who thirst—not physical water, but spiritual satisfaction that eternally quenches our deepest longings. *Are you thirsty today? Weary from trying to find fulfillment in temporary things?* Jesus invites you to drink deeply of Him. His promises are faithful and true; His word is His bond. Whatever need you face—spiritual, emotional, or relational—contentment is found in Him alone. Come without price, without performance, without pretense. Simply come and drink.

Day 4: Overcomers and Heirs

Reading: Re 21:7, Ro 8:16-17, 1 Jn 5:4-5

Devotional: You are not merely a servant or subject—you are an heir. Through Christ, you inherit everything necessary for abundant, eternal life. But what does it mean to "overcome"? It means trusting that Jesus has already won the victory over sin, death, and Satan. Your overcoming isn't achieved through willpower but through faith in His finished work.

When you feel defeated by temptation, remember: Christ has overcome the world, and His victory is yours. When anxiety threatens your peace, recall: you are a child of the living God with an eternal inheritance. The peace you long for isn't found in perfect circumstances but in your identity as God's beloved child. Walk today as the overcomer you are in Christ.

Day 5: The Courage to Choose

Reading: Re 21:8, Mt 10:32-33, 1 Jn 2:28

Devotional: The cowardly head the list of those outside God's kingdom—not because fear is unforgivable, but because cowardice keeps people from confessing Christ. It takes supernatural courage to stand against our sinful nature, to resist Satan's schemes, and to follow Jesus when the world demands compromise. This courage isn't self-generated; it's Spirit-given.

Today, examine your life honestly: Are you marked by courage to live for Christ, or by fear of what others think? If you've never surrendered to Jesus as Lord, today is your day of courage. If you're already His child but living timidly, ask Him for boldness. The same Spirit who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, empowering you to live confidently and unashamed. Choose courage today.

Small Group Study Guide

Revelation 21:1-8

A Peak at Heaven

Opening Prayer: Begin your time together asking God to open hearts and minds to the eternal hope found in Christ and the courage to live faithfully in light of eternity.

Opening Question: What comes to mind when you think about heaven? How has your understanding of heaven changed over the years?

Sermon Recap:

Key points to recap from our study through Revelation 21:1-8:

- John witnesses a new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem
- God will dwell eternally with His people
- All suffering, death, and curse will be removed
- Believers are heirs and overcomers through Christ
- A clear distinction exists between those who receive Christ and those who reject Him

Discussion Questions: Did the Holy Spirit prompt any questions with you? Start with those.

1. What strikes you most about John's description of the new heaven and new earth? Why do you think God chose to make all things new rather than simply repair what exists?
2. How does understanding that sin will be completely removed from creation impact your view of heaven?
3. Read verse 3 together. What does it mean that "God Himself will be with them"? How is this different from God's presence with believers today?
4. The sermon mentioned this echoes God's presence in the Old Testament tabernacle. How does seeing heaven as the ultimate fulfillment of God dwelling with His people deepen your appreciation for this promise?
5. Verse 4 promises the end of crying, death, mourning, and pain. What aspect of the curse (Genesis 3:17-19) are you most looking forward to being lifted?
6. How does this promise bring comfort to struggles you or others in the group are currently facing?

7. In verses 5-6, Jesus emphasizes that His words are "faithful and true." Why is this significant when discussing future promises?
8. Jesus says "It is done" - connecting to His words on the cross. What does this tell us about the certainty of these promises?
9. Read Romans 8:16-17 together. What does it mean to you personally that you are an heir of God and co-heir with Christ?
10. The sermon defines overcomers as those who are "in Christ." How does this differ from the world's definition of overcoming?
11. Verse 8 lists those who will face the second death. Why do you think "cowardly" is listed first?
12. How does understanding the eternal consequences for unbelievers affect your urgency in sharing the gospel?
13. The sermon emphasized that it takes supernatural courage to stand for Christ. In what areas of your life do you need more courage right now?
 - a. Against your own flesh/sinful nature?
 - b. Against cultural pressures?
 - c. With family or friends?
 - d. In your workplace?

