where to go from here 10.0

Create your own discussion guide

You have been given the tools. Where will you go next?

You and your group can create your own discussion guides!

Think of it like a cookie recipe. Eggs, flour, sugar, baking soda, and butter. You need all of these ingredients to make a great cookie. If you leave out the sugar or mix in too much baking soda, the result is unpalatable. Without all of these ingredients you don’t have a cookie, at least not one you want to eat.

So, too, with an I am Second group. Don’t leave out important ingredients: keep Jesus first, share your stories, talk with God, discuss the Bible, Live and Tell.

10.1 Jesus is first ....................................................................................................... 2
10.2 check-up/live and tell ........................................................................................ 6
10.3 talk with God ................................................................................................... 10
10.4 the Bible ........................................................................................................... 14
10.5 create your own discussion guide .................................................................... 18

Leader’s Guide

how to lead your I am Second group....................................................................... 20
helps......................................................................................................................... 22

Be sure to register your group at iamsecond.com/join.

© 2010 e3 Partners Ministry. All rights reserved.
**Jesus is first**

**Opener**

*Watch:* the David McKenna film.

*Question:* “When God is first in my life, I have such a spectacular life.” Why do you think David made this statement? What else stuck out to you in David’s story?

**Talk with God**

*Following Jesus’ Model.* You have learned to talk with God in a balanced way. Relationship. Worship. Surrender. Ask. Forgive. Protect. Worship again. Some days you will take one or two of these topics. Other days you may do all seven. What will you talk with God about today? Spend some time right now talking with God.

**Hear the Bible** *Read this as a Group*

“For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”

Jesus — Matthew 18:20 (NIV)

Therefore, if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort provided by love, any fellowship in the Spirit, any affection or mercy, complete my joy and be of the same mind, by having the same love, being united in spirit, and having one purpose. Instead of being motivated by selfish ambition or vanity, each of you should, in humility, be moved to treat one another as more important than yourself. Each of you should be concerned not only about your own interests, but about the interests of others as well.

You should have the same attitude toward one another that Christ Jesus had, who though he existed in the form of God did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself by taking on the form of a slave, by looking like other men, and by sharing in human nature. He humbled himself, by becoming obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross!

As a result God exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow— in heaven and on earth and under the earth – and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

Paul — Philippians 2:1-11 (NET)
Talk about the Bible

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 do these readings teach about people? What do they teach about your I am Second group and what it should be like?
4. What do these readings teach about Jesus? How should the example of Jesus influence your group? What role does he play in your group?

Live and Tell
5. What will you do? You have heard Jesus’ call to go and tell the world about him. What will you do with this command? How have you failed to follow this command? What can you do to change?
6. Who will you tell? Who do you know that needs to hear about what you have learned today?
check-up/live and tell

Opener

Watch: the Michelle Aguilar film.
Question: How did Michelle find the strength to lose the weight?

Check-up

Live and Tell. Each time you meet, challenge each other. Follow up with your commitments. Keep each other accountable. Inspire each other to follow Jesus. Inspire a revolution of Second. (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

Following Jesus’ Model. You have learned to talk with God in a balanced way. Relationship. Worship. Surrender. Ask. Forgive. Protect. Worship again. Some days you will take one or two of these topics. Other days you may do all seven. What will you talk with God about today? Spend some time right now talking with God.

Hear the Bible  Read this as a Group

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 Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah 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.

The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture: “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the 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. Why shouldn’t I be 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 (NIV)

4. What does this story teach about God? How did Philip find this person?

**Live and Tell**

5. What will you do? Have you been keeping your Live and Tell commitments? How will you live out what you have learned in today’s discussion? Be specific.

6. Who will you tell? What did you learn that you want to pass on to someone else?

**Talk about the Bible**

**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 does this teach about immediate obedience? What does this teach about the importance of the Check-up and Live and Tell.
Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’"

“For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care about men, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually wear me out with her coming!’”

And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”

Luke 18:1-8
Talk about the Bible

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? What does this story teach about the importance of being persistent as we talk to God?

Live and Tell

5. What will you do now? Your group has learned to talk with God using Jesus' model prayer as an example. This story reminds you to keep talking with God. What will your group do to remember to constantly talk with God?

6. Who will you tell? Is there someone you could teach how to talk with God?
the Bible

Opener
Question: What are you thankful for this week? What problems do you have this week?

Check-up
Live and Tell. Each time you meet, challenge each other. Follow up with your commitments. Keep each other accountable. Inspire each other to follow Jesus. Inspire a revolution of Second. (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
Following Jesus’ Model. You have learned to talk with God in a balanced way. Relationship. Worship. Surrender. Ask. Forgive. Protect. Worship again. Some days you will take one or two of these topics. Other days you may do all seven. What will you talk with God about today? Spend some time right now talking with God.

