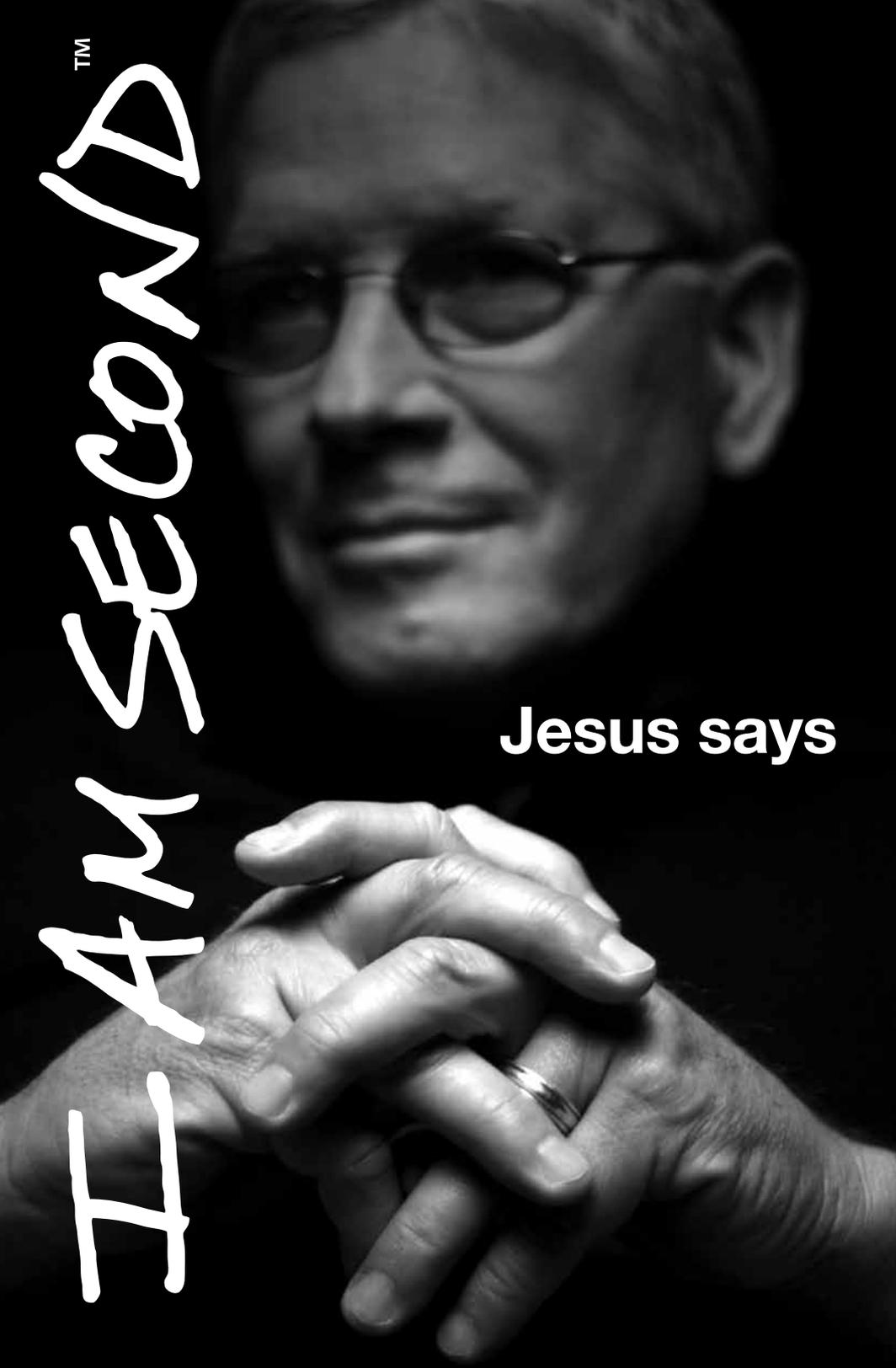


I AM SECOND™

Jesus says





Jesus Says 3.0

How to be a better Second by doing what Jesus says.

Welcome

Jesus healed. Jesus loved. Jesus made peace. And Jesus taught his followers to do the same. Here, in *Jesus Says* you will find the basics of what Jesus says we should do and believe.

