

- **Reflection and Edification**  
Rocklyn Clarke Sr. - Sunday May 25, 2025  
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▶ **Storage**

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▶ **New Material**

▶ **Preliminaries**

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- **Review**

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▼ **Reflection and Edification**

**Rocklyn Clarke Sr. - Sunday May 25, 2025**

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▼ **Opening Material**

▼ **Welcome!**

- Praise the Lord!
- Welcome to another Life Church sermon!

▼ **Transition**

- Welcome to another Sunday at Life Church.
- The QR code (also available on our song sheets) links to our Visitor Landing Page.
- Use it to access our notes, share your contact information, and access our giving page.
- Questions? If you took the time to visit us, you deserve to get answers!
- Email: [Questions@LifeChurchBoston.ORG](mailto:Questions@LifeChurchBoston.ORG)
- We will begin Luke 16 next week.
- We will have will take time ti build each other up after the message.

▼ **Thoughts**

- ...

▼ **Overview**

▼ **In today's message we will do the following:**

- Offer a reason for hope.
- Describe a way to present scriptures that people will easily find later.
- Present 6 easy to find passages.
- Present a closing summary.

▼ **Opening Material**

▼ **Welcome!**

- I'm going to share some material that may be helpful for grieving people.
- ▼ Death is difficult:

- The loss of a loved one is a difficult time for those who have been left behind because, generally speaking, death is the longest separation from that particular loved one that we will normally experience.
- That's not the only difficulty however. When anyone dies, regardless of our relationship with them, it generally reminds us that sooner or later death will come for us too - separating us from all of our loved ones.
- I'm here to tell you that, despite the pain that you feel now, God has a message of hope for you. I'm not going to pretend that that hope will take away your pain, but I can assure you that if you will take hold of that hope, you can overcome, not only the pain you feel now, but even the pain, confusion, and injustice in the world around you.

▼ A message from the Bible:

- ▼ I'm going to share a brief message from the Bible and, in order to make it easier for you to refer back to it, I'm going to use passages that it will be easy for you to find. I'll read from from the 1st chapter of each of the four Gospels, and the next to last chapter of Revelation - the last book in the Bible. In other words:

- Matthew Chapter 1
- Mark Chapter 1
- Luke Chapter 1
- John Chapter 1
- Revelation Chapter 21 (next to last chapter in the Bible)
- At an actual funeral I might add passages from the funeral program.

▼ **Matthew 1:20-23**

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

▼ **Here we learn:**

- Jesus saves his people from their sins.

- Jesus is God with us.

### ▼ **Mark 1:14-18**

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “**The time has come,**” he said. “**The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!**”

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “**Come, follow me,**” Jesus said, “**and I will send you out to fish for people.**” At once they left their nets and followed him.

### ▼ **What I want you to take away from this passage is:**

- Jesus has made God’s Kingdom (his rule in the lives of people) available to everyone.
- Jesus invited people to join the Kingdom by following him.

### ▼ **Luke 1:26-33**

#### The Birth of Jesus Foretold

In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

### ▼ **This passage teaches us:**

- Jesus is the Son of the Most High God.
- Jesus’ Kingdom will never end.

### ▼ **John 1:1-14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all

things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

▼ **Here we learn that:**

- Jesus was with God from the beginning.
- Jesus gives us the right to become children of God ourselves.
- In Jesus, God became human and lived among us.

▼ **Scripture Reading: A New Heaven and a New Earth - Revelation 21:1-7**

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, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live 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 him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

▼ **What I want you to take away from this passage is:**

- God will replace the current heaven and earth with a renewed one.
- There, God will live with his people forever.
- Death and sorrow will vanish forever.

▼ **A new heaven and a new earth!**

- The old heaven and the old earth - everything that’s broken and corrupt is going away! That’s good news as long as you’re not broken and corrupt but, if you’re like me, you’ve experienced some personal brokenness and corruption. Anyone willing to raise their hand with me?
- Fortunately for people like us who raised our hands, God’s Kingdom includes a plan to fix what’s broken and corrupt in each of us so that we’ll all be able to join the party!

▼ **New Jerusalem.**

- Notice that the city is coming down out of heaven to the earth. God’s plan is to fix our broken world and make it brand new.

▼ **God is going to live with people.**

▼ Now this idea might make you uncomfortable.

- Think about some scenarios:
- When you’re at school and the principal comes to sit at your lunch table.
- When preachers like me drop by your home unexpectedly.

▼ Fortunately the Bible shows us how real people can successfully hang out with God.

- In Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John we see a group of disciples hanging out with the most amazing man they've ever met in their lives - Jesus.
- Jesus drew them from all walks of life. Most of them had no special status before Jesus came along and said to them: "Follow me!"
- They made all kinds of mistakes and yet they were comfortable hanging out with Jesus and he transformed their lives.
- If you'll explore the adventures of Jesus with his disciples, you'll see how you too can experience being a part of God's Kingdom right here and now so that your citizenship will be secure when we all get to Revelation 21.

