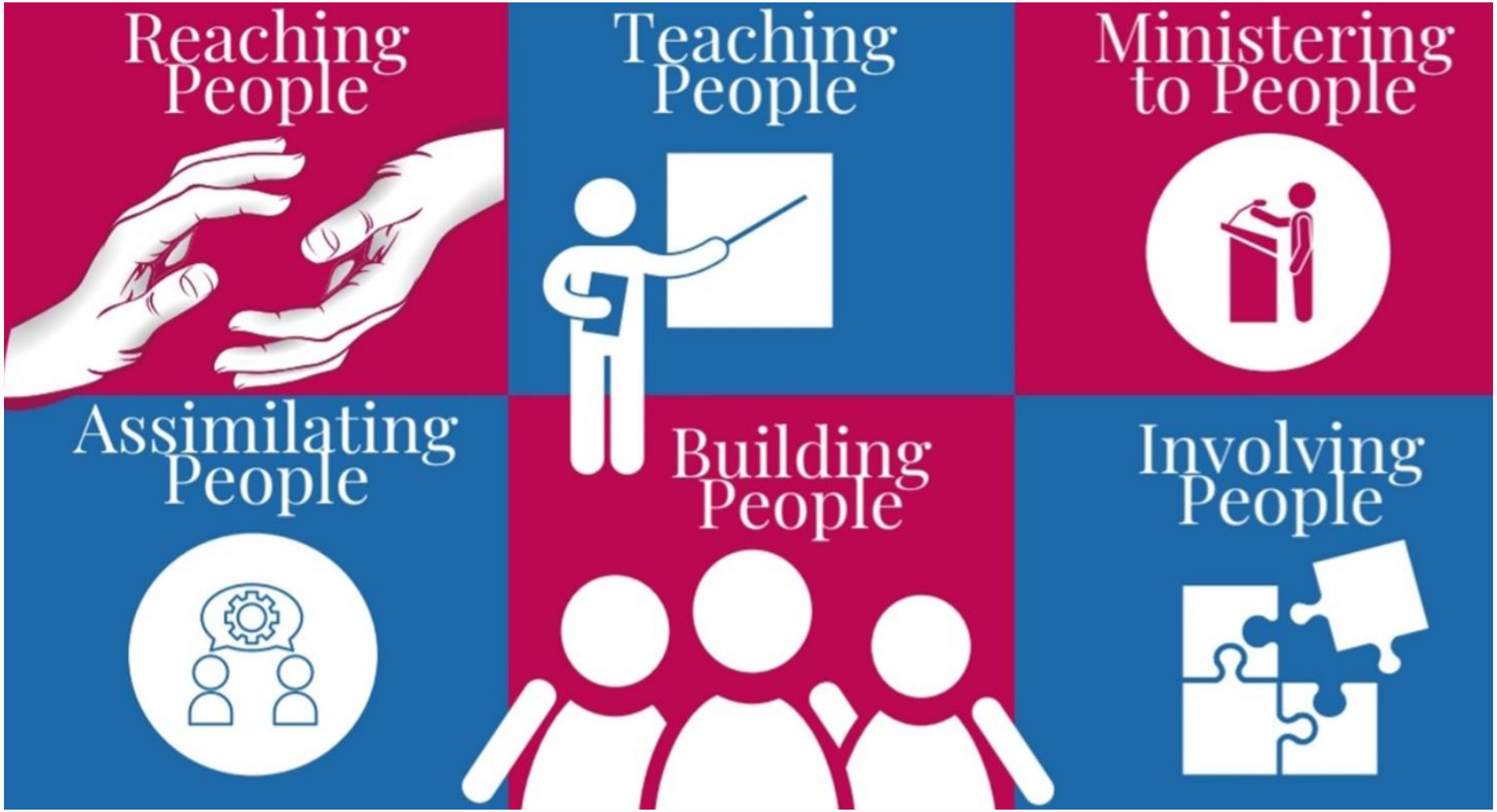


Faith and Love C.O.G.I.C Sunday School

Lesson 12 November 22, 2026

LIVING WATERS

Sunday School Core Values



FAITH & LOVE
Church of God in Christ

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. **Psalm 133:1**

School/Class: But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. **Hebrews 13:16**

Superintendent/Teacher: All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. **2 Timothy 3:16**

School/Class: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. **Psalm 119:105**

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SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. **Philippians 2:4**

School/Class: He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor. **Proverbs 22:9**

Superintendent/Teacher: Therefore he says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive and gave gifts to men.” **Ephesians 4:8**

