I AM SECOND™

what's first
Welcome

You are a Second. You want to learn. You want to help others enjoy the kinds of change you have in your life. You want to tell people about Jesus. But how do you do it? What's First will help you and others in your I am Second Group learn how to do this.

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When Jesus becomes First, he launches a revolution in your life:

- A revolution of grace as Jesus saves
- A revolution of freedom as Jesus heals
- A revolution of obedience as you put Jesus First
- A revolution of living for Jesus, not just knowing about him
- A revolution of community as you do life together in I Am Second Groups in which you —
  - Inspire each other to love and good deeds
  - Encourage each other to lift up Jesus
  - Help others see who’s First
  - Live free from unnecessary tradition
  - Live passionately for Jesus
  - Live constantly in spiritual community
  - Obey and pass-on what you learn in the Bible
  - Obey and grow through community, talking with God, the Bible, and even hard times

But what’s first?

**revolution** [rev-uh-loo-shuhn] noun — a sudden, complete or marked change in something
Now he [Jesus] had to go through Samaria. So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour [noon].

When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

“Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?”

Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”

“I have no husband,” she replied.
Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

“Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet... I know that Messiah (called Christ) is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

Then Jesus declared, “I who speak to you am he.”

Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?” They came out of the town and made their way toward him.…. 

Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. And because of his words many more became believers. They said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”

John 4:4-30, 39-41 (NIV)

Background
1. Jesus was a Jew. All Jews were supposed to hate Samaritans. And Samaritans were supposed to hate Jews. They would not go near each other, eat with each other, or even talk with each other.

2. Associating with women in public was culturally unacceptable for men, especially a prominent man like Jesus.

What it says
1. What did you like about this story? How did the woman respond to Jesus? How did the village respond?

2. What did you not like or find confusing about this story?

What it means
3. What does this story teach about people? What can you learn from the woman and her response to Jesus?

4. What does this story teach about God?

Live and Tell
5. The first thing the woman did after meeting Jesus was to tell everyone in her village about her experience with him. Who is in your village? Fill out the worksheet on the next page.
The Samaritan woman returned to her village and told her family, friends, neighbors and acquaintances about her experience with Jesus. Make a list of the people in your village.

Here are some categories to get you started: Family, Friends, Co-workers, Neighbors, Teams, Doctors, Classmates, Facebook, Community leaders.

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I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And that is just what I did in Jerusalem. On the authority of the chief priests I put many of the saints [followers of Jesus] in prison, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. Many a time I went from one synagogue to another to have them punished, and I tried to force them to blaspheme. In my obsession against them, I even went to foreign cities to persecute them.

On one of these journeys I was going to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. About noon, O king, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions. We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?...’

Then I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,’ the Lord replied. ‘Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you. I will rescue you from your own people and from the
Gentiles [non-Jews]. I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified [made holy] by faith in me.’

“So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven. First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds… But I have had God’s help to this very day, and so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen— that the Christ would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would proclaim light to his own people and to the Gentiles.”

At this point Festus interrupted Paul’s defense. “You are out of your mind, Paul!” he shouted. “Your great learning is driving you insane.”

“I am not insane, most excellent Festus,” Paul replied. “What I am saying is true and reasonable. The king is familiar with these things, and I can speak freely to him. I am convinced that none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner. King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do.”

Then Agrippa said to Paul, “Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?”

Paul replied, “Short time or long—I pray to God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains.”

Acts 26:9-29 (NIV)

**Background**

1. Paul has been arrested for telling others about Jesus. He is brought before two regional leaders, King Agrippa and governor Felix, to present his case. Paul shares why he is a follower of Jesus and why he tells others about Jesus.

**What it says**

1. What did you like about this story? Why did Paul want to tell Festus and Agrippa about Jesus? What did he share?

2. What did you not like or find confusing about this story?

**What it means**

3. What does this story teach about people? What was Paul like before and after Jesus? How did he come to believe in Jesus?

4. What does this story teach about God?
Live and tell

5. If all you had was a small piece of cardboard, what one word would you use for your before and after experiences with Jesus? This is your story in a few words. Try several of them, and pick the ones you like best.

