

WARM-UP

- What is the most special celebration you remember? Describe how it looked and felt like.
- Have you ever replaced something old or broken with a completely new item? What differences did you notice as you used the new one?
- Have you ever forgiven someone for something terrible they've done? How did you come to the point of forgiveness?

WORD

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God."

REVELATION 21:1-3

(Read also **REVELATION 21:4-7**.)

Jesus Christ died to take our sins away and restore us to holiness. Because He lived a sinless life, He defeated death itself. While we will all pass away, along with the first heaven and the first earth, it is not a final end. There will be *a new heaven* and *a new earth* where God will dwell with us believers, and we will be His holy people. Finally, God's plan to reconcile us to Him will be completed. What will completed holiness look like?

1 | God will totally renew creation.

1Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. . . . 4“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” 5And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” **REVELATION 21:1, 4-5**

When Jesus returns, God will be making a new heaven and a new earth, where there will be no more death, mourning, pain, or reason to cry. In this new creation, there will be no more trace of sin and its consequences. Everything will be made new. What do you imagine a renewed creation would be like?

2 | God will make us completely holy.

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **REVELATION 21:2**

Our great and future hope is to be made right with God and live as His people forever. God’s great delight has always been to restore us to holiness and to be with us as our God. He did not abandon us. With love, He set a plan in motion to bring us back to Himself in a joyful union. Knowing this, how would you describe who God is?

3 | God will dwell with His people forever.

³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

REVELATION 21:3-4

Our separation from God began when the first created man and woman sinned. Humanity then lost the holy state we were created with. However, God set out to restore humanity in holiness. Being holy in Christ means we have access to God, are fully reconciled to Him, and are saved from the eternal consequences of sin. Consider the history of humanity. How would this future hope affect how you see your present life and how you live?

APPLICATION

- It is only through Jesus Christ that we can be holy and restored to God. Would you like to receive Him in your life today?
- In the new heaven and the new earth, every tear will be wiped away. What is one thing that realization might change about how you live today?
- Those who will experience the new heaven and the new earth are those who accept God's plan to restore humanity. How can you share this plan with your family members and friends this week?