School/Class: As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. **1 Peter 4:10**

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SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. **1 Corinthians 12:12**

School/Class: For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function. **Romans 12:4**

Superintendent/Teacher: By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. **John 13:35**

School/Class: For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. **Gal. 5:13**

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

ALL:

But grow in the grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

2 Peter 3:18

Lesson 12 November 22, 2026
Living Waters

- **Bible Basis**: Revelation 22:1-7
- **Bible Truth**: In the new creation, God's power in the river of life has spiritual healing.
- **Memory Verse**: "And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb" (Revelation 22:1)

Lesson Aim

RESEARCH	APPRECIATE	RESPOND
The biblical references of the river of life to learn its spiritual and symbolic meaning.	That in the river of life is God's continual provisions.	to the river of life through acceptance, faith, and entrance into the fullness of the Kingdom.

Background Scriptures: Psalm 46, Revelation 22:1-7

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Revelation 22:1-7 KJV

1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

6 And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

LIGHT ON THE WORD

Bride. The imagery of the bride is used widely in the Bible as a description of the people of God. In the Old Testament, the prophets presented Israel as a bride who had committed repeated adulteries (Jeremiah 3; Ezekiel 16; Hosea 3). The prophets also proclaimed that God was faithful to His unfaithful bride and would restore her (Isaiah 61:10). In the Book of Revelation, bride imagery is used often for the church and her relationship to Christ. The bride belongs to Christ, who is the Bridegroom (Matthew 9:15). In Revelation, the church, as the bride of the Lamb, has prepared herself for marriage by performing righteous deeds (19:7-8). In Revelation 21, the great wedding is portrayed with the Church prepared for her Bridegroom (21:2, 9). The bride pictured here has not earned her status through righteous deeds. These acts were the Church's obedient response to God's saving grace. The garments of righteousness were given to her.

LIFE NEED FOR TODAY'S LESSON:

AIM: Students will agree that rivers give life and nourishment to the things that exist around them.

INTRODUCTION

Jesus Will Return

Revelation 22 opens with a breathtaking vision of the eternal future prepared for God's people – the new Heaven and the new Earth, overflowing with life, healing, and divine glory. Drawing richly from the prophetic imagery of Isaiah, John affirms that just as Christ fulfilled the promises of His first coming, He will surely fulfill the promise of His return. This second coming is not merely a possibility – it is unstoppable. For those who belong to Christ, it will be a time of unspeakable joy, restoration, and peace. For those who reject His Gospel, it will be a sobering day of reckoning. Revelation's final chapter is not merely the end of a book – it is the unveiling of God's ultimate victory and a promise of eternal hope.

BIBLE LEARNING

AIM: We will evaluate the significance of the river of water of life in the Holy City.

I. THE GLORIOUS ABUNDANCE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Revelation 22:1-5

To paint a picture of the greatest possible abundance and blessing, John's vision returns to the place of God's original purpose: the Garden of Eden. Just as is true in Eden (Genesis 2:10), a life-giving river flows in the New Jerusalem; this "water of life" symbolizes the everlasting life given by God through the Spirit (see John 7:37-39) and the abundant life Jesus promises in John 10:10. Just as the tree of life stood in Eden (Genesis 2:9) as a sign of perfect fruitfulness and the provision of every human need, it will also stand in the New Jerusalem amidst the river, represented by twelve trees (a number symbolizing divine government and completeness).

I. THE GLORIOUS ABUNDANCE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Revelation 22:1-5

1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

John's vision in the Spirit continues (cf. Revelation 21:10). He is being made to have a panoramic view of the Holy City. He is shown a pure river containing the water of life. The Sons of Korah spoke prophetically of this river: "There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High" (Psalm 46:4). The Greek word translated "river" is *potamos* (**pot-am-OS**), which means running water, like a stream, flood, or river. The Sons of Korah reveal to us in that passage that the river makes glad the city of God. It is the water of life that brings the life of God. This river had been foreshadowed by the river in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:10).

Lesson 12 November 22, 2026
LIVING WATERS

I. THE GLORIOUS ABUNDANCE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Revelation 22:1-5

1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

The river from the millennial temple (Ezekiel 47:1-12) also foreshadows this river; it brings life to all creatures wherever it flows. Zechariah also prophesied the issuing out of living water's from Jerusalem (Zechariah 14:8). A figurative reference to this river that Jesus makes describes one of the greatest spiritual realities of the Christian faith: the outpouring, deposit, and flow of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer (John 7:38).