According to Jesus, love demands that something be done to show it. It can begin as a feeling or as a thought but it cannot stay there. It must move you to action. Loving Jesus is a way of life. It is a changed heart that changes behavior. It is obeying God's commands.

All of what Jesus told us to do can be summarized in seven basic commands. These commands are covered in the I am Second discussion guides entitled *Jesus Says* and *Jesus Also Says*.

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Learn and Do

Opener

Watch: the Shawna video

Question: What did Shawna learn about God's love?

Talk with God



Worship. Share with the group and with God something you greatly appreciate and love about God.



Ask. Ask God to teach you through the Bible and challenge you into action.

Check-Up

Each time you meet you are asked the question, "What will you do now?" Today's reading is the reason for this question. Jesus said, "If you love me, obey my commands." Loving Jesus means living out what he says.

Hear the Bible *Read this as a Group*

"If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On

that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

Jesus
— John 14:15-21 (NIV)





Talk about the Bible Reading

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?

Live and Tell

5. What will you do now? Are there commands of Jesus that you have failed to live out?
6. Who will you tell? Who could you have a spiritual conversation with about what you have learned? In *What's First* you made a list of 50 people that need to hear about Jesus. Is there someone on your list of 50 that you could talk to about Jesus before the next meeting?

Repent. Believe. Follow.

Opener

Watch: the Josh Hamilton video

Question: How did Josh come to realize that he needed to turn to God?

Check-Up

Live and tell. Jesus said, “If you love me, obey my commands.” How specifically did you live out this idea? With whom did you have a spiritual conversation about it? (If people did not do what they committed to do, consider going back and reviewing the last discussion topic again. It is important that people do what they say they will do before moving on.)

Talk with God



Worship. What has God been doing in your life lately? Thank God for what he has done.



Ask. Ask God to teach you as you read the Bible. Pray for your friends and family that do not know God that they also would become followers of Jesus.

Hear the Bible *Read this as a Group*

Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”

Jesus
— Mark 1:14-17 (TNIV)





As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and

seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Paul of Tarsus, a letter written to the Ephesians 2:1-10 (TNIV)

Talk about the Bible Reading

What it says

1. What did you like about these readings?
2. What did you not like or find confusing about these readings?

What it means

3. What do these readings teach about people?
4. What do these readings teach about God?

Live and Tell

5. What will you do now? Based on today’s reading how will your life change, how specifically are you going to live out today’s discussion?
6. Who will you tell? Where are you on your list of 50? Who can you tell about Jesus?

Be Baptized

Opener

Question: What comes to your mind when you think of the word baptism?

Check-Up

The last time you met you talked about Jesus' call to repent, believe, and follow. How specifically have you lived this out? Who did you talk with from your list of 50?

Talk with God

-  **Worship.** What is something that God has been doing in your life that you can thank him for?
-  **Ask.** Share with the group something in your life that you have been worrying about. Ask God to work out these situations.
-  **Surrender.** As you are talking with God about these concerns, tell him that in the end what you really want for these situations is for God to work out things the way he sees best. Decide to trust God and to try to stop worrying.

Hear the Bible *Read this as a Group*

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...”

Jesus in Matthew 28:19 (TNIV)

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” So he started out, and on his

way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship,¹ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah² the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”



Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

“How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep
to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its
shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.
In his humiliation he was
deprived of justice.
Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

Acts 8:26-38 (TNIV)

Helps

1. Jerusalem was the location of the Jewish temple, the centerpiece of all Jewish religious activity. Both ethnic Jews and people who converted to Judaism found it important to go to Jerusalem to worship.
2. Isaiah, whose ministry and teachings are recorded in the Old Testament book of Isaiah, was known for his predictions about the coming Savior/Messiah. The particular passage the Ethiopian official was reading was Isaiah 53:7-8.

Talk about the Bible Reading

What it says

1. What did you like about this story? How was the Ethiopian baptized?
2. What did you not like or find confusing about this story?

What it means

3. What does this story teach about people?
4. What does this story teach about God?

Live and Tell

5. What will you do now? Is baptism something you need to consider doing?
6. Who will you tell? With whom could you have a spiritual conversation about today's story?

Love God, Love People

Opener

Watch: the “Does God care about me” video

Question: What is the most difficult thing about love for you? Why?

Check-Up

Live and tell. The last time you met you talked about baptism. How did you live out that discussion? With whom did you share some of your insights?

