
AND LET THEM **MAKE** ME
A SANCTUARY, THAT I MAY
DWELL IN THEIR MIDST.
Exodus 25:8
MAKE WAY
MAKE WAY *IN US*
MAKE WAY *THROUGH US*

God's Presence Makes All Things New | Rev. 21:1-5

ICEBREAKER

What is something old or worn out that you wish you could make completely new again?

OR

If you could experience one moment from your life again, but without any of the pain, disappointment, or difficulties surrounding it, what would you choose?

SMALL GROUP WEEK 7 VIDEO (6:08)

Scan QR code below or on your HOST RESOURCES Card to watch this week's video. Before beginning the rest of your discussion, take time as a group to respond to the question in the video.

INTRODUCTION

Throughout Scripture, we see God's unwavering desire to dwell with His people. From seeking Adam and Eve in the garden to coming near through Jesus, God has continually taken the initiative to restore our relationship with Him. Revelation 21 reveals the incredible fulfillment of that promise: a new heaven and new earth where God's people will dwell with Him forever, free from sin, suffering, and death. As we conclude *Make Way*, we're reminded that God's ultimate purpose isn't simply to

improve our circumstances but to restore all things through Jesus. His promise of a new creation gives us hope for eternity and a reason to live differently today.

What stood out to you most from this week's message?

INTO THE WORD

Read Genesis 3:8–9, John 1:14, and Revelation 21:1–3.
What do these passages reveal about the kind of relationship God desires with us? How does the promise of dwelling with God forever deepen our understanding of what Jesus came to accomplish?

> **Host Guidance:**
> From the garden to the new creation, Scripture reveals God's unwavering desire to dwell with His people. But His purpose extends beyond simply being near us. Through Jesus, God restores what sin has broken, reconciles us to Himself, and invites us into a transformed life that reflects His character and glory. Revelation points toward the fulfillment of His greater plan, when sin and its consequences will be removed and all creation will be made new. God's presence isn't simply meant to comfort us; it transforms us and allows us to participate in His greater purposes. As a group, discuss how understanding God's greater purpose for His presence should influence the way we live and the way we help others experience the hope of Jesus.

Read Revelation 21:1–3, Ezekiel 36:26–27, and 2 Corinthians 5:17.
How does understanding that God's greatest desire is to remove what separates us from Him, rather than simply bless us or improve our circumstances, change the way we view His promises? What does the promise that God's dwelling place will be with His people reveal about the personal relationship He desires with each of us?

> **Host Guidance:**
> God's greatest gift isn't simply the blessings He provides, but the restored relationship with Him made possible through Jesus. Through faith in Christ, we receive new life, a new identity, and the Holy Spirit, who begins transforming us from within. Revelation points toward the fulfillment of God's greater plan, when sin and everything that separates us from Him will be removed forever. God's promise to make all things new isn't merely about creating better circumstances but about restoring us to an unhindered relationship with Him.

Take time as a group to share ways you've already experienced God making something new in your life through your relationship with Jesus.

Read Revelation 21:4, Romans 8:18–25, and 2 Corinthians 4:16–18.
What do these passages teach us about the relationship between our present suffering and the future God has promised? How can the promise that God will one day remove every source of sorrow change the way we walk through pain, disappointment, or uncertainty today?

Host Guidance:
God doesn't promise that following Jesus will eliminate suffering in this life. We still experience consequences of our sin, loss, broken relationships, disappointment, and the effects of living in a fallen world. But Revelation assures us that suffering will not have the final word. God promises a future where death, grief, and pain are completely removed. This hope doesn't minimize what we're experiencing today; it gives us confidence that our present circumstances are not the end of the story. Because of Jesus, we can grieve honestly while holding firmly to God's promise of complete restoration.

Read Revelation 21:5, Isaiah 43:18–19, and Philippians 1:6.
How do these passages reveal God's faithfulness and strengthen our confidence in His promises? In Revelation 21:5, God says, "Behold," calling us to pay attention to what He is doing. How can intentionally shifting our focus toward God's promises provide hope when we're discouraged by our present circumstances?

Host Guidance:
The God who promises to make all things new is the same God who has been faithfully working throughout history. His promises rest on His character and power, not our ability to change ourselves or control our circumstances. When God says, "Behold," He invites us to look beyond what we can presently see and remember what He has promised. Although the complete renewal described in Revelation awaits Christ's return, God is already at work transforming those who belong to Him. Even when progress seems slow or circumstances remain difficult, we can trust that He will faithfully complete what He has begun. As a group, discuss what it looks like to trust God's ongoing work even when we cannot yet see the results.

Read Revelation 21:3–5, Colossians 3:1–4, and 2 Peter 3:11–13.

How should the promise of eternity in God's presence shape the priorities and decisions we make today? What would it look like to live with greater awareness of God's presence and eternal purposes in your everyday relationships, responsibilities, and opportunities?

Host Guidance:
The promise of eternity in God's presence should transform how we live today. As followers of Jesus, we're called to live not for ourselves, possessions, or status, but to be disciples who make disciples. This means allowing God to continually transform our own lives while intentionally investing in others so they, too, can grow in their relationship with Him. Our priorities, relationships, and resources become opportunities to reflect His character and help others experience the hope of Jesus. As a group, discuss practical ways God can work in you and through you to help even more people find hope in Jesus!

EMBRACE AND EMBODY

Throughout *Make Way*, we've been reminded that God's greatest desire is to dwell with His people. He seeks us when we hide, invites us to make room for His presence, calls us to surrender our plans, and ultimately comes near through Jesus. Revelation reminds us that His work doesn't end with restoring our relationship with Him today. He promises a future where everything broken by sin will be made new and His people will enjoy His presence forever. Until that day, we're invited to live with confidence in His promises, allowing the hope of what He will accomplish to shape how we follow Him now.

Create space for the group to reflect on and share the following:
As you reflect on this series, how has God challenged or changed your understanding of His presence and what that means for your life?

What is an area that you need or desire for God to make new in your life today?

PRAYER PROMPT

Invite group members to spend a few moments quietly reflecting on the previous questions. Then pray together, thanking God for His relentless pursuit of a relationship with us and the hope of a new creation through Jesus. Pray for those experiencing grief, uncertainty, or brokenness, asking God to strengthen them with the promise that suffering will not have the final word. Ask Him to continue transforming each

person's heart and priorities, and help every person to be faithful in making way for more people to experience the hope of Jesus.

Take Your Next Right Step - Worship God

Create a quiet space in your schedule to spend time in prayer, listening, reading Revelation 21:1-5, and then in reflection. Then, make a list of ways you have or still are experiencing pain, loss, heartbreak, separation, or brokenness. After, as an act of faith, surrender, and trust, write "GONE" next to each thing on the list. Finish your time by praising Him for who He is, what He has done, and that He is going to make all things new!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Encourage your group to attend Celebration Sunday on December 6 at your campus!
- Make sure to post a photo of your group and post it in your campus Facebook group for one more chance to win a pizza party!

Don't forget to take attendance for your group!