



A New Heaven and Earth

WEEK 5

Look Back (10 minutes)

- Which of the practices of the early church (Bible study, hospitality/fellowship; worship/prayer; generosity) resonate with you?
- What ways have you thought about incorporating these into your life and the life of our church?

Read Aloud

Passage for this week: **Revelation 21:1-8**.

Head (15–20 minutes)

OBSERVE THE TEXT AND THE AUTHOR'S MAIN POINTS

- What did John see in verses 1-2?
- Where is God's dwelling place now (verse 3)?
- In verse 4 what are the results of being in the presence of God?
- How does God describe Himself in verses 6-7?

Heart (15–20 minutes)

ENVISION HOW THE TEXT—WHEN APPLIED—MIGHT TRANSFORM YOUR INNER LIFE IN TERMS OF YOUR THOUGHTS, ATTITUDES, AND BEHAVIORS

- What have you heard or read about “end times” and heaven? How does this passage act as a corrective to some of those views?
- This passage shows that God has a plan for renewal and restoration. How does beginning with the end in mind impact the way we/you live in the present?
- Talk to God about where you need Him to make all things new in your life.

Hands (10 minutes)

APPLY THE TEXT BY MOVING FROM INWARD REFLECTION TO OUTWARD ACTION
LOOKING FOR WAYS TO LIVE THE TEXT OUT IN OUR LIVES TO SERVE OTHERS

Reaching Upwards: Growing in Your Relationship with God

- Since this is not all there is and nothing can ultimately satisfy us on earth, what will you do to nurture a deeper relationship with God?
- Ask the Holy Spirit to show you where you need living water in your life, and then pray for it. If you are comfortable, discuss this with your small group.
- Memorize verse 4, and meditate on these promises.

Reaching Outward: Investing in Your Neighbors

- Consider how verse 8 is a motivation to reach out to your neighbors. Talk about specific actions you will take.
- An FPC neighbor in Third Ward has an educational ministry for children, youth, and their families. Learn more about them for prayer and volunteer opportunities by joining the Local Mission Field Trip to Generation One on February 8 from 12 - 1:30. Contact Madie Weir, Missions Coordinator at mweir@fpchouston.org for more information.

Reaching Beyond

- Use information from a newspaper or other source of current events to pray for God to make these things new (verse 5). If particular needs call out to you, investigate how you can be involved in making all things new in that area.
- Get to know FPC's mission partners because they seek to implement an incarnational view of the future, meaning, bring heaven to earth by doing the things that are part of the new creation. For upcoming outreach opportunities to serve at FPC, go to <https://fpchouston.org/serve/ways-to-serve/upcoming-opportunities>.