Talk with God



Share with the group something you really love about God and about the person sitting next to you. Take turns thanking God for these things.

Hear the Bible *Read this as a Group*

On one occasion an expert in the law¹ stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

“What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

He answered, “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ”

“You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest² happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite², when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.



But a Samaritan³, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Luke 10:25-37



Helps

1. Expert in the law — The Jewish legal system was profoundly religious in nature. To be an expert in the law meant that you were an expert in the law of the Bible. This person would have been a religious leader and teacher, and not just a lawyer in the modern sense of the word.
2. Priests managed the Jewish Temple and offered the sacrifices. Levites assisted the priests by providing wood and other things necessary for the sacrifices. They also led the music at the temple.
3. Jesus, the legal expert, and probably everyone listening to this conversation were Jews. 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.

Talk about the Bible Reading

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?
4. What does this story teach about God?

Live and Tell

5. What will you do now? Based on today's story, how will your life change? How specifically are you going to live out today's discussion?
6. Who will you tell? With whom could you have a spiritual conversation about today's discussion?

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 with 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.

Here are some ideas on how to help your group set better goals as they live out the Bible. Share these ideas with your group as you discuss your Live & Tell commitments.

Attainable. A marathon is run one step at a time. Great goals are reached by first reaching a thousand smaller more attainable goals. Do something great by doing something small and more attainable every day. Do you want to feed all the homeless of America? Then take one small step. Feed one homeless person. Then take another step. Bring a friend and feed two homeless persons. That is how you change the world. Help your group find small attainable steps that they can take every day.

Measureable. Changing bad attitudes, faulty thinking, or impure motivations is good and even essential. But if these changes never result in outward visible actions, then you probably have not actually changed anything. As you make your goals, make them measureable.

Committing to love the homeless is good. But if you never do anything to actually express your love for the homeless, then are you really committed to love the homeless? Set a goal that you can measure, something that you can see. Push your group to make practical, measureable goals each time you meet.

Challenging. Think big. Your goals need to be attainable steps. But that does not mean they need to be insignificant or easy. What small step could you take that would truly challenge you, push you beyond your normal routine? Challenge your group to make challenging goals.

Helps

Learn and Do 3.1

Summary: Jesus said, "If you love me, obey my commands." For Jesus, love is not just a warm feeling or a kind thought, it is action. You cannot claim to love Jesus if you disregard his teachings. You demonstrate your love for Jesus by obeying his commands.

Talk with God. In *Second Start* you learned how to talk with God using an outline that Jesus taught his followers. Each time you talk with God you will be praying using principles from Jesus' prayer. Pictures of the corresponding parts of the hand are provided to jog your memory about the lesson on Jesus' prayer.



Worship. Use this time to appreciate God for something specific that he has done in each of your lives.



Ask. Today you are talking about Jesus' statement "If you love me, obey my commands." In preparation for this, ask God to teach your group as you read and discuss the Bible. And ask God to help you be more diligent in following through with what you learn in the Bible.

Check-up. Each time you meet you are asked the "Check-up" and "Live and Tell" questions. Jesus said that if you love him you must obey him. You are

challenged to change your life and obey what you are learning because that is what it means to love and follow Jesus.

Some Help with the Lesson

Have you talked about the main things?

1. What did you like? Jesus clearly describes his expectations for his followers. He says that if you love him, you must obey his commands. This can be an extremely difficult endeavor but Jesus does not leave you on your own to try to do the impossible. He promises to send the Holy Spirit to help you. He even says that in some way Jesus himself will be in you to give you the strength you need. Jesus' promise to help is as strong as his expectations are high.

2. What did you not like or find confusing? There are many people who say they love Jesus but they do not obey his commands. They go to church or call themselves Christians but they live very differently from what Jesus teaches. Even the best followers of Jesus fail at times, but when you see people whose lives consistently look nothing like Jesus call themselves his followers, it gives Jesus and all of his followers a bad name.

3. What does this teach about people? Love results in action. A person cannot say he loves someone but never do anything to show that

love. That is not love; at least not in the way that Jesus defines it. Love requires action. To love Jesus means to listen to Jesus and to follow him. Loving God is not just about affection or passion, it is about listening and obeying.

4. What does this teach about God?

Jesus did not leave his followers helpless and alone to try to obey his commands. He knew people would need help. So he sent the Holy Spirit to guide, remind, and strengthen his followers (see John 16:12-15 for more on this topic).