Hear the Bible Read this as a Group
But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Paul — in his second letter to Timothy 3:14-17

As soon as it was night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

Acts 17:10-11
Talk about the Bible

What it says

1. What did you like about this story? How did Paul encourage Timothy to use the Bible? What were the Bereans known for?

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

What it means

3. What does this story teach about people? How should Bible study be done within a community of believers?

4. What does this story teach about God? How does God use the Bible to teach his people?

Live and Tell

5. What will you do now? Use the diagram on the next page to plan out your own discussion guide.

6. Who will you tell? With whom could you have a spiritual conversation about today's readings?
create your own discussion guide

The Ingredients List

1. The Power of Story.
   Watch an I am Second film, make your own, or just ask the group a discussion question that sparks spiritual conversation. Encourage people to share their stories.

2. Check-up.
   Help each other better follow Jesus. What did everyone commit to do last time you met? Did they do it? If not, consider redoing the last lesson. Talk as a group about how you can better help this person to follow through on his or her commitments.

3. Talk with God.

4. Hear the Bible.
   This is not “Joe’s opinion hour.” I am Second groups exist to help people better follow Jesus by learning from the Bible. The Bible is your guide and your sourcebook. What you read in the Bible is up to you. Just make sure you read the Bible.

5. Keep it a Discussion.
   Use these questions as a starting point for the conversation.
   - What did you like about the Bible reading?
   - What did you not like or find confusing about the Bible reading?
   - What does it teach about people?
   - What does it teach about God?
   You can add some of your own questions or modify this set of questions, but just be sure the questions you use help the group discover what the Bible says and what the Bible means.

   Obey and pass on what you learn. Studying the Bible for knowledge alone leads to spiritual apathy. Make practical, specific goals each time you meet. Help each other better follow Jesus.

7. Keep Jesus First.
   You are not first. Jesus is First. Keep it that way. Talk with God. Make the Bible and not some other book the center of your conversation. Commemorate Jesus’ sacrifice with communion/the Lord’s Supper. Focus on him.
I am Second Principles

I am Second is not your standard Bible study. The discussion guides are built to produce rapidly multiplying, Jesus sharing, leader making, God loving groups of people who say “I am Second.”

Talk with God. God cares about you. He wants to work through you. He wants to change lives through you. Ask God to help you and your group reach the world.

Live and Tell. The world needs to hear the good news of Jesus. They will not hear it unless you tell them. Share your story. Share Jesus. See What’s First for a refresher on the topic.

Make Disciples. Jesus did not say, “Go and get commitments.” Jesus said, “Go and make disciples... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Pass on what you learn. God does not care how much you know as much as he cares what you do with what you know. Will you waste what you have been given or will you live it out and pass it on? See Follow as I Follow for more on this topic.

Get Together. The I am Second life was never meant to be lived alone. Get together. Inspire each other. Help each other. Correct each other. Love each other. Make this world a better place, together. Want to know more? Download Jesus Says and Jesus Also Says.

Lead. Model. Assist. Watch. Leave. Leadership is not about you. It is about others. It is about you helping others to be great leaders. Be a leader that produces leaders. Download Lead to see how.

Multiply. Start an I am Second group in your neighborhood. Start another across the globe while on Expedition (iamsecond.com/expeditions). Help your group multiply other groups. Reach the world one group at a time. See Multiply Your Second Group and Go Global to see how.

Heart. Love God. Love your neighbor. Your faith boils down to these two commands. All you do, you do for love. This is not about following a set of rules or about impressing your friends. This is about relationships. This is about love. Download Go: Local for more on the topic.
helps

Jesus is first 10.1

Summary: Jesus, the Son of God, humbled himself by dying on a cross to save you. He did not have to do this. He chose to do this out of love. Jesus calls you to do the same. Think of others. Stop the selfishness and vanity. Put others first. Be Second.

Some Help with the Discussion

Have you talked about the main things?

1. What did you like? Jesus did not ask his followers to do anything he was not willing to do himself. He taught people to love each other and to set aside selfishness. Jesus set aside his rights as God, emptied himself and came to earth as a servant. He loved you even to the point of dying to save you. Jesus died to put the will of God and the care of you, first. Jesus calls you to do the same.

2. What did you not like or find confusing? People often get confused with the phrase “though he existed in the form of God.” Does this mean he only appeared to be God but he wasn’t?

The rest of the New Testament tells you to do things like pray in Jesus’ name, trust in Jesus alone for salvation, follow Jesus with all your life, believe that Jesus and the Father are one (John 10:30). All of these commands point to an obvious conclusion, that the writers of the New Testament believed Jesus to be God. More specifically, they believed in one God in three persons, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. So any interpretation you put on this verse must be in light of these other statements about Jesus.

