

THE SECOND ACT

BIBLICAL DISCUSSION GUIDE

A post-screening conversation resource

A concise guide for churches, families and small groups to move from the emotional questions raised by the film into biblically grounded conversation.

FAITH • FAMILY • FORGIVENESS • SECOND CHANCES

Prototype curriculum for church and small-group use. Scripture references and theological notes should receive pastoral/theological review before publication.

How to use this guide

Use after a church screening or home viewing. Choose all six themes for a 75-90 minute discussion, or select two or three for a shorter conversation. This guide does not require participants to agree on every interpretation of the film; it invites them to bring the film's questions to Scripture.

1. When God Doesn't Answer the Way We Want

Read: Psalm 13; Psalm 34:18; John 11:32-36

Biblical faith makes room for lament. Scripture repeatedly shows faithful people bringing confusion, anger and sorrow directly to God. Lament is not the opposite of faith; it is pain spoken in God's direction.

- Where does the film resist easy answers about grief?
- What does biblical lament permit us to say to God?

2. Handing God the Hard Parts

Read: Psalm 62:8; 1 Peter 5:7; Philippians 4:6-7

Surrender is not pretending to be calm or certain. It is entrusting what we cannot control to God while continuing to act faithfully with what He has placed in our hands.

- What is the difference between surrender and giving up?
- What hard part do you need to place in God's hands?

3. What Are You Chasing?

Read: Matthew 6:33; Mark 8:34-36; Proverbs 16:9

Ambition can become an idol when achievement is asked to provide identity, security or worth. Christian calling is measured not only by what we build, but by whether we obey God in the responsibilities directly before us.

- When can a good dream become a controlling dream?
- What does faithfulness look like when calling and ambition conflict?

4. The People God Puts in Front of Us

Read: Philippians 2:3-5; James 1:27; 1 Timothy 5:8

Love often begins with presence. Scripture connects faith with practical care, humility and responsibility. We cannot repair every wound, but we can refuse to abandon people in the middle of one.

- Who needs you to show up rather than fix them?
- How does practical care become an expression of faith?

5. Forgiveness Is Not the Same as Fine

Read: Ephesians 4:31-32; Colossians 3:12-13; Romans 12:18

Christian forgiveness does not require calling evil good, erasing consequences or instantly restoring trust. Grace tells the truth about the debt and chooses not to make repayment the condition for mercy.

- Why does Audrey's distinction between forgiveness and 'fine' matter?
- How can forgiveness coexist with boundaries and truth?

6. Count What Remains

Read: Romans 8:28; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