Repent. Believe. Follow. 3.2

Summary: Jesus' message is that people must repent and believe in the good news, and then follow him. Jesus brings life. Without Jesus you are spiritually dead. This gift of life is found freely and only in Jesus. Repent and believe in the good news of Jesus and you will find life. Reject him and you will find death. You may want to review the main points of the good news that you discussed in *How to Become Second 0.3* in the *Video Discussion Guide*.

Check-up. Application is as important as education. If people did not do what they committed to do, consider going back and reviewing the last discussion

topic again. It is important that people do what they say they will do before moving on. This is especially important because of what you learned in the previous lesson.

Talk with God. You are asking God for two things. First, you are asking God to teach you as discuss the Bible. As you learned in the last lesson, God has given you his Spirit to help you. Recognize this help and ask God to continue helping you.

Second, you are asking him about your friends. You want your friends to find the same freedom that you have found from Jesus. Ask God to make that happen and even to use you to make this happen. Be specific. Mention your friends by name.

Some Help with the Lesson

Have you talked about the main things?

1. What did you like? Jesus' message is simple. Repent and believe the good news. The good news is this. You were spiritually dead because of sin. Jesus died to pay for that sin. Jesus rose from the dead and gave life to you and all those that believe in him. This life that he offers is a life with God that lasts forever. He rescued you from death though you had nothing to offer to him. He did it all out of pure grace, it is a gift.

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Many people call this process salvation because Jesus saved you from death and gave you life.

2. What did you not like or find confusing? There are two things in these passages that people tend to find confusing. The first is the meaning of the word “repent.” To repent means to express sincere remorse about one’s wrongdoings either in thought or deed, plus a willingness to change these things. See the story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-9 for an illustration of this idea. You discussed this story in the *Video Discussion Guide* lesson entitled *Problems and God’s Plan 0.2*.

The second potentially confusing part of this passage is the line about “the ruler of the kingdom of the air” and “the spirit at work in the disobedient.” This same issue came up in *Second Start 2.1* as Jesus taught his followers to pray for protection from the evil one. Jesus taught that there are unseen spiritual forces at work in this world. Some of them are obviously good, such as God himself and his angels. But others are evil such as the demons, and their ruler who has different names such as Lucifer, Satan, the Evil one, the ruler of the kingdom of the air, etc. God allows evil to happen through both people and demons, though ultimately he is still

in control. For examples of this idea read the story of Job or the story of the demon possessed man (Mark 5:1-20).

3. What does this teach about people? Jesus taught his followers to follow him by repenting and believing in the good news. You cannot earn your relationship with God. God offers life and salvation as a free gift. This gift is received through faith. But just as love cannot remain as just a feeling, so faith and belief cannot remain just in the heart. It must move you to action because God created you to do good works.

4. What does this teach about God? God is rich with grace. He freely and gladly offers all who believe in him a life that never ends. Though the sin of the world deserved God’s wrath and punishment, God offered love, acceptance, and life. However, God is not content to simply save you. He also wants and expects you to change and do good, for that is why he created you.

Live and Tell

Today’s discussion focused on the gift of life and salvation that God has given you and those in your group. Someone once took the time to share with you about God and the gift he offers. Continue to encourage your group to be that someone to someone else. Ask about

your group’s list of 50. Where are they on the list? Who will they talk with next? How have things been going so far?

Be Baptized 3.3

Summary: Jesus taught his followers to go and make more followers or disciples and to baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Philip did just that. He found an Ethiopian official who was open to hearing the good news about Jesus. After deciding to follow Jesus, the Ethiopian was immediately baptized.

Opener: There is no video for this lesson but there is an opener question. Use this question or one like it to break the ice for your group.

Talk with God.



Worship. God is not a genie. He wants more than just a wish list from you. Take some time to thank God for what he has done in your life.



Surrender. Remember. Jesus taught that it is God’s will that you are to seek not your own. Tell God your worries and trust him to take care of them. Though it may not work out in the way you want, God knows best. Trust him to work things out.



Ask. God cares about your life and wants to hear about your worries. You and your fellow Seconds should care about each other’s worries as well. Share with the group your worries and encourage them to do the same. No worry is too small. Ask God to work out these situations. You may even want to write down and track these requests, as you will be surprised by how faithful God is to answer prayer.

Some Help with the Lesson

Have you talked about the main things?