Furthermore, the Greek word behind the word “form” is challenging to translate because English does not have a word that directly corresponds to that meaning. The Greek word means something to the effect of the appearance of something that accurately corresponds to reality. In other words, it is a poetic way of saying that Jesus appears to be God because he is God.

3. What does this teach about people? “I am Second” is the mantra of your group. But this confession is more than a simple recognition of God’s authority and greatness. It is also a commitment to follow the example and teachings of Jesus. Paul tells the people at Philippi to treat each other with care and importance because Jesus did the same. Do you treat the people in your life as being more important than yourself? Do you do this with the people in your group? What do you need to do to follow the example of Jesus?

4. What does this teach about God? Jesus did not grasp onto his rights as God, but instead set aside his rights and sacrificed himself to save the people of this world. You should have the same attitude toward one another that Jesus had towards you.

Live and Tell

5. What will you do? Jesus is the example for your group. What are you doing well? What do you need to change or improve? What specifically do you need to do to better make Jesus first in your group and in your life? Be specific.

6. Who will you tell? Who do you know that needs to hear what you have learned?

Create your own discussion guide.

Each lesson in this discussion guide is meant to help you create your own lessons. Use what you learn to put together discussion guides for your group. You can create a discussion guide as a group or you can take turns creating one on your own. Remember the basics and keep Jesus first.

After you create your discussion guide, share it with your group, share with other groups, or even share it with us at connect@iamsecond.com.

check-up/live and tell 10.2

Summary: If you love Jesus, you will obey his commands. But you can’t do this alone. God designed you to be in community where everyone is committed to helping each other better follow Jesus. You need the help of others and they need your help.

Check-up: The last time you met your group committed to make some changes. If your group has not taken any steps towards obedience consider going back to the previous lesson. It is important that everyone follow through with their commitments before moving on.

Some Help with the Discussion

Have you talked about the main things?

1. What did you like? Following Jesus is about more than going to church or attending your I am Second group. It is about forging deep friendships with people that will help you to better follow Jesus. You, too, have a responsibility to help your fellow Seconds to love, do good works, and better follow Jesus.

2. What did you not like or find confusing? Obeying Jesus can be hard. Jesus challenges you to love the unloved, care for the ignored, and reach out to those who do not follow him. Jesus calls you to live according to his
moral standards, to place his values first, and to seek him above all else. Jesus challenges you to be Second.

3. What does this teach about people? You were never meant to do this life alone. God called you to gather with other Seconds to help each other better love other people and to better love God. This means crying with the broken-hearted, correcting those in error, and teaching people all of the commands of Jesus.

4. What does this teach about God? God values community. He is not looking for the lone ranger who can go it alone, but for the humble Second willing to seek the community they need and offer the help they can to other Seconds.

Live and Tell
As people make plans to better commit their lives to God, help them be specific. Help people make attainable, measureable, and challenging goals for their life.

Create your own discussion guide.
Each lesson in this discussion guide is meant to help you create your own lessons. Use what you learn to put together discussion guides for your group. After you create your discussion guide, share it with your group, share with other groups, or even share it with us at connect@iamsecond.com.

Create your own discussion guide.

4. What does this teach about God? God wants to hear from you. He wants you to talk with him. He wants you to share with him your problems, questions, and concerns. He wants to share in your joys and successes. Make talking with God a priority in your group. Use Jesus’ model prayer as a reminder to keep balanced when talking with God.

Live and Tell
As people make plans to better commit their lives to God, help them be specific. Help people make attainable, measureable, and challenging goals for their lives.

After you create your discussion guide, share it with your group, share with other groups, or even share it with us at connect@iamsecond.com.

the Bible 10.4
Summary: “Continue in what you have learned...” You have learned to rely on the Bible and obey what you find. You have learned to discuss as a group and allow everyone to participate. Continue doing these things. As you develop your own discussion guides, remember to share leadership responsibilities. Remember to keep Jesus First.

Talk with God:
What will you talk with God about today?


Some Help with the Discussion
Have you talked about the main things?

1. What did you like? When believers gathered together no one person did it all. Some would bring a song and others would bring a teaching
helps

point. The responsibilities of the group were shared. These churches were not dependant on a personality but on what they learned in the Bible.

2. What did you not like or find confusing? The Bible is meant to help you and your group better follow Jesus. Use the Bible inside your I am Second group to teach, train and even correct each other.

3. What does this teach about people? The Bible is your sourcebook. It gives you guidance and shows you where to go. Commentaries, sermons, Christian books, these are all helpful resources but they are not the main source. Depend first on the Bible. Ask God to help you understand. Seek the insights and thoughts of your fellow group members. Even call up other group leaders and ask them. But depend on the Bible.

4. What does this teach about God? God does not want a one man show. He wants everyone participating and helping to strengthen your group. Are you letting others lead?