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Put a check mark (✓) by the pair of words above that you like best.
My I am Second story

If you were sitting in the I am Second chair, how would you tell your I am Second story? Every story is unique. Your big moment with God may be when you first believed and became a follower of Jesus. For others your big moment with God came after you were a believer. Take a moment and think about when God broke into your life and really changed you. What were you like before and after this event?

Before I trusted Jesus as my Savior, I was _________________________. Explain:

After I trusted Jesus as my Savior, I was _________________________. Explain:

I was changed and decided to put my faith in Jesus because:

Worksheet 1.2

“How’s it going?” “How ya doing?”

We often hear these questions several times a day. How can you answer these common greetings in a way that opens doors to spiritual conversations? Here are some ideas. Add your own at the bottom.

— "Wow, I’m in this small group and the other day we talked about...."
— "In my small group someone told me something that blew me away...."
— "I've been clean for ____ days now."
— Add your own
How to become Second

Opener
Watch: one of the “How to become second” videos
Questions: What did you think about his explanation of how to become Second?

Check-up
Live and tell. The last time you met together everyone agreed to tell their story to three other people. How did it go? (If people did not do what they said they would do, go back and review the last discussion topic again. It is important that people do what they say they will do before moving on.)

Talk with God
Ask God to help the three people you talked with to come to know Jesus. Also, ask God to teach you as you discuss the Bible.

Hear the Bible  Read this as a Group

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. ¹

¹ 1 Corinthians 15:1-10 (NIV)
What it says
1. What did you like about this story?
2. What did you not like or find confusing about this story?

What it means
3. What does this story teach about people? What must people believe to be saved?
4. What does this story teach about God?
5. There are three important things people need to know in order to become Second:
   - You must agree with God that you sin. Everyone is a sinner. Everyone thinks, does, and says things that are wrong. There is punishment for our sins.
   - Jesus died for your sins and rose from the dead.
   - You must believe this and put your trust only in Jesus for paying the punishment for your sins.

Live and Tell
Share your story and the story of Jesus:
Find a partner and practice sharing your I am Second story and the story of Jesus. You learned your story the last time you met. The story of Jesus is short and simple: 1) everyone has sinned (done wrong), 2) Jesus died for your sins and rose from the dead, and 3) you are saved by trusting in Jesus’ death as the payment for the punishment for your sins.

These three steps work together when you tell people about Jesus.

A. Summarize your experience with Jesus (cardboard testimony) and ask a question.
   For example: “I used to be full of anger, but now because of Jesus I have peace. What do you think about Jesus?”

B. Allow the other person to answer your question, then share your story to explain more fully why Jesus means so much to you.
   For example: “I used to be so angry I would . . . . But Jesus changed me, and now I have peace. I am not perfect, but I am different and I no longer. . . .”

C. Integrate the story of Jesus into your story.
   For example: “I follow Jesus because I found out that he died for all my anger and everything else I have done wrong, he rose from dead and offered to save me if I was willing to trust him.”

If you need additional help telling this story, visit simplysharejesus.com, and learn a simple way using the EvangeCube.® Or visit act111.org for other training.

7. Who on your list seems the most interested in learning how to become Second by making Jesus First? What 3 people will you share your story and the story of Jesus with before your next meeting?
Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe.

“All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I must lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him will have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the Prophets: ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life. I am the bread of life... I am the bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

John 6:35-51 (NIV)
Background

Jesus often used word pictures when he talked. Here he is talking about hunger (bread) and thirst for spiritual things, not physical food and drink.

What it says

1. What did you like about this reading?
2. What did you not like or find confusing about this reading?

What it means

3. What does this reading teach about people?
4. What does this reading teach about God? Who enables people to put their trust in Jesus?