1. What did you like? Philip followed Jesus’ instructions perfectly. Jesus said “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Philip went, made a disciple, and then baptized him. Baptism came directly after the Ethiopian decided to become a follower of Jesus. He did not delay in obeying Jesus’ instructions.

2. What did you not like or find confusing? Two points. First, why are you supposed to do baptism? In Mark 1:1-11 a man named John encouraged people to turn away from their evil and repent from their sins. He encouraged the people to symbolize this turning away from sin by being washed clean with water in the Jordan River. Jesus was baptized by this man also,

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but not because he needed to repent, but because it was a symbol of a changed life that he wanted his followers to imitate.

Second, sharing your faith with someone is rarely as easy as it seemed in this story. But there are some principles that Philip followed that could be used even today to make sharing your faith easier.

(1) Find Spiritually Open People.

Find out where God is already working. In Philip's case this was easy, God told him. But there are other ways to find out where God is likely working in people's lives. (a) Life crisis. People going through divorce, job changes, death of a loved one, a major relocation, or other major life changes often are more open to spiritual things. (b) Spiritual questions. This is an obvious one. Non-believers who bring up spiritual topics, read spiritually related books, or who ask you about the videos on I am Second are all people who may be open to hearing more about Jesus.

(2) Ask Questions. Philip began his conversation with the Ethiopian with a question. This creates a non-threatening environment for a genuine conversation about God to occur without the other person feeling pressured or preached at. You saw this same thing happen with

the woman at the well story in *What's First 1.1*.

3. What does this teach about people? Baptism is an important first step in a believer's life. It makes public your commitment to follow Jesus and live a changed life. Jesus included it in the process of making disciples and Philip made sure that this was the first thing he did after the Ethiopian decided to follow Jesus. Do you or anyone in your group need to be baptized?

4. What does this teach about God? God is working in people's lives. He brought the Ethiopian to a point where he was ready and wanting to hear from Philip about Jesus. There are people in your life as well that God is working on so that you can talk with them about Jesus. It is your job to find these people and talk with them about Jesus.

Love God, Love People 3.4

Summary: Love God with everything and love your neighbor as yourself. These two commands summarize all the commands of Jesus. To perfectly obey these would make you a perfect follower of Jesus. But to love your neighbor means much more than just loving your friends and family. It means loving those you are supposed to hate.

Opener: Watch the "Does God care about me" video. To find this video click on any video on the I am Second homepage. Then click the "more content" button. Click on "Learn more about being second." Find the question "Does God care about me" and watch any one of the five videos under this question.

Check-up: Last time you talked about baptism. If you or anyone in your group has not been baptized consider making this a priority. Figure out some action steps you can take towards being baptized.

Talk with God: This lesson is about love. And love should be expressed. Express your love for your fellow Seconds and for God. Share with the

group something you admire or have been encouraged by in the person sitting next to you and something you love about God and what he has done in your life. Talk with God and thank him for these things.

Some Help with the Answers

Have you talked about the main things?

1. What did you like? Following Jesus is not about a list of rules, it is about love. Jesus does have rules, but they are not haphazard or arbitrary, they are designed to promote love. God wants you to love him and God wants you to love others. And this love is made visible by your actions. The Samaritan man went against the cultural norms of his day and loved a man he was supposed to hate.

2. What did you not like or find confusing? Loving your friends and family is easy. Loving your enemy or those your culture hates is difficult. And it is the difficult kind of love that Jesus commands. In the story, it was the religious leaders that failed to love as they should. And it is this hypocritical kind of behavior that scares people away from Jesus. The Samaritan man went out of his way to help a man he

Helps

was supposed to hate. He loved at great personal cost. In theory, most people will admit that loving your enemies is a good thing, but few actually practice such a high morality.

3. What does this teach about people?

Love can be a very difficult thing to practice. You must love those you are supposed to hate and it must come even at great personal cost. People, even religious people, have a tendency to fail to love as Jesus taught. You may be able to love your friends and family but can you love your enemies?

4. What does this teach about God?

Love matters most to God. He does not care if you are religiously devoted but do not love. The priest may have been religiously devoted but it was the Samaritan who pleased God by practically loving a man he was supposed to hate.

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Where next?

We recommend you try *Jesus also Says* as your next discussion guide.

Questions? Do you need help or have questions?

Email us at coach@iamsecond.com.

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