▼ **God is going to wipe every tear from their eyes.**

- This is what makes this passage so appropriate for grieving people. God wants to wipe away your tears and make everything new. He wants to give you this new heaven and earth and the New Jerusalem as an inheritance.
- As the scripture says however, this inheritance is for those who overcome. In the very next verse, the passage goes on to describe what happens to those who don't overcome. You can read that on your own, but I think we're gathered here to be overcomers. Can I get an "amen"?

▼ **Revelation 21:22-27 (our last passage)**

I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 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.

▼ **What I want you to take away from this passage is:**

- The city doesn't have a temple or church building because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.
- There will be nothing impure or anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful.
- To get in, your name must be written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

▼ **Is Your Name Written In Jesus' Book of Life?**

▼ **Remember what we've learned so far:**

- Jesus is God with us and he saves his people from their sins.
- Jesus has made God's Kingdom (his rule in the lives of people) available to everyone.
- Jesus invited people to join the Kingdom by following him.
- Jesus is the eternal Son of the Most High God. His Kingdom will never end.
- Jesus gives us the right to become children of God ourselves.
- In Jesus, God became human and lived among us.

▼ **Follow Jesus**

- If you want your name written in Jesus' Book of Life, you must follow Jesus.
- Does something inside you want to say "yes" to following Jesus?
- One of the greatest things that can happen as we remember a loved one is for the celebration of life to lead someone to follow Jesus.
- Got questions? I'm available to talk and to help you find answers.
- God Bless You!

• **Discussions, Q&A**



# Is Your Name In The Book?

Sunday May 25, 2025



# Welcome!



## Visitor Page

Welcome to another Sunday at Life Church.

The QR code (also available on our song sheets) links to our Visitor Landing Page.

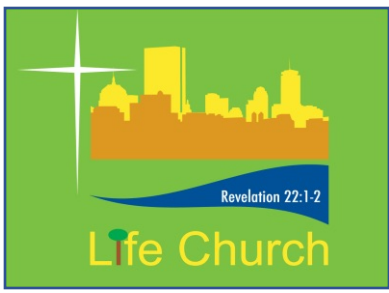
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We will begin Luke 16 next week.

We will take time to build each other up after the message.



# Thoughts



• . . .



# Overview

In today's message we will do the following:

- Offer a reason for hope.
- Describe a way to present scriptures that people will easily find later.
- Present 6 easy to find passages.
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# Introduction



- I'm going to share some material that may be helpful for grieving people.
- Death is difficult:
  - The loss of a loved one is a difficult time for those who have been left behind because, generally speaking, death is the longest separation from that particular loved one that we will normally experience.
  - That's not the only difficulty however. When anyone dies, regardless of our relationship with them, it generally reminds us that sooner or later death will come for us too - separating us from all of our loved ones.
  - I'm here to tell you that, despite the pain that you feel now, God has a message of hope for you. I'm not going to pretend that that hope will take away your pain, but I can assure you that if you will take hold of that hope, you can overcome, not only the pain you feel now, but even the pain, confusion, and injustice in the world around you.



# A Message From The Bible



I'm going to share a brief message from the Bible and, in order to make it easier for you to refer back to it, I'm going to use passages that will be easy for you to find. I'll read from the 1st chapter of each of the four Gospels, and the next to last chapter of Revelation - the last book in the Bible. In other words:

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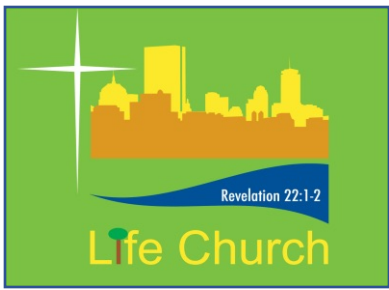


## Matthew 1:20-23 (NIV)



But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

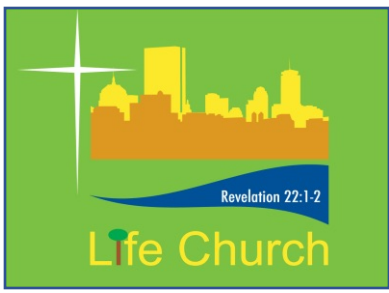
All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).



# Matthew 1:20-23 (continued)

Here we learn:

- Jesus saves his people from their sins.
- Jesus is God with us.



## Mark 1:14-18 (NIV)



After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. **“The time has come,”** he said. **“The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”**

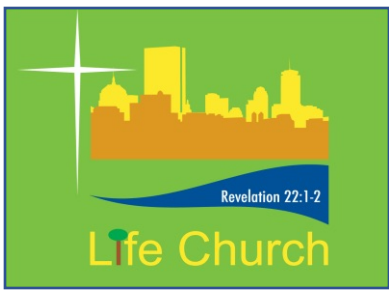
As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. **“Come, follow me,”** Jesus said, **“and I will send you out to fish for people.”** At once they left their nets and followed him.



# Mark 1:14-18 (continued)

What I want you to take away from this passage is:

- Jesus has made God's Kingdom (his rule in the lives of people) available to everyone.
- Jesus invited people to join the Kingdom by following him.