Key Takeaways:

1. **Heaven is a literal, physical place** where God will dwell eternally with His people in perfect relationship.
2. **All suffering ends** - The curse of Genesis 3 is fully and finally lifted through Christ's sacrifice.
3. **We are heirs, not just guests** - Believers inherit the promises of God as adopted children.
4. **The choice is binary** - There are only two destinations: eternal life with Christ or eternal separation from Him.
5. **Courage is supernatural** - Living faithfully for Christ requires God-given courage that stands against our flesh, Satan, and the world.

Practical Applications: Query the group for applications first...you may explore one or more of those.

1. Eternal Perspective Exercise

Each day this week, when facing a difficulty, pause and remind yourself: "This is temporary. What awaits me is eternal glory without this pain."

Journal about how this perspective shifts your response to trials.

2. Examine Your Courage

Honestly assess: Are you living with supernatural courage or spiritual cowardice?

Identify one specific area where you've been ashamed or afraid to stand for Christ.

Pray daily for God's courage in that specific situation.

Take one courageous step this week (share your faith, stand for truth, resist temptation, etc.).

3. Share the Hope

Think of one person in your life who doesn't know Christ.

Pray for them daily this week.

Look for an opportunity to share about the hope of eternity with them.

4. Gratitude Practice

Make a list of aspects of the curse (pain, death, conflict, etc.) that you currently experience.

Next to each, write a corresponding promise from Revelation 21:1-8.

Thank God daily that these promises are certain because Jesus is faithful and true.

5. Study Deeper

Read the following passages that connect to this sermon:

- 2 Peter 3:10-13
- Isaiah 26:3
- Colossians 3:15
- 1 Corinthians 15:24-28

Note what additional insights you gain about eternity.

Closing Prayer Points:

- Thank God for the certain hope of the new heaven and new earth
- Ask for supernatural courage to live boldly for Christ
- Pray for those in your life who don't yet know Jesus
- Commit to living with an eternal perspective this week

Discussion Questions

Revelation 21:1-8

A Peak at Heaven

4. How does the description of the new Jerusalem as a 'beautiful bride' challenge or deepen your understanding of God's relationship with both the Church and Israel?
5. What does it mean for you personally that God will dwell with humanity in such an intimate way that there will be no more tears, death, or pain?
6. In what ways does the removal of the sea in the new creation speak to God's complete provision and transformation of our glorified existence?
7. How does understanding yourself as an heir to God's promises change the way you approach daily struggles and suffering in this present life?
8. What specific areas of your life require the supernatural courage described in the sermon to stand against your flesh, Satan, and worldly pressures?
9. How does the contrast between overcomers in verse 7 and the cowardly in verse 8 challenge you to examine whether you are truly confident in Christ or ashamed of Him?
10. What does it mean practically to find contentment in Christ as the water of life and tree of life rather than seeking fulfillment in temporary things?
11. How should the reality that Christ endured separation from the Father and became a curse for us shape our gratitude and worship?
12. In what ways can believers today experience a foretaste of the perfect peace and complete restoration that will be fully realized in eternity?
13. How does the binary choice between being for or against God confront the cultural tendency to seek middle ground or compromise in matters of faith?

Dinner Conversation Starters

Revelation 21:1-8

A Peak at Heaven

1. No More Tears No More Curse

“In heaven, God will ‘wipe away every tear’ and remove the curse of sin.”
What part of this promise feels most meaningful or comforting to you personally, and why?

2. Supernatural Courage

“We are overcomers in Christ, with a courage that doesn’t come from ourselves.”
Where do you think you most need God’s courage in your life right now (at school, work, friendships, temptations, etc.)?

3. Living with God Face To Face

“The new Jerusalem is a real, beautiful place where God lives with His people like family.” If you imagine living with God face-to-face forever, what do you think would be different about how you live and think compared to now?

4. Choosing Christ as Lord

“Our eternal destiny—life with Christ or separation from Him—is decided in this life.” How would you explain to a friend what it means to choose Christ as Lord and not just ‘believe in God’ in a general way?

5. Fully Satisfied in Jesus

“In eternity our deepest needs will be fully satisfied in Jesus, the ‘water of life.’”
What are some things we look to right now for satisfaction (comfort, approval, success, entertainment)? How could we more practically look to Christ instead this week?