Live and Tell

5. What will you do now? Who on your list of 50 will you pray for first?
6. Take turns practicing your story and the story of Jesus in front of the whole group.
   a. Begin with a summary statement (cardboard testimony).
   b. Share your I am Second story. Explain your cardboard testimony in more detail.
   c. Share the story of Jesus. Explain who Jesus is and what he has done.
7. Who will you tell? Who are the next three on your list who need to hear your story and the story of Jesus?
How to lead your I am Second group

This I am Second discussion guide is about much more than knowledge. It is about changed lives. It is about discovering truth. It is about people becoming free. It is about being Second. Keep in mind the following tips:

**Talk to God.** Leading this group is a big job, so ask God to help you. Talking to God is a simple step that often is overlooked. You are only on your own when you neglect to ask God for help.

**Be Authentic.** Do not be fake or shallow or use churchy words. Be yourself. Model to your group that an I am Second Group is a place where honesty and acceptance are normal and expected. Be transparent about your own pains and problems. Dare to be vulnerable. Ask tough questions that will encourage your group to do the same.

**Keep it a Discussion.** This is a place for people to discuss things, not a time for you to practice your public speaking skills. Allow people time to truly wrestle with what the Bible says without forcing an answer. Do not derail the discussion by supplying all the answers or providing your own commentary. People better understand, more readily accept, and more effectively apply God’s Word when they discover the answers themselves.

**OK Not to Know Answers.** You are not expected to know all the answers. When you don’t know something, admit it. Ask someone in the group to research the answer before the next meeting, or volunteer to find it yourself.

**Keep Focused.** Each lesson has a main idea. As the group discusses, ask yourself, “Have we talked about the main things?” If, during the discussions, the group misses the main idea, keep probing. Save your own comments for the end.

**Don’t Skip Parts.** Every part is important, especially the “Live and Tell” and “Check-up” discussions. If people have not done what they committed to do at the previous meeting, consider going back and reviewing the previous discussion topic again. It is important that people do what they say they will do before moving on.

**Meet often.** Meeting weekly is good. Meeting more frequently is better. Just be sure to give everyone enough time between meetings people to do their “Live and Tell” commitments.
My Village 1.1
Summary: Each person will make a list of 50 people in their life who need to hear about how to become Second.

Talk with God: The members of your group may be believers, but they may not know how to pray or be uncomfortable praying in a group. This is an opportunity to teach them. Most of your teaching on prayer will be done through example. Take prayer seriously. It is not a formality or a courtesy; it is conversation with God. It is helpful if you do the praying during the first couple of meetings. Then, after people are familiar with the idea, encourage them to pray.

Some Help with the Discussion
Have you talked about the main things?
What did you not like? The woman at the well did not immediately understand what Jesus was trying to tell her. Even after Jesus offered living water, she had several questions before she understood that he was the Messiah.

What does this teach about people? When she returned to her village, she shared a simple message. First, she summarized her experience with Jesus. She explained that she realized that he was more than just a man after he told her everything that she had done. Second, she asked a question that piqued the interest of her village. She did not condemn them or preach at them. She simply asked what they thought about Jesus.

You and your group can do the same. Tell people you know what Jesus has done for you, then ask who they think Jesus is. This will allow you to share your fuller story and the story of Jesus in a very conversational manner.

Live and Tell. Most Christians go through life never telling anyone about what Jesus has done for them. But everyone has a village filled with people that they relate to everyday. As Seconds, it is your joy and responsibility to tell people about Jesus.

Make a list. The goal of this activity is immensely practical. The next few weeks, everyone should share with others the story of how Jesus has changed their lives.

Making the list takes time. Get everyone started on this list during group time. If some cannot finish, ask them to complete their list at home and bring it to the next meeting.

My Story 1.2
Summary: The purpose for this discussion is for each person to begin working on their own story, so they can tell it to others. The videos on I am Second make it look easy. But it will take some work and some practice for each person to be able to tell their own story well.

Check-up: Application is as important as education. Each week, group members will be asked to put into practice what they learn. Be sure to hold them accountable to do what they say they will do. If they do not follow through on their commitments, consider going back over the previous discussion. This first time you might want to simply give a warning and continue with My Story 1.2. But if it becomes a trend, do not proceed until people do their commitments.