# Luke 1:26-33 (NIV)



In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

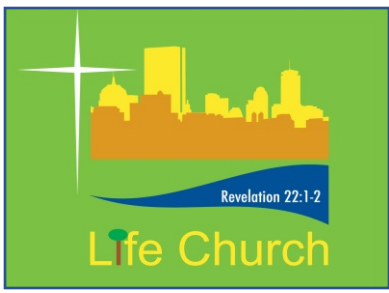
Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”



# Luke 1:26-33 (continued)

This passage teaches us:

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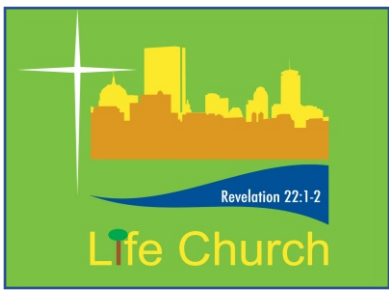


# John 1:1-14 (NIV) 1 of 2



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.



## John 1:1-14 (NIV) 1 of 2



The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.



# John 1:1-14 (continued)

Here we learn that:

- Jesus was with God from the beginning.
- Jesus gives us the right to become children of God ourselves.
- In Jesus, God became human and lived among us.



# Revelation 21:1-7 (NIV) 1 of 2



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, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live 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.”



## Revelation 21:1-7 (NIV) 2 of 2



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 him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.



# Revelation 21:1-7 (continued)



What I want you to take away from this passage is:

- God will replace the current heaven and earth with a renewed one.
- There, God will live with his people forever.
- Death and sorrow will vanish forever.



# Revelation 21:1-7 (continued)

A new heaven and a new earth!

- The old heaven and the old earth - everything that's broken and corrupt is going away! That's good news as long as you're not broken and corrupt but, if you're like me, you've experienced some personal brokenness and corruption. Anyone willing to raise their hand with me?
- Fortunately for people like us who raised our hands, God's Kingdom includes a plan to fix what's broken and corrupt in each of us so that we'll all be able to join the party!

New Jerusalem.

- Notice that the city is coming down out of heaven to the earth. God's plan is to fix our broken world and make it brand new.



# God will live with people.

Now this idea might make you uncomfortable.

- Think about some scenarios:
  - When you're at school and the principal comes to sit at your lunch table.
  - When preachers like me drop by your home unexpectedly.



# God will live with people. (continued)



Fortunately, the Bible shows us how real people can successfully hang out with God.

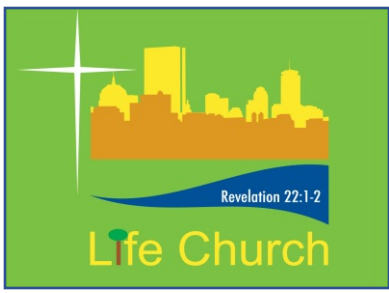
- In Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John we see a group of disciples hanging out with the most amazing man they've ever met in their lives - Jesus.
- Jesus drew them from all walks of life. Most of them had no special status before Jesus came along and said to them: "Follow me!"
- They made all kinds of mistakes and yet they were comfortable hanging out with Jesus and he transformed their lives.
- If you'll explore the adventures of Jesus with his disciples, you'll see how you too can experience being a part of God's Kingdom right here and now so that your citizenship will be secure when we all get to Revelation 21.



# God will wipe away every tear.



- This is what makes this passage so appropriate for grieving people. God wants to wipe away your tears and make everything new. He wants to give you this new heaven and earth and the New Jerusalem as an inheritance.
- As the scripture says however, this inheritance is for those who overcome. In the very next verse, the passage goes on to describe what happens to those who don't overcome. You can read that on your own, but I think we're gathered here to be overcomers. Can I get an "amen"?



# Revelation 21:22-27 (NIV)



I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 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.



# Revelation 21:22-27 (continued)

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- To get in, your name must be written in the Lamb's Book of Life.



# Is Your Name In The Book? 1 of 2



Remember what we've learned so far:

- Jesus is “God with us” and he saves his people from their sins.
- Jesus makes God’s Kingdom (his rule over his people) available to everyone.
- Jesus invited people to join the Kingdom by following him.
- Jesus is the eternal Son of the Most High God. His Kingdom will never end.
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# Is Your Name In The Book? 2 of 2



## Follow Jesus

- If you want your name written in Jesus' Book of Life, you must follow Jesus.
- Does something inside you want to say “yes” to following Jesus?
- One of the greatest things that can happen as we remember a loved one is for the celebration of life to lead someone to follow Jesus.
- Got questions? I'm available to talk and to help you find answers.
- God Bless You!



# Q&A / Discussion





# Announcements



Visitor Page

- Sunday Service May 25, 2025
- Men's Bible Study Wed (5/28) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom
- Bill Baxter Funeral Thu (5/29) 11am (10am Viewing) - Jubilee Christian Church
- Sunday Service (Communion) June 1, 2025
- Sunday Connection June 1, 2025 12n - 2pm
- Sunday Service June 8, 2025
- Men's Bible Study Wed (6/11) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service June 15, 2025



# Q&A / Discussion





# Benediction, Life Groups



Announcements

Benediction

Life Groups

Leave Service From Life Groups