

“Happy New Year World” Group Guide

Series: Revelation

Passage: Revelation 21:1-8

Speaker: Pastor Ryan Paulson

Date: January 4, 2026

ICEBREAKER: Describe a time in your life where you experienced unexpected beauty.



Learning His Way: *Discovering the Way of Jesus*

1. Read Revelation 21:1-8 out loud together. What words or phrases stand out to you? What questions do you have?
2. Revelation 21 presents the future not as escape *from* earth, but as heaven coming *to* earth. Does this vision reshape the way you understand Jesus’ mission? How does it change the story you’ve known regarding what Jesus is ultimately saving us *for*?
3. Jesus is revealed as the One who makes *all things new*, not all new things. Where do you see Jesus inviting you to trust His renewing work rather than looking for an escape from your current circumstances?



Forming His Heart: *How is God shaping my character and helping me to grow?*

Individual Reflection:

4. Take some time to quietly consider the following questions in your own heart alone with God. After around 10 minutes, come back together as a group and share as the Spirit prompts.
 - a. Is there an area of sin that is disrupting your fellowship with God? What steps could you take to confront any sin strongholds in your life?
 - b. Where in your life do you long for renewal? Emotionally? Physically? Spiritually?
 - c. God promises a future with no more chaos, fear or inner turmoil. In your current circumstances, where is God inviting you to practice trust and endurance? Where in your life are you longing for God’s peace? Who might you invite to pray with you in this waiting?



Joining His Mission: *What is God calling me/us to do?*

5. Knowing how the story ends is meant to produce courage and endurance. As a follower of Jesus, what is one small step you sense God calling you to take in 2026 to

live boldly – partnering with Him in making things new where you live, work, or serve?



Closing Prayer:

Consider the following quote by David Benner in his book, *Surrender to Love*:
“Humans were created for intimate communion with their head-over-heels-in-love Creator God. When God thinks of us, he feels a deep, persistent longing – not simply for our wholeness but, more basically, for our friendship. This possibility lies at the core of our own deepest desires. It also lies at the core of our deepest fulfillment.”

Pray that this truth would penetrate the hearts of each person in your group, such that you will live freely out of the reality that you are a beloved child of God who is daily being renewed.

For further practice this week:

As you consider the vision that God is already active in for 2026, take some time to prayerfully journal and “name” how God’s promises to make all things new can do the following:

1. Fuel your obedience
2. Anchor your pain in the context of a bigger story
3. Inspire your courage

Write out a commitment to trust God in these areas and share your “2026 Commitment Vision” with a trusted friend.

Recommended Reading:

“Surrender to Love” by David Benner