Talk with God: Continue to model prayer to the group. Let people know that you all depend on God to teach you and reach others with the story of Jesus.

Some Help with the Discussion
Have you talked about the main things?
What did you like? Paul told his story: a) his life before Jesus, b) how he came to Jesus, and 3) his life after Jesus. Some did not believe. Festus thought he was crazy. Agrippa was unmoved. But Paul was polite, even when Festus made fun of him. Then Paul told them he would pray for them.

Why did Paul feel compelled to share Jesus? Paul shared with Festus and King Agrippa a vision he had of Jesus talking to him. In this vision Jesus told him to go to Gentiles (non-Jews) and share with them how they can receive forgiveness for sins by having faith in Jesus. So Paul did just that. He went to Damascus, Jerusalem, Judea, and to the Gentiles and shared with them the need to believe in Jesus. As he spoke to Festus and King Agrippa, he shared with them the same thing, how to receive forgiveness for sins by having faith in Jesus. He felt compelled to share Jesus because that is what Jesus told him to do.
Live and Tell: Allow the group a few moments to think about their own lives. Whether they grew up in church or are coming from drug rehab, every person has a story. The story they tell does not have to be their salvation story. It can be the story of their divorce or of a painful childhood. The important thing is that each person tells a story from their life that shows how much Jesus has done for them.

It is good to focus on one or a few words for the before and after. That helps people target the most important part of their story, and not a whole bunch of random details.

Write: Writing it down or illustrating it through pictures will help you and your group remember and organize your own stories. Remember to bring paper and pen for everyone. They may want to write the “final” version in their book after brainstorming on a separate sheet of paper.

How would you tell your story?
Now it’s time to practice. Break up into pairs, and have each person share his or her story. Set aside plenty of time for this, because it will help everyone build confidence.

Live and Tell: Ask everyone to write down at least three names of people with whom they can share their story. One way to do this is to ask friends and relatives to help them. They can explain that they have homework to do for their small group.

Encourage them to start the conversation by following the example of the Samaritan woman. Make a summary statement (like your cardboard testimony) and then ask who they think Jesus is. After listening to what the other person has to say, they can share their full story of why they are Second and Christ is First.

Live and Tell: Once they understand the gospel, break down into pairs and practice sharing the gospel and explaining it to their partners. At the end of the lesson, encourage everyone to share their story and the story of Jesus with at least three people before your next meeting.

Ask God to Help 1.4
Summary: It is God’s responsibility to draw people to Jesus. So we should not be discouraged when people do not respond to the gospel the way we hope they will. In My Story 1.2, we learned that King Agrippa and Festus did not believe in Jesus, and even made fun of Paul.

Talk with God: Each time you pray with your group you are demonstrating how to talk with God. Keep it authentic and encourage them to join in with you. During this meeting, make it a point to ask everyone to share about someone in their life who needs Jesus, and take turns praying for them.

Check-up: As always keep this part of the lesson a priority. Obedience is what God wants, not just head knowledge.

Some Help with the Discussion
Have you talked about the main things?
What did you like? Jesus is the bread of life. In other words, he is the answer to our hunger for spiritual things. He is who brings salvation and forgiveness. And it is the Father that draws people to him.

What did you not like? The metaphor “bread of life” may be confusing to some. Jesus is trying to
explain that he is the source of spiritual life. Just as everyone needs food to live, everyone needs Jesus to live spiritually. He is the spiritual food you need to survive. He is also alluding to a story from the Old Testament in Exodus 16. In this story God miraculously provided food from heaven to feed the wandering Israelites.

**What does this teach about people?** There is only so much you can do when sharing your faith. It is your job and your joy to share your faith, but God is the only who can change people’s hearts and draw them to Jesus.

**What does this teach about God?** God is in control. Be faithful to share your story and the story of Jesus and to pray for the people in your life. The rest is up to God.

**Live and Tell:** Most of your time will be spent on this section, as each member of the group practices telling his story and the story of Jesus. Be sure to allow plenty of time as this will continue to give everyone confidence in being able to share their faith.