Introduction:
All-Nighters. God’s first thought is The End. I’m going to spoil the whole series for you right now. God’s first thought is for Jesus to be King not only over the entire universe, but specifically over the whole earth. That He would lovingly rule over worshipful human beings who are human like Him. That’s why God started the beginning...to look like and lead to the end.

Need:
Our first thought needs to be The End. That is godly, biblical, and natural (its what humans do). Changes the way we live, suffer, etc. Romans 8:18.

Everyone has an End Time view. What’s yours? Everyone lives for it!
Other Religions View on Eternity: Muslims, Buddhists, Mormons (39:1 Baptist)

Bible:

Revelation 1:1a: The Revelation of Jesus Christ
The word “revelation” here means symbolic or apocalyptic visions.
What is eternity all about? Wrong question. Its WHO is eternity all about? Revelation is all about Jesus! Its not about beasts, bowls, signs, prophecies, dragons, heads, horns, angels, tribulations, raptures, judgement, hell, or even heaven. Its all about Jesus finally being revealed in all of His glory to all of creation as the rightful ruling King. Its not that Jesus steps on the scene and starts ruling, but its that Jesus is revealed in all of glory and the rule that He’s been reigning in. This is the same Jesus that’s reigning now, ruling now, in control now, to be worshiped now, to be followed now, to be served now. Jesus doesn’t change, He’s just revealed so we can see Him as He is! The book of Revelation is written and designed to cause us to serve, suffer, and live for Jesus now. It is not just a book about the future, but is a book encouraging God’s people to live lives of faithfulness in the present.

Revelation 1:1b: These things must soon take place.
All throughout Scripture we see the Bible saying that these things will soon take place. The situation of the church with Nero and Rome. There are different views of Revelation:
1. Past: All of Revelation was in the past, and we’re in the millennium now.
2. Present: All of Revelation is happening now, tribulation and millennium.
3. Future: All of Revelation will happen in the future: tribulation and millennium.

I believe God is saying that “soon” means “could happen any time.” The “Last Days” started with Jesus rose from the dead. I’ll give you a date when the Last Days begins... I believe no other signs have to happen until the Last Days begin. We’re in them. We
may be farther into them than we realize. Or Jesus could come back a million years from now. Either way, we don’t know...so we live all out for Jesus today. Why doesn’t God give us the date? Its because people change their lives too drastically in the end...and not drastic enough until the end draws near. We need to live with urgency and normalcy.

Revelation 1:1c: His servant John.

Revelation 1:2: The Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.
He bore witness to the Word of God...all about Jesus! Genesis to Rev! He bore witnesses to the testimony of Jesus! He saw Jesus’ life, death, resurrection. He was willing to die for what He saw. The angel gave Him visions of Jesus and what’s to come.

Revelation 1:3: Blessed are those who read, hear, and keep.
We’ll be blessed if we read this. Have students read these visions and I comment on it. We are blessed if we read them outloud, hear them, and live them!

Students will Read Revelation 4, 5, and 7.
Joe - Revelation 1:4-20. This is the revelation of Jesus that reminds His churches He is coming soon. We’ll talk about these churches next week, but this is a huge reminder. Keep on living for Jesus as the church, keep growing in community, keep discipling others, keep sharing your faith, keep meeting together for worship, and continue to remain faithful to His Word. Reveals Jesus’ glory!

Jessica - Revelation 4. Jesus gives John a vision of the throne room where Jesus is currently ruling and reigning. We see here brilliant and phenomenal creatures as well as creation. A scene that you literally could not imagine being so incredible. And all of this creation and all of these creatures are bowing and worshiping to the loving, glorious Savior who is on the throne. God gives us a glimpse of this throne room scene for us to lose the appeal and enticement of chasing beauty, pleasure, technology, newer, bigger and better things. None of it matters in comparison of Jesus Christ!

Crazy Jay - Revelation 5. Only Jesus is worthy to open the scrolls to unveil the future and usher eternity into plan. We also see here that Jesus will be worshiped by creation through the gospel forever!

Amberlynn - Revelation 7:9-17. We see another vision of Jesus here where the countless multitudes of people worship Jesus. God gives us a glimpse of eternal worship to encourage us to keep bringing people to Jesus so that they will be there wrapped around His throne and worshiping Him forever! This book is to bring passion to our witness, faithfulness to our obedience, and emotion to our worship.
Story:
Me at the Verdict Walk Thru

Application:
The whole point of Revelation is not to know what The End will be like, to debate it, and to just look forward to it. But the whole point of Revelation is from Romans 8:18 - the sufferings of this world won’t even compare to the glory that is to be revealed! The whole point is to get a glimpse of The End and to live for Jesus now in the present. To see that He is worth suffering for, to see that He is worth resisting sin, to see that He is worth spreading the gospel, to see that He is worth revolving your life around your church.

Craig Groschell says we throw around this term YOLO all the time, especially when we’re about to do something stupid. But YOLO isn’t true for the Christian. If you’re not a Christian, then you live only once but the Bible says you die twice. If you are a Christian, then you actually live twice and only die once.

So we don’t live in such a way that we think this is our only life! We live for the life that’s going to last forever...and that is the life lived for Jesus. So here’s the deal, if you’re not living for Jesus, then you’re actually just living for this life until you die twice. So you’re just living until your death. Which means you’re not even living...you’re just dying! But if you’re living for Jesus, you’re not dying, but you’re living for eternity.

Tonight is one of those nights to reevaluate your life. Reexamine the way you’ve been living. Are you living for Jesus? He’s what matter, what’s done for Him will last. How are you living at home? How are you treating your family? How are you living at school? How are you playing your sports? How’s your language? How are you studying? How are your grades? How are your friendships? How’s your job? How is your entertainment? How’s your social media? How’s your heart? How’s your sin? How’s your resisting of temptation? Get a huge glimpse of Jesus from His Word! Ask to experience more of Jesus through prayer. Continue to be more encouraged to follow Jesus from His church. Have Christian friends who challenge you to live for Jesus through community.

Knowing the future changes your present! What if you knew your future job? What if you knew your future spouse? What if you knew your future death?