

BIG IDEA

We believe the Kingdom of God is “now and not yet”. During this time, we are called to join Jesus in carrying out his mission, including pursuing justice, until he comes again and the Kingdom is restored.

SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:15, Luke 4:18-21, Revelation 7:9

ICEBREAKER AND OPENING THOUGHT

Use the icebreaker and opening thoughts to begin the conversation.

BIBLE DISCUSSION

Walk the group through the passages highlighted. Help the group recognize the responses to Jesus' teaching.

LIFE APPLICATION

- Recognize that the work Justice can be triggering for many reasons. Help the group to land on a definition that sees justice as the work of repairing broken things.
- Gaps between the NOW and NOT YET exist in many areas: voting rights, education, incarceration, poverty, wage equity, healthcare, and housing, to name a few.
- If time permits, read “Now and Not Yet” included below and talk about your experience hearing it being read.

CHALLENGE

Spend the next week praying the simple prayer that “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” Then ask yourself, what of my kingdom do I need to let go of to see God's Kingdom come?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND RESOURCES

1. Where do you see God at work in your life right now?
2. What next steps do you feel called to take in your faith journey?
3. Have you considered getting baptized?
4. Whom have you been able to B.L.E.S.S.?

NOW AND NOT YET

War and Peace
Rich and Poor
Justice and Prejudice
Remembered and Forgotten

This isn't right, this can't be right
NOW AND NOT YET
When we look around, we see the bad
We see the hate, we see the frustration
We see the "not-right-ness" of the world around us
NOW AND NOT YET
We can't help thinking there must be more
This can't be all there is

Broken hurting people
NOW AND NOT YET
Systems of oppression
NOW AND NOT YET
Hate and anger
NOW AND NOT YET

But, I know there's more.
I know of a kingdom where things are made whole
Where people are known
Where there are no divisions
and where love is common
NOT YET

I know of a place where injustice does not reign
Where the walls of religiosity have crumbled
where compassion has no bounds
and where indifference has no hold
NOT YET

Here's the secret that shouldn't be a secret
That place isn't retained for the great by-and-by
I don't have to wait for "one glad morning when this
life is over"
No, I have been called, no, we've been assigned to
embody that Kingdom here and now
NOW

It can happen here. It's supposed to happen here.
God's kingdom is designed to be embodied here...
by us.
"everyone will know that you are MY disciples IF you
love one another"
NOW

Ok God, but love is messy, it's demanding and yet it is
so, so captivating
Love not only defines God, but it proves God.
NOW

So I guess we're stuck.
Stuck in the restlessness of the "now and not yet"
The reality that things are not as they should be
yet appointed with the directive to make them right.
NOW

Where there is hatred let me sow love
NOW
Where there is despair let me sow hope
NOW
Where there is racism let me sow reconciliation
NOW
Where there is disparity let me sow equality
NOW
Where there is darkness let me sow light
NOW

We don't have to wait.
We will amplify the voices of the marginalized, the
oppressed, and the hurting
There doesn't need to be a now-and-not-yet.
We can be the "now"

We don't have to wait.
Let's live into the "now" of the now-and-not-yet
kingdom.
NOW