

STUDENT DISCUSSION GUIDE

Now & Then – Session 3

Trusting Jesus When Resurrection Is Delayed

SESSION FOCUS

In John 11, Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead—but not when anyone expects.

This session helps us explore what faith looks like when Jesus' power is real, His love is certain, and yet His timing is difficult to understand.

We are invited to trust Jesus **not only for resurrection someday—but for who He is in the delay.**

OPENING REFLECTION

Take a few quiet moments.

- Have you ever believed God *could* act but struggled with *when* He would?
- Where has delay tested your trust?

Personal Notes:

SCRIPTURE READING

Read **John 11:1–44** slowly.

As you read, notice:

- When Jesus arrives
 - What Martha and Mary say
 - What Jesus reveals about Himself
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KEY IDEA

Jesus is the resurrection and the life—
even when resurrection feels delayed.

PART 1: WHEN JESUS WAITS (John 11:1–6)

Jesus hears the request—but does not go immediately.



Reflection Questions

- Why does Jesus' delay feel so troubling?
- What assumptions do we make about love and timing?
- How does this challenge how we understand trust?

Personal Notes:

PART 2: BELIEF BEFORE BREAKTHROUGH (John 11:20–27)

Martha believes in resurrection—but still grieves deeply.

Reflection Questions

- What does Martha believe?
- What does she still struggle with?
- Why does Jesus emphasize *who He is* instead of *what He will do*?

Personal Notes:

PART 3: JESUS ENTERS GRIEF (John 11:28–35)

Jesus weeps—not despite future resurrection, but before it.

Reflection Questions

- What does Jesus' weeping reveal about God?
- How does this shape your understanding of faith and grief?

Personal Notes:

PART 4: RESURRECTION THAT IS REAL—BUT NOT FINAL (John 11:38–44)

Lazarus lives again—but the world is still broken.

Reflection Questions

- How is this miracle hopeful and incomplete at the same time?
- What does this teach us about the Kingdom now?

Personal Notes:



PART 5: TRUSTING JESUS IN THE IN-BETWEEN

(John 11:25–26; Romans 8:24–25)

Reflection Questions

- Where are you waiting for resolution?
- What would it look like to trust Jesus *before* resolution comes?

Personal Notes:

PERSONAL REFLECTION

- Where does delayed resurrection feel most personal to you?
- What is Jesus inviting you to trust about Him right now?

Personal Response:

CLOSING PRAYER

Ask Jesus to help you trust Him—not only for outcomes, but for His presence and character.

OPTIONAL PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK

- Read **John 11:25–26** each day
 - Sit in silence for a few minutes
 - Pray: “Jesus, I trust You—even here.”
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FINAL THOUGHT

Resurrection is real.

Restoration is coming.

Trust is formed in the delay.

