

God's love secures our future, and His purpose shapes our present.

*2 Peter 3:3-15(NLT) - 3 Most importantly, I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. 4 They will say, "What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created."*

*5 They deliberately forget that God made the heavens long ago by the word of his command, and he brought the earth out from the water and surrounded it with water. 6 Then he used the water to destroy the ancient world with a mighty flood. 7 And by the same word, the present heavens and earth have been stored up for fire. They are being kept for the day of judgment, when ungodly people will be destroyed.*

*8 But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. 9 The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment.*

*11 Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live, 12 looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along. On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames. 13 But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness.*

*14 And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight.*

*15 And remember, our Lord's patience gives people time to be saved.*

Revelation 12:10-12 (NLT) - *10 Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens,*

*"It has come at last—  
salvation and power  
and the Kingdom of our God,  
and the authority of his Christ.  
For the accuser of our brothers and sisters  
has been thrown down to earth—  
the one who accuses them  
before our God day and night.  
11 And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb  
and by their testimony.  
And they did not love their lives so much  
that they were afraid to die.  
12 Therefore, rejoice, O heavens!  
And you who live in the heavens, rejoice!"*

## Study Guide

This last Sunday we took a look at the end of the story of Creation and looked at how God's love secures our future, and His purpose shapes our present. We spoke about how we have the opportunity to be living testimonies of who God is. What are some ways we can do that? Are there any specific stories you have of times where you felt you have used your life as a testimony of who God is?

Take a moment to read John 13:34-35. Jesus tells the disciples that people will know that they are his disciples by their love. What do you think that means to be known by their love? How can we love in such a way that stands out? What is different about the love we have to show than what the world has? Why would it stand out?

Read 2 Corinthians 3:1-6. How does the story of your life bear testimony to God? Take a moment to think of and share an example from your life of how God can be seen in your life. Perhaps in something you have experienced or done. Take the time to celebrate how God shows himself in each of your stories and then pray that God would create even more opportunities for us to show the world who He is.