

STUDENT DISCUSSION GUIDE

Now & Then – Week 1

Living Between Resurrection & Restoration

SESSION FOCUS

The resurrection of Jesus changed everything—and yet the world is not fully restored.

In this session, we explore what it means to live faithfully in the tension between what God has already done and what He has not yet completed.

Rather than avoiding frustration or longing, Scripture invites us to see waiting as a meaningful part of life in God's Kingdom. This session helps us name that tension honestly and learn how hope is formed in the in-between.

OPENING REFLECTION

Take a moment to reflect honestly.

- When you think about your faith right now, does it feel more like confidence or waiting?
- Where do you feel hopeful—and where do you feel frustrated?
- Are there places where your expectations of God feel unresolved?

Personal Notes:

SCRIPTURE READING

Read the following passages slowly:

- **Luke 24:1–12**
- **Romans 8:18–25**

As you read, notice:

- What has already changed because of Jesus' resurrection
 - What is still incomplete
 - How Scripture talks about hope, waiting, and longing
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KEY IDEA



Jesus' resurrection has begun God's new creation,
but we are still living in the space between **resurrection and restoration**.

Christian faith is lived in the tension of **already** and **not yet**.

PART 1: THE RESURRECTION CHANGED REALITY

(Luke 24:1–12; 1 Corinthians 15:20–23)

The resurrection is not only something we look back on—it reshaped reality itself. Jesus' victory over death means the future has already broken into the present.

Reflection Questions

- Why do you think the disciples struggled to understand what the resurrection meant at first?
- What does it mean to say the resurrection is the “first step,” not the final one?
- How does the resurrection give hope even when circumstances haven't changed yet?

Personal Notes:

PART 2: THE KINGDOM HAS COME—BUT NOT COMPLETELY

(Hebrews 2:8–9; Luke 17:20–21)

Scripture teaches that Jesus reigns now, yet the world remains broken. Both truths exist at the same time.

Reflection Questions

- Where do you see signs of God's Kingdom already at work?
- Where do you struggle to believe Christ is reigning now?
- How does holding both truths change how you view the world?

Personal Notes:

PART 3: WHAT IS NOT YET

(Romans 8:18–23; Revelation 21:1–4)

The Bible is honest that pain, loss, and injustice remain. Longing for restoration is not a lack of faith—it is a faithful response to a broken world.

Reflection Questions

- What feels unfinished or unresolved in your life right now?



- Where do you feel the gap between God’s promises and your experience?
- How does Scripture describe groaning and waiting—as failure or faith?

Personal Notes:

PART 4: LIVING FAITHFULLY IN THE TENSION

(Romans 8:24–25; 2 Corinthians 4:16–18)

Hope is not pretending everything is fine. It is trusting God while waiting for what we cannot yet see.

Reflection Questions

- How do you usually respond to waiting—control, avoidance, frustration, trust?
- What does “active waiting” look like in your life?
- Where might God be inviting you to remain faithful without immediate answers?

Personal Notes:

PART 5: WHY THE IN-BETWEEN MATTERS

(James 1:2–4; Romans 5:1–5)

God uses the space between resurrection and restoration to shape perseverance, character, and hope.

Reflection Questions

- How has waiting shaped you in the past?
- What do you think God might be forming in you right now?
- How does seeing tension as formative change your perspective?

Personal Notes:

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take a few quiet moments to reflect.

- Where are you living in the “now and then” right now?
- What is hardest about waiting?
- What hope are you holding onto?

Personal Response:



CLOSING PRAYER

Ask God for patience, trust, and hope rooted in Christ's resurrection.

Pray for faith that remains steady—not because everything is resolved, but because God is faithful.

OPTIONAL PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK

This week:

- Read **Romans 8:18–25** slowly each day
 - Pay attention to where longing shows up in your prayers
 - Each day, name one hope you are holding onto
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FINAL THOUGHT

We live after the resurrection
and before the restoration.

God is present in the tension—
and He is shaping us there.