Live and Tell
As people make plans to better commit their lives to God, help them be specific. Help people make attainable, measureable, and challenging goals for their life.

what is the DNA of an I am Second group?
I am Second’s immediate appeal is aesthetic with its slick design, cool website, and inspiring films. But the real difference is more than skin deep. As you lead, keep in mind the heart behind I am Second’s materials:

S  Stories and small. Encourage people to tell their story. Listen to the stories of others. Then discuss stories from the Bible. Keep your group small (between 2 and 8 people) to maximize impact and allow everyone to discuss these stories.

E  Everyone learns. Help people learn how to do these things themselves: a) tell others about Jesus, b) study the Bible, c) pray, d) live in community, and e) endure hard times. They learn these things as they go through the I am Second curriculum.

C  Consider everyone a potential leader. View everyone as a potential leader, both before and after they trust Christ. Give people opportunities to lead if they continue to obey and progress. Hand over leadership roles to different people each meeting.

O  Obedience based, not just knowledge focused. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide people in the life changes they need to make as you do the Live and Tell questions. Then as you start the next session, ask each Second to share how they did with their Live and Tell commitments. Consider not moving on if people did not complete them. This creates an environment in which loving Jesus means obeying Jesus.

N  New groups rather than big groups. As people share with others, encourage them not to invite the new people to your group, but instead start a new group. Encourage new leaders to stay in your existing group, which is a “learning” group for them. Their new group becomes their “leading” group. So they get on the job training, but stay connected for ongoing training and accountability.

D  Discuss and discover. Focus on the Bible. Trust the Holy Spirit to help each person discover the meaning of Scripture as your group discusses it. Lead through asking questions rather than lecture. Help everyone participate.
where next?

1. **Follow and trust Jesus.** Want to follow Jesus? Tell him you know you do wrong. Tell Jesus you believe that He died to pay the penalty for your sins, and then rose from the dead. Ask Him to forgive you. Tell him you trust only in Him for eternal life. Commit to follow Him today.

2. **Keep meeting.** Download the next discussion guide and keep meeting.

3. **Talk with God.** God cares about what you are doing. He wants to work through you. He wants to change lives. Through this whole process, continue to ask God to give you His plan. Listen for His voice. You are only on your own if you forget to ask for God’s help.

   Need help about how to talk with God? Download the free *I am Second Prayer Journal* at iamsecond.com/groups or purchase a printed copy through the I am Second store.

4. **Keep it simple.** In your I am Second group, forget big church models where a skilled musician leads worship and a highly trained teacher preaches a sermon. Teach new believers how to hear and respond to the leading of the Holy Spirit through His Word and in their hearts. Encourage everyone to take part.

5. **Keep it biblical.** “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” (Acts 2:42) “When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.” (1 Corinthians 14:26)

   Perhaps share a meal when you meet. Ask what the Lord has done in each person’s life during the week. Make time to study God’s Word. Discuss its meaning and specific applications. Don’t answer questions yourself; point people back to Scripture. This helps to establish that the authority is God’s Word, not a person. Take time to pray for one another and for those who have not put Jesus First.

6. **Choose a Discussion Guide.** Below is the I am Second core curriculum. We recommend going in sequence, for each guide builds on the ones before it. Download at iamsecond.com/groups. Or order printed copies from the I am Second store. A good next step is highlighted below.

   - **Prayer Journal**
   - **How to Start a Second Group**
   - **Film Discussion Guide** (stories of Jesus relating to people)
   - **1.0 What's First** (how to tell others about Jesus)
   - **2.0 Second Start** (four steps to feed yourself spiritually)
   - **3.0 Jesus Says (Part 1)**: how to live the seven basic commands of Jesus
   - **4.0 Jesus Also Says (Part 2)**: how to live the seven basic commands of Jesus
   - **5.0 Follow as I Follow** (how to make disciples)
   - **6.0 Multiply your Group** (how your group can start new groups)
   - **7.0 Lead** (help others start to lead)
   - **8.0 Go: Local** (develop an Acts 1:8 strategy locally)
   - **9.0 Go: Global** (develop an Acts 1:8 strategy internationally)
   - **10.0 Where to Go from Here** (continue strong as a group)

7. **Multiply.** Don’t let your group grow too big. As additional people become followers of Jesus, start new groups in their homes or work places. Teach those who lead people to Christ how to lead their own groups. Show them how to identify persons of peace through whom they can make more followers of Jesus and start more groups.

8. **More I Am Second tools.** Check out iamsecond.com/groups for other leadership kits, small group material, t-shirts and everything else you need to start your Second group. Lots of good stuff to help start spiritual conversations.

9. **Register.** Connect with I am Second by registering your group at iamsecond.com/join.

10. **Questions?** Do you need help or have questions? Email us at coach@iamsecond.com.