

# Behold! The City

Throughout this year we have looked at humans as relational beings: in relationship to God, to each other, and to the natural world. This is how humans were created to live in the garden, only it went wrong. For many series and lessons we have searched to make it right again. However, it will only be completely made right when God restores our purpose and our relationship to him, to each other, and to nature, in the future that God has planned for us.

We have many ideas about what that future will be like: ideas from the Bible, movies, childhood, imagination, art, and so on. But how often do we think of our future in the City of God? In this four lesson series, we will explore biblical ideas of heaven and life after death, focusing on how this relates to our connection to community, not just our personal pleasure after we die.

In Lesson One, **The City of God**, students will articulate their preconceived notions about heaven before delving into the biblical metaphor of the City of God. Does death sever our connection to community or does it fulfill it? We work together to find out.

In Lesson Two, **Hope Ahead**, students will uncover some of their questions about the future before delving into what scripture has to say. What have we to look forward to and put our hope in?

In Lesson Three, **The Locked Box**, students confront Jesus' teaching about the unknowable end. The Bible and popular culture are both full of confusing imagery about the end of the world and the coming of Jesus, but what did Jesus himself teach? And how does that change the way we live and understand God?

Finally, in Lesson Four, **Get Moving**, students will decide what the right response to God's promise is. Do God's promises of a restored world mean we can put our feet up

and relax or do they mean we can partner with God to bring it about? Which is the better choice and what will we do about it?