

FACILITATOR / TEACHER GUIDE

Now & Then – Week 1

Living Between Resurrection & Restoration

SESSION PURPOSE

This session introduces participants to the central tension of the Christian life:

Jesus has already risen, the Kingdom has already begun, and yet the world—and we ourselves—are not fully restored.

Participants will explore what it means to live faithfully **between what is already true and what is not yet complete**, learning that frustration, longing, hope, and perseverance are not signs of weak faith but normal features of life in God’s Kingdom *now and then*.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this session, participants should be able to:

- Describe the biblical concept of the “**already / not yet**” Kingdom
 - Understand why Christian life often feels marked by tension and waiting
 - Recognize that resurrection has changed reality, even though restoration is still coming
 - Name personal areas where they feel caught between hope and longing
 - Reframe frustration as a space where faith is formed
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KEY PASSAGES

- Luke 24:1–12
 - Romans 8:18–25
 - 1 Corinthians 15:20–26
 - Hebrews 2:8–9
 - Revelation 21:1–5
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SESSION LENGTH

60–75 minutes

(Adaptable for small groups, classes, or personal study)



MATERIALS NEEDED

- Bible (print or digital)
 - Participant study guide or journal
 - Pen
 - Whiteboard or flip chart (optional)
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SESSION FLOW

1. WELCOME & ORIENTATION (5 minutes)

Facilitator Guidance:

Welcome participants and establish a tone of openness and patience. Emphasize that this study does not rush people toward easy answers, but invites them to sit honestly in the tension of faith.

Opening Thought:

The resurrection of Jesus changed everything—yet many of us still experience pain, injustice, disappointment, and unanswered prayers. The Bible names this tension rather than ignoring it.

Opening Question (optional):

When you think about your faith right now, does it feel more like confidence... or waiting?

2. THE RESURRECTION CHANGED REALITY (10 minutes)

Teaching Focus:

The resurrection is not just a past event—it is the beginning of God's new creation.

Read Scripture:

Luke 24:1–12

1 Corinthians 15:20–23

Key Insight:

Jesus' resurrection is the **first victory**, not the final chapter. Something decisive has happened, even if everything is not yet healed.

Facilitator Notes:

Help participants resist the urge to jump straight to application. Sit first with what *has already changed* because of the resurrection.



Discussion Question:

What does the resurrection make possible now that was not possible before?

3. MOVEMENT 1 – THE KINGDOM HAS COME (10 minutes)**Teaching Focus:**

The Kingdom of God is already active, present, and real—yet incomplete.

Read Scripture:

Hebrews 2:8–9

Luke 17:20–21

Key Truths to Emphasize:

- Jesus reigns now
- Sin and death are defeated, but not yet removed
- Faith is lived in the overlap of two realities

Reflection Questions:

- Where do you see signs of God’s Kingdom already at work?
 - Where do you struggle to believe that Christ is reigning *now*?
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4. MOVEMENT 2 – WHAT IS NOT YET (10 minutes)**Teaching Focus:**

Scripture is honest that the world remains broken—and so do we.

Read Scripture:

Romans 8:18–23

Revelation 21:1–4

Key Insight:

Longing is not failure. Groaning is not unbelief. These are faithful responses to a world awaiting restoration.

Facilitator Tip:

Normalize disappointment and unanswered prayers. Avoid spiritualizing pain away.

Discussion Questions:

- What feels unfinished, unresolved, or broken in your life right now?
- Where do you feel the gap between God’s promises and your experience?



5. MOVEMENT 3 – LIVING IN THE TENSION (10 minutes)

Teaching Focus:

Christian faith is not escape from tension, but faithfulness within it.

Read Scripture:

Romans 8:24–25

2 Corinthians 4:16–18

Key Emphasis:

Hope is not pretending everything is fine—it is trusting God while waiting.

Facilitator Insight:

Waiting in Scripture is active, not passive. It involves endurance, prayer, obedience, and trust.

Reflection Questions:

- How do you usually respond to waiting—control, despair, distraction?
- What would faithful waiting look like for you right now?

6. MOVEMENT 4 – WHY THE TENSION MATTERS (10 minutes)

Teaching Focus:

The space between resurrection and restoration is where disciples are formed.

Read Scripture:

James 1:2–4

Romans 5:1–5

Key Truth:

God uses the “in-between” to grow perseverance, hope, and deep trust.

Illustration to Use:

Just as muscles are formed through resistance, faith is shaped in unresolved tension.

Discussion Questions:

- How has waiting shaped you—for better or worse?
- Where might God be forming something in you right now?

7. SUMMARY & CORE INSIGHT (5 minutes)



Key Insight to Emphasize:

The Christian life is not lived after everything is fixed, but **between what Christ has done and what He will finish.**

Core Takeaway:

We live with resurrection hope in a world still awaiting restoration—and God is present in that tension.

8. FINAL REFLECTION & PRACTICE (5 minutes)**Final Reflection Question:**

Where is God inviting you to trust Him—not with answers, but with patience?

Practice for the Week:

Encourage participants to:

- Read Romans 8:18–25 slowly each day
- Notice where longing shows up in their prayers
- End each reading by naming one hope they are holding onto

Closing Prayer (Facilitator-Led):

Pray for endurance, honest faith, and hope rooted in Christ's resurrection.

FACILITATOR REMINDER

Do not rush resolution.

This session opens the framework for the entire study.

Let participants sit in the tension—God is already there.

