



REVELATION

GROUP GUIDE: WEEK 5

CONVERSATION STARTER

What is the number one item on your bucket list?

THE NEW CREATION

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

From the first pages to the last, we read a story about a God who loves to create. A God who designed a world where humans could flourish and thrive and bring out the potential of the earth in countless ways. But the story quickly took a turn. Humans decided they knew better than God. The majority of the Biblical story is about what happens to the earth when humans decide to do whatever is right in their own eyes. The story is also about the lengths God will go to in order to make things right once more.

One day, God promises, there will be a New Creation; heaven and earth will be reunited in the form of a new garden city, representing all the best of human creativity and ingenuity. In this place, God will dwell with us. He will wipe away every tear from our eyes, and death shall be no more. No more mourning. No more tears. No pain. No fear. No anxiety. For the former things have passed away. The New Creation has come. For forever more, it will be *on earth as it is in heaven*.

For now, we live in the tension. We occupy the space between the now and not yet. The Kingdom has come, but not fully. There is still death. Still mourning. Still pain. But Jesus whispers to us, *hold tight, stand firm. I am coming soon!*

As followers of Jesus, we eagerly wait for the New Creation. But we do not sit idly by. Each week we pray the Lord's Prayer, "May your Kingdom come *on earth as it is in heaven*." These words are a reminder that our mission is to bring more of God's

Kingdom into the world today. Our lives are little pockets where heaven is breaking into the world, where others experience God's love and life-giving presence. In our homes, our workplaces, our circles, our cities, our rally cry becomes *on earth as it is in heaven*.

May we live in such a way that those around us get a taste of heaven. May Dallas, and all other cities we occupy, become more like the Garden City. And may we echo the words of the Spirit and the Bride, united as they were always supposed to be, as we ache for Jesus to invade this world with his love and mercy and might.

We shout, "Come, Lord Jesus!" and hear his response in our very bones, "Surely I am coming soon."

Amen. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with us all.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What stuck out to you about the reading from this week or last? Was there a verse or idea that was particularly meaningful or challenging for you?
2. What do you think it will be like in the new city at the end of the age? What do you hope it looks like or feels like? What aspect of the New Creation do you most look forward to?
3. *On earth as it is in heaven*. How can we be part of making our city look more like heaven even now before the New Creation comes?
4. Revelation is the culmination of many different threads that have been woven from the first pages of the Bible in Genesis; themes like the [Water of Life](#), [Tree of Life](#), [The City](#), and the [Temple](#). As a group, pick one of these themes that sounds intriguing or interesting to you. Watch the linked video from the Bible Project and discuss together how you see this theme finding fulfillment in Revelation, and what it means for us today.
5. What themes, images, or ideas are you taking with you as we finish our study of Revelation? What has God been revealing to you through this book?

WEEKLY PRACTICE

As we close out this magnificent work, spend a few moments in prayer before God. If you're with a group or your family, we encourage you to pray this prayer out loud together as a communal liturgy. Feel free to add to it as the Spirit leads you.

God,

Today we thank you that, even though we live in a world where darkness is still apparent, we are not without hope. Today, we're reminded that the dark pockets of our world just mean that the story is not yet finished, that You are still at work in us and through us.

On earth as it is in heaven.

God, would we be part of bringing heaven to earth in our corner of the world. May the way we live reveal your loving presence to those around us. May Jesus' light flow in us and through us.

On earth as it is in heaven.

It's unfathomable that we get to be your partners in bringing new creation into the world. May we never take it for granted that we are carriers of your light in a broken world. So, God, highlight the created things we're tempted to worship in place of you. Would you call us forward to faithfulness, to let go of anything that seeks to keep us from you and your life-giving presence.

On earth as it is in heaven.

No matter what we face, we rest assured that you have the final victory. And we look forward with hopeful eyes to the New Creation, when there will be no more darkness—no more mourning, nor death. Until then, together we say, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

On earth as it is in heaven.

Amen.