

ADVENT · RESTORATION

No More Night

Revelation 21:1–5

The Big Idea

The baby in the manger is coming back as King. On that day there will be no more night, because God himself will be our light.

The Problem A World Still Hurting	The Promise All Things New
The Presence God With Us	The Hope No More Night

SUNDAY · Scripture & Devotion

Revelation 21:1–5

Do you remember waking up way too early on Christmas morning as a kid? It's still dark outside, and you're sitting at the top of the stairs, waiting for someone to say, "Okay, come on down!" That's Advent. The word means "coming." Jesus came once as a baby, and he

promised to come again as King. Right now, we're sitting at the top of the stairs.

The Problem: A World Still Hurting (Revelation 21:4)

Look at the list God promises to end: tears, death, mourning, crying, pain. We know every one of those words. For many families, Christmas is the hardest time of year: an empty chair at the table, a diagnosis, a broken relationship. Jesus has come, but the world is not yet the way it should be. It still feels like night.

The Promise: All Things New (Revelation 21:5)

God doesn't say, "I am making new things." He says, "I am making all things new." He isn't throwing his world away. He's fixing it. The Bible starts in a garden with the tree of life (Genesis 2:9) and ends in a city where the tree of life grows again (Revelation 22:2). Week 1 began with "Let there be light." The Bible ends with light too. God always finishes what he starts.

The Presence: God With Us (Revelation 21:3)

The best part of heaven isn't the streets or the gates. It's this: "the dwelling place of God is with man." That is the Christmas promise. Jesus was called Immanuel, "which means, God with

us" (Matthew 1:23). At Christmas, God moved into our neighborhood for about 33 years. When he returns, he will live with his people forever, and we will never be apart from him again.

The Hope: No More Night (Revelation 22:5)

"And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light." Remember "evening, then morning" from Week 1? This is the final morning, the one that never turns back into night.

Who gets to live in that light? Only those whose names are "written in the Lamb's book of life" (Revelation 21:27). We can't earn a place there, but Jesus, the Lamb of God, paid for our sins on the cross. And the invitation is open: "Let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price" (Revelation 22:17).

If you've never trusted Jesus, this Christmas can be your first morning.

The light came at Christmas, and the light is coming back.

Talk About It

- What's the hardest part of waiting for you, whether at Christmas or in life?

- Of everything God promises to end in Revelation 21:4 (tears, death, mourning, crying, pain), which one means the most to you right now? Why?
- If Jesus really is coming back to make all things new, what should change about how we live this week?

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Option 1: Restore Something Together

Choose something worn out that needs real work, at your house or for a neighbor who could use help: a fence, a porch, a garden bed, a room. Spend a morning restoring it together, with everyone taking a real part of the job. Take a "before" and an "after" photo. When you finish, read Revelation 21:5 and talk: What did it take to make this new? What does it say about God that he plans to do this for his whole creation?

Option 2: Letters for the Long Night

Each person writes two letters. The first goes to someone who is grieving or hurting this Christmas; deliver them together, maybe with a small gift. Use it as an opportunity to pray with them and invite them to Christmas Eve Service.

The world still has nights, but they're numbered. Jesus came once to bring us into his light, and he's coming again to make all things new.

THIS WEEK'S LIGHT STEP: Bring the person you named in Week 1 to Christmas Eve on December 24!



Daily Reflections

MONDAY · The Long Night

Read Isaiah 9:2 and Revelation 21:4. God's people held onto that promise for centuries before Jesus was born. Now we wait for him to return. Waiting has a way of showing what we really trust.

> **Reflect**
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> What hurt or loss feels heaviest for you this Christmas? Have you been honest with God about it, or have you been pushing through on your own? Tell him plainly today.

TUESDAY · All Things New

Read Revelation 21:5 and 2 Corinthians 5:17. God's "all things new" doesn't wait for someday. "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation." He starts making us new the moment we trust him. But sometimes we get comfortable with the old.

> **Reflect**
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> What old thing in you (an attitude, a habit, a grudge) have you gotten used to? Do you actually want God to make it new? What would change in your home or friendships if he did?

WEDNESDAY · God With Us

Read Matthew 1:22–23 and Revelation 21:3. The story of the Bible is God coming closer: walking in a garden, living in a tent among his people, born in a manger, and one day living with us forever. God wants to be with you, not just help you when you're stuck.

> **Reflect**
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> Does your daily life show that you want to be with God, or mostly that you want him around when you need something? Before the holiday rush takes over, what is one way you'll make room to be with him this week?

THURSDAY · Christmas Eve: The Light Has Come

Read Luke 2:8–20. Shepherds were working the night shift when "the glory of the Lord shone around them." They left their fields to find Jesus, then told everyone what they had seen (Luke 2:17). The first Christmas announcement came in the dark, to ordinary people.

> **Reflect**
> What would you have to set down tonight to really pay attention to Jesus? Who in your life still needs to hear this good news, and what's held you back from telling them?

FRIDAY · Christmas Day: No More Night

Read Revelation 22:1–5 and 22:20. The Bible's last prayer is "Come, Lord Jesus!" As you open gifts today, remember that the greatest gift is still coming.

> **Reflect**
> Could you honestly pray "Come, Lord Jesus" today? Or is there something in your life you'd rather he not see yet? What does your answer show about where your hope really is?

Family prayer: *"Jesus, thank you for coming at Christmas to rescue us. Thank you that you are coming back to make all things new. Until then, help us shine your light, and teach us to pray, 'Come, Lord Jesus!' Amen."*