Family Conversation Guide for Children & Early Teens

Revelation 21:1-8

A Peak at Heaven

AGES 5-7: SIMPLIFYING THE MESSAGE APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Jesus is Making a Perfect Home for Us**: Help them see heaven as a real place with Jesus, where there is no more sadness, meanness, or hurting.

Discussion Questions: When you think about living with Jesus forever in His perfect home, what do you like to imagine?

At school or on the playground, when someone is mean or things feel unfair, how does knowing that one day Jesus will fix everything and wipe away all tears make you feel?

How can we remember heaven when we feel sad or scared (prayers, songs, Bible verses)?

2. **Being Brave for Jesus Around Friends**: Connect “overcoming” and “courage” to simple, everyday choices—telling the truth, being kind, and not being ashamed to belong to Jesus.

Discussion Questions: Has there ever been a time when friends wanted you to do something you knew was wrong (laugh at someone, tell a lie, be mean)? What did you do?

If other kids make fun of someone who loves Jesus, what is one brave thing you could say or do to show you are not ashamed of Jesus?

When you feel scared to do the right thing, what is a short prayer you can say to ask Jesus for courage?

3. **Using Screens in a Way That Makes Jesus Smile**: Teach that Jesus sees what they watch and play, and He wants what is good, kind, and pure.

Discussion Questions: When you watch a show or play a game, how can you tell if it’s something that makes Jesus happy?

What do you think Jesus would say if He sat right next to you while you’re watching your favorite show or playing a game?

If a video or game shows people being really rude, violent, or disobedient, what is a brave choice you can make (turn it off, tell Mom/Dad, choose something else)?

AGES 8-12: BUILDING UNDERSTANDING APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Remembering Our Real Home Even When Friends Matter a Lot:** Help them balance wanting to find community here with remembering their true citizenship is in God's new creation with Him.

Discussion Questions: When you think of heaven—a real place where God lives with us—how does that change what feels “most important” to you right now (friends, sports, grades, looks)?

Have you ever felt pressure from a friend group to act in a way that doesn't fit someone who belongs to Jesus (bullying, gossip, bad language)? What happened?

If you remembered, “I am an heir of God and my forever home is with Him,” how might it change the way you react when you feel left out or rejected?

2. **Being an Overcomer:** Translate “overcoming” into specific social struggles: peer pressure, gossip, and fear of not being liked.

Discussion Questions: At school or in your activities, what is one situation where it feels hardest to be bold for Jesus (standing up for someone, not laughing at dirty jokes, not cheating)?

The sermon said it takes supernatural courage to follow Jesus. What is one practical way you can ask Jesus for that courage before school or a hangout?

If your friends are all doing something you know is wrong, what is (A) a “cowardly” response and (B) a courageous response as a follower of Jesus?

3. **Honoring God Online:** Teach that digital life is real life before God; your online choices show whether you're living as God's child or following the world.

Discussion Questions: In your online games or group chats, what kind of messages or language do you see most often? Which of those fit someone who will live with Jesus forever—and which don't?

What should you do if someone sends a mean message, inappropriate picture, or link to something you know is wrong (ignore? join in? tell a parent? speak up kindly)?

If Jesus read all your chats and heard all your in-game voice chats, would He see an “overcomer” or someone going along with the crowd? What could change?

AGES 11-15: DEEPENING THE CONNECTION APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Living Like an Heir of God in Public**: Frame identity in Christ and the reality of the new creation as more weighty than acceptance, status, or “image.”

Discussion Questions: The sermon said believers are “heirs” with God—part of His family and His future city. How does this identity challenge the way you think about popularity, reputation, or being “noticed”?

When have you felt torn between what your social group wanted and what you knew Christ wanted? What did you choose, and how did it feel afterward?

How might remembering your eternal home with God change the way you handle breakups, drama, or social rejection?

2. **Supernatural Courage in Relationships**: Apply “overcoming” and “cowardice vs courage” to dating, sexual pressure, dishonesty, and moral compromise.

