



- Take a closer look. What do you see?
- What do you think the artist is saying about broken hearts?
- When you see a friend crying, what do you want to do?
- What keeps you going in a world full of tears and heartbreak?



REVELATION 21:1-6

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will **DWELL WITH THEM**. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be

**NO MORE DEATH OR
MOURNING OR CRYING OR PAIN,**

for the old order of things has passed away.”

He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!... To the thirsty I will give water without cost from

THE SPRING OF THE WATER OF LIFE.”



- What is God offering those who are hurting?
- What does God care about according to this vision? How does this compare with your view of God?
- God would love to wipe the tears from our eyes. What would you like God to touch or heal in your life?

To learn more about how God heals us, see Circle 3.



- What's going on here? Why do the people near the top ignore what's happening below them?
- If you were one of the suffering people, what would you want the others to do?
- Do you relate more with one of the people near the top or bottom? Why?



God gave John, one of Jesus' friends, an amazing vision of corruption and justice. He called the unjust city of his day "Babylon."

REVELATION 18:1-24

I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. With a mighty voice he shouted:

"Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!...

For all the nations have **DRUNK**
THE MADDENING WINE
of her adulteries....

and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her
EXCESSIVE LUXURIES."

Then I heard another voice from heaven say:

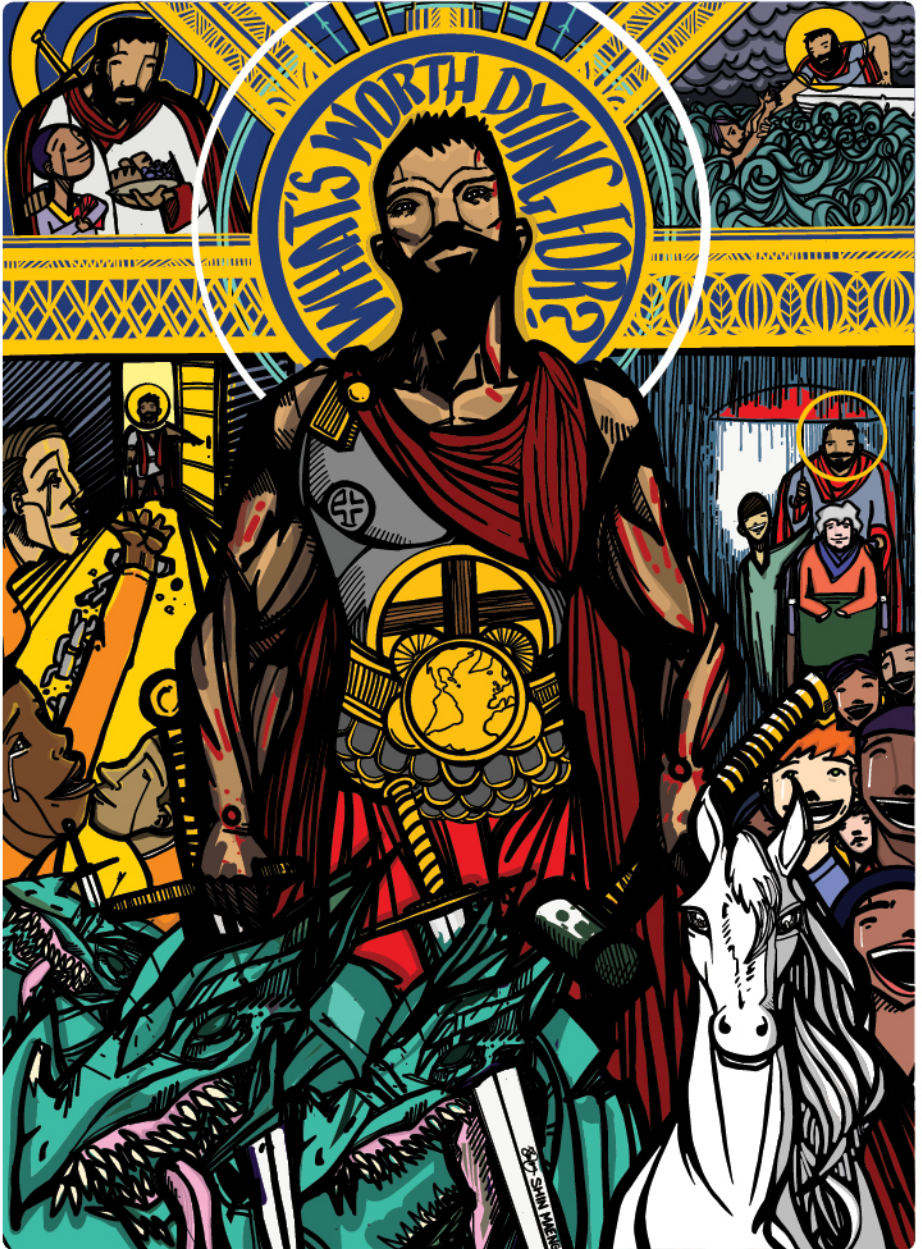
"'Come out of her, my people,'
so that you will not share in her sins...
God has remembered her crimes..."