Lesson 12 November 22, 2026
Living Waters

I. THE GLORIOUS ABUNDANCE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Revelation 22:1-5

2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

The New Jerusalem is naturally prefigured by the Garden of Eden, the first place where humans lived in their innocence. Both have rivers, and Eden is the first place where the tree of life was mentioned. Everything in the Holy City is of the greatest proportion, being the most perfect reality compared to other references or similarities in the Bible, which are mere foreshadowings. For instance, the Bible talks about one tree of life in the middle of the Garden of Eden, but here numerous trees abound on both sides of the river. The tree of life conferred immortality on anyone who ate its fruit, hence its name (Genesis 3:22). In Ezekiel's vision, he revealed that the fruit of the tree of life was meant for food and healing (Ezekiel 47:12). Here John tells us the same thing: the fruits and leaves are for the healing of the nations. This tree is said to bear twelve kinds of fruit every month. As a tree of life, it bears fruit to confer immortality on its eater and maintain life in the Holy City. The Bible metaphorically calls four things the tree of life: wisdom (Proverbs 3:18), the fruit of righteousness (Proverbs 11:30), fulfilled desire (Proverbs 13:12), and a wholesome tongue (Proverbs 15:4). These things are all described as giving life to those who partake of them. The same can be said of this tree in Revelation, except that the life that this tree gives is eternal.

I. THE GLORIOUS ABUNDANCE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Revelation 22:1-5

3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and the Lamb shall be in it: and his servants shall serve him: 4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

The worst thing a person can say to someone else is a curse. The Greek word translated "curse" here is *katanathema* (**kah-tah-NAH-theh-mah**), meaning a wish that evil may befall a person. Curses served as protective and punitive measures against violating the terms of a treaty; they were intended to doom a person to calamity or destruction. The curse in the Garden of Eden was a divine judgment against humankind's disobedience. But in the Holy City, curses have no place. The occupants of this city are not objects of divine wrath and punishment, so no disaster can come upon them. They are the redeemed who have qualified as occupants of the New Jerusalem by their faith in Christ and have distinguished themselves with lives above sin, curse, and calamity.

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Revelation 22:1-5

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LIVING WATERS

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Lesson 12 November 22, 2026
LIVING WATERS

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The New Jerusalem will offer ultimate bliss to the believer, the greatest rewards and privileges that are not available in our present world. The throne of God and Christ will be there, bringing the habitation, presence, and direct government of God to the redeemed. Most blessedly of all, the "divine prohibition" will end. God's order that forbids humanity from seeing His face will no longer exist. This Old Testament order, communicated by God to Moses, stated: "Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live" (from Exodus 33:20). Over the ages the physical sight of God had been denied to humans, because the consequence was death But in the New Jerusalem, there will be a new order: God's servants will serve Him, and they will see His face and behold Him physically. This is because those who live in the Holy City will be completely transformed to be like God (1 John 3:2). They will be absent of sin, and their bodies will be changed (1 Corinthians 15:51-53). His name (seal of ownership) will be on their foreheads.

I. THE GLORIOUS ABUNDANCE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Revelation 22:1-5

5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

In the beginning, God created light. This light came from the two main heavenly bodies (sun and moon), and came about on day four. One of their functions was to bring about day and night (Genesis 1:14). Here the passage says there shall be no night. Figuratively, the night stands for various periods and conditions in human life: a time of ignorance and helplessness (Micah 3:6), the depraved condition of humankind (1 Thessalonians 5:5-7), and also a time of inactivity or death (John 9:4). In the Holy City, there will be no ignorance, the depraved conditions of humankind will not exist, death will be no more.

LIGHT ON THE WORD

Spiritual Freedom

Paul refers to the "Jerusalem which is above" when pointing out the Christian's spiritual status of freedom from the law's curse. The author of Hebrews speaks of a "heavenly Jerusalem" (Hebrews 12:22) to denote the beauty and security of the New Covenant. The Book of Revelation refers to "the holy city New Jerusalem" (21:2) and "that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God" (v. 10). Here the angel identifies the city with the bride, the Church. The following description, in which Jerusalem is massive and radiant with jewels and perfect in symmetry, shows the wonderful destiny of God's people, when He will dwell among them forever.

II. THE GLORIOUS PROMISE OF GOD

Revelation 22:6-7

The words of the Bible can be hard to hang on to because the promises are so otherworldly and our sight is so limited. God in His mercy frequently gives added testimony to the certainty of what He reveals. To call the Lord the "God of the holy prophets" (v. 6) is to show that these words, just like the prophets' words, are breathed out by God and cannot be false. Just as the prophets were able to say, "Thus says the LORD," so also the angel, with the same authority, promises that these words are “faithful and true," and that these things "must shortly be done" (v. 6). Likewise, when John is commanded not to seal up the prophecy, but write it down, God shows us that the vision is true. The record of that vision is also inspired by Him, and utterly reliable.

II. THE GLORIOUS PROMISE OF GOD

Revelation 22:6-7

6 And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done

This is the second time the angel used the words "faithful and true" (21:5, 22:6), which also are applied directly to Christ (Revelation 3:14, 19:11). As Christ is faithful and true, so are His words sent via prophets or angels also faithful and true. Implied perhaps is an indictment on the predictable slowness of humankind to grasp each newly revealed facet of God's glory.

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The same truth assurances could be said for both the book of Revelation and the entirety of God's Word. The apparent redundancy here must indicate the special importance to the church of these particular words – even while underscoring that God always has, in the same trustworthy manner, revealed the future through His prophets. The phrase translated as "the Lord God who inspires his prophets" in the NLT (cf. NIV) literally means that God is the prophets' very breath and spirit (Gk. *pneuma*, **puh-NEW-mah**; breath, spirit). This points to the authority of John's vision, connecting it to the prophets of the past as originating from God.

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II. THE GLORIOUS PROMISE OF GOD

Revelation 22:6-7

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The hinge phrase "must shortly be done' (v. 6) has been translated many ways, yet all clearly concur that the Greek word *tachos* (**TAH-khos**) means quickness or speed. The original Greek did not intend "quickly" as commonly understood. Few would say 2,000 years is "quickly," but "suddenly" could happen at any time, even the distant future. This rendering also agrees with other verses that describe His coming as a thief in the night, taking a self-indulgent, self-absorbed world by surprise (Matthew 24:38-41; 1 Thessalonians 5:4).

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II. THE GLORIOUS PROMISE OF GOD

Revelation 22:6-7

7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

After reinforcing this element of surprise, the angel encourages believers, but subtly implies that those who don't "keep the sayings in this book" won't be "blessed" at Jesus' sudden appearance. In this Revelation beatitude, believers will be blessed, more likely ecstatic, as our time of vindication and the completion of our redemption will have come at long last.

II. THE GLORIOUS PROMISE OF GOD

Revelation 22:6-7

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In stark contrast, the unbelieving world will be judged and condemned. Here translated "sayings but generally translated "words," John uses the Greek word *logos* (**LOG-os**), a word he used multiple times in thirty-six verses of his Gospel, to refer to the entire Word of God (see especially John 1). Each succeeding generation must anticipate, prepare, watch, and be ready for Jesus' return. Nothing in our present world can give us enduring comfort and eternal joy; we must place all our hopes on Jesus Christ, serving Him wholeheartedly. He has prepared a wonderful and glorious future for those who put their trust in Him. Everything we do should be aimed at securing our places in the New Jerusalem, the place where God will dwell with His people.

LIGHT ON THE WORD

Imminent Hope

Ever since John penned his vision, these words of imminent hope have been available for all to see and react to as they choose. When Christ finally does return, no one will be able to claim total surprise, and they also will have no one to blame if His coming isn't welcome.

BIBLE APPLICATION

AIM: We will appreciate that the river will nourish and heal everything in the city.

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BIBLE APPLICATION

Think about circumstances or relationships in your life that leave you feeling bitter or resentful because of the way you've been treated. How do you respond when you feel slighted? Does a focus on making things right in this world keep you from longing for the next? Take this opportunity to repent of your misplaced hope and turn to Christ for forgiveness. In light of the incredible promises of God about your identity and your abundant inheritance, take time each day to intentionally rejoice and give thanks for the glory that awaits you in God's presence.

STUDENT RESPONSES

AIM: We will agree that Christians are assured of the ultimate happy ending – a triumphal procession in Christ.

STUDENT RESPONSES

The promise is also given a specific urgency. Christ promises to come quickly, signaling to the believer that the words of the Book should be not only read but immediately obeyed. This admonishes all believers to expect Christ's return and the glorious fulfillment of God's promises.

Prayer

Dear Lord,

Thank You for the rivers of life that are healing, nourishing, and reflective of Your love, grace, and eternal bliss.

In the name of Jesus we pray,

Amen!

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Next Sunday
November 29, 2026

Lesson 13

Alpha and Omega
Revelation 22:12-21