Discussion Questions: What situations with friends or relationships make it hardest to follow Jesus with courage (cheating on tests, lying for a friend, sexual jokes, sending inappropriate photos, parties)?

Revelation 21:8 mentions “cowardly” people who are ashamed of God. In your world, what might spiritual cowardice look like? What would spiritual courage look like instead?

How can you practically invite the Holy Spirit to strengthen you before you walk into known temptations (prayer plans, accountability, what you’ll say “no” to ahead of time)?

3. **Following Jesu Online**: Connect eternal realities (heaven/hell, overcomers vs unbelief) to what they watch, post, like, and share.

Discussion Questions: Think about your social media or online presence (posts, likes, comments, stories, DMs). If someone only knew you from that, what would they think you value most?

Have you ever been tempted to join in on online bullying, canceling someone, sharing gossip, or liking/sharing content that doesn’t honor God? What pulled you in?

If you remembered that you will live forever with Christ, how would that affect:

- What you do when someone sends or asks for inappropriate photos?
- How you respond when people attack Christians or biblical values online?
- What you’re willing to joke about or laugh at in group chats?

4. **Making a Choice This Side of Heaven**: Emphasize that eternity is real, and the difference between being an “overcomer” and facing judgment is repentance and receiving Christ as Lord—now.

Discussion Questions: If a friend said, “I believe in God, but I don’t want Him telling me how to live,” how would you explain the difference between that and making Jesus truly Lord?

Where do you see the biggest gap between what you say you believe and how you actually live—in friendships, dating, online, or private habits?

If you had to choose one area of your digital or social life to fully surrender to Christ this week, what would it be? What is one concrete step you can take?

Tips for Parents

- Be patient and listen: Give your child time to think and respond.
- Relate to everyday life: Use real-life examples and stories familiar to your child to make abstract concepts more tangible.
- Encourage questions: Let your son or daughter know it’s okay to ask questions, even if things don’t make sense right away.
- Share personal insights: Tell a personal story about a time you experienced these themes, adapting as needed for age appropriateness.

Family Conversation Guide for Gen Z

Revelation 21:1-8

A Peak at Heaven

1. Courage to Stand Out in Groups

Biblical Application: John 16:33 – “In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” Jesus has already overcome the world and the curse of sin. As “overcomers” in Him, we are called to a supernatural courage that does not come from our own personality or confidence, but from Christ in us.

Scenario: You’re in a group chat or hanging out with friends, and the conversation turns to mocking a classmate, teacher, or coworker. Everyone is adding jokes, memes, and comments. You know it’s wrong, but you also know that if you don’t join in, you might get teased or frozen out.

Discussion Question: What does it look like to be an “overcomer” in that moment—practically, what could you say or do that shows courage in Christ rather than going along with the crowd?

2. Remembering Your True Home When You Feel Left Out

Biblical Application: Revelation 21:3–4 – “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them... And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying...” Heaven is a real, renewed creation where God lives with His people as family. Knowing this is our future home helps us handle rejection, pain, and loneliness now with a different perspective.

Scenario: You see friends posting about a party or event you weren’t invited to. Your feed is full of pictures, stories, and inside jokes. You feel invisible, unwanted, and tempted to believe your worth is based on likes, invites, and tags.

Discussion Question: How does knowing that your eternal home is with God, where you are fully loved and never left out, change the way you respond to being excluded or overlooked in your social world?

3. Choosing Christ as Lord Not Just Believing in God

Biblical Application: Romans 8:16–17 – “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ...” Believers are not just religious people; they are adopted children and heirs with Christ. The difference between those in verse 7 (overcomers) and verse 8 (those facing judgment) is not background or intelligence, but whether they have truly received Christ as Lord through repentance.

Scenario: Your friend says, “I mean, I believe in God, but I don’t think He should tell me what to do with my body, my sexuality, or my money. That’s my choice.” They assume “believing in God” is enough for heaven.

Discussion Question: How would you explain the difference between casually believing in God and actually receiving Jesus as Lord—especially when it comes to real-life decisions about sex, identity, and lifestyle?

These points aim to encourage Gen Z teens and young adults to stand for Christ in all areas of their lives with Biblical principles applied to their everyday life.