"The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes anymore—cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones...and
HUMAN BEINGS SOLD AS SLAVES....

In her was found the blood of prophets and of God's holy people,
of all who have been slaughtered on the earth."



- God sends his angel to expose Babylon. What bothers God about Babylon?
- How does Babylon view human life? How much is human life worth to you?
- Babylon's maddening wine is addictive. What is our generation addicted to?
- For those stuck in slavery or addiction (see Circle 2), where can we find freedom or hope?



- The Bible has a lot to say about heroes. What do you like about the images?
- Has anyone ever fought for you? Have you ever fought for someone? What was that like?
- Every group faces threats or forces that work against them. What might be the biggest threats and enemies to your community?



Here are two visions about Jesus.

REVELATION 5:9-10

And they sang a new song, saying:

"You are **WORTHY** to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
because you were **SLAIN**,
and with your **BLOOD** you purchased for God
persons from **EVERY TRIBE AND LANGUAGE
AND PEOPLE AND NATION.**

You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,
and **THEY WILL REIGN** on the earth."

REVELATION 19:11-16

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With **JUSTICE** he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns... On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:

KING & **LORD**
OF OF
KINGS LORDS



- What good comes from Jesus' violent death?
- Jesus gave his life to bring justice and empower people from every group to be leaders like him. What do you like about that?
- What would you want Jesus to help you fight or overcome?
- Would you like to know The Big Story of how Jesus overcame evil and started a movement to renew the world?



- Have you ever wondered about life after death? The Bible describes a scene like this. What do you like about this?
- Who do you think gets to join this heavenly party?
- If you got an invitation to this party, how would you respond?



REVELATION 21:22–22:2

The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there.

THE GLORY AND HONOR OF THE NATIONS will be brought into it.

Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God.... On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the

THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS.



- The Bible describes heaven as a city in celebration. How is God's city different from other cities?
- Every "nation" or ethnic group is honored and healed in God's new city. How is this good news for us and the world?
- There will be no shame or deceit in God's city. What is attractive about that?
- Jesus says you are invited to this party. Would you like to hear more about that? See Circle 4.

Exploring Faith

Here are five steps on a spiritual journey. Where are you?

TRUST



I try to value all kinds of people, but I don't usually trust Christians.

CURIOUS



I'm curious about how other people see and experience the world.

OPEN



I'm open to seeing if God can meet a need in my life.

SEARCHING



I'm searching for deeper meaning. Could Jesus be worth following?

FOLLOWING



I'm ready to follow Jesus with my whole life.



DISCUSS

Are you willing to become friends with a trustworthy Christian? What would it take to extend trust?

Asking questions unlocks mystery. What issues of faith are you curious about?

Are you open to trying something new like prayer? What need would you like God to meet?

If you could find the answer to one question that would help you trust Jesus, what would it be? Are you willing to put some time into exploring Jesus?

Who or what has been the leader of your life? What would it take for you to let Jesus lead? Look at the Big Story to see what it means to follow Jesus.

The Big Story

①

God created the world with love and purpose. We are made in God's image, to live with God at the center of our relationships.



②

The world broke when humans pushed their Creator away. Our world is divided and hurting. We carry pain inside us that can damage others. We sometimes participate in oppressive systems.



④

The Spirit of Jesus sends us to restore relationships, repair communities, and seek justice. We invite others into God's healing.



③

But God did not abandon us. Jesus came to heal us. He took our personal evil and our world's evil to the grave with him. He came back to life to bring new life to us.



Would you like to start following Jesus today?
Or, would you like to take a different step towards faith?

If you're already following Jesus, would you like to invite others into God's healing?
Are you part of a community that can live out Jesus' ways together?