



Sermon Growth Guide

October 25, 2020

The Beautiful Story - Beautiful Kingdom

Revelation 22:1-13

Key Verse: Revelation 22:3

“No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and His servants will serve Him.”

Big Idea: Knowing where you are headed tomorrow changes the way you walk today.

Foundations

The culmination of *The Beautiful Story* is entrance into the Kingdom of God, a kingdom completely void of curse and completely full of healing, where God dwells with His people for all eternity. Knowing where you are headed tomorrow changes the way you walk today.

With the **Beautiful Kingdom** in mind, and with a national election just around the corner, we're reminded this week in a special way of our dual citizenship, where being “Light and Life for the City” requires us to walk as “city-positive” while maintaining our first allegiance to Christ and His Kingdom.

Today is also **Stewardship Commitment Sunday**, our annual time as a church family to examine the ways in which we are coming together to steward everything that has been entrusted to us to further the cause of Christ in this city and beyond. Our commitment is one way we display our faithfulness to Christ to the watching world.

Open and close your time of further study and application in prayer. Ask the Spirit of God to guide and guard your time in His Word, granting you clear vision of the **Beautiful Kingdom**, causing you to walk more purely as a kingdom citizen today.

Understanding God's Word

Verses 1-5 display the hues of full restoration by employing phrases such as “the river of the water of life” and “the healing of the nations” and “no longer will there be any curse.” Host a conversation that helps those in your circle catch the vision of the New Creation.

Verses 8 and 9 contain a wild scene of John being reprimanded by an angel. What's the scene? What is the rebuke? What is John directed to do at the end of verse 9?

Applying God's Word

This week we are reminded that knowing where you are headed tomorrow changes the way you walk today. How does catching a Biblical vision of eternity in the very near presence of God change the way you live today?

Think and share of a specific challenge you are facing where you might react differently should you better absorb your heavenly future that is just around the corner.

Witnessing God's Word

Jesus teaches us to pray, “your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” Develop an action plan that you can implement this week to be God's Light and Life to someone in your life who does not yet live for the **Beautiful Kingdom**. Take a moment to close your time by praying for this person.