

**Welcome**

*Start by spending some unstructured time together. Eventually, transition to a welcome question, either general or specific.*

- General Question: What was the highlight of your past week? What was the roughest part?
- Specific Question: What is one promise in scripture you find comforting?

**Lectio Divina****Listen**

- Begin with a few moments of quiet or a prayer.
- Facilitator: "During the first reading listen for specific words or phrases that grab your attention."
- Have one person read the passage aloud.

**Meditate**

- Facilitator: "During the second reading meditate on the text, asking God what it means."
- Have one person read the passage aloud.

**Share**

- Facilitator: "After the third reading, share out loud the word or phrase that came to you."
- Have one person read the passage aloud.
- Take this moment to share your word or phrase.
- If you have time to go through the discussion questions, do so now.

**Savor**

- Facilitator: "During the fourth reading savor Let go of words, and ask God to reveal how the text might affect your life this week."
- Have one person read the passage aloud.

**Revelation 21:1-8**

*Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 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!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."*

*He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children."*

**Discuss**

*Take your time to discuss the following questions. Make space to let everyone speak.*

- 1) What thoughts or emotions stir in you when you read this passage?
- 2) Is there anything in the text you find discouraging or encouraging?
- 3) What does this passage teach us about the nature of God?
- 4) How might this affect the way you interact with the people who make up Austin Mustard Seed? How might this affect how you interact with neighbors (literal neighbors, coworkers, friends, etc.)
- 5) What do you want to remember about this passage in the week to come?

**Pray Together**

*Spend time praying together for hopes, dreams, joys and needs. Make sure at least one person records the prayers and sends them to the rest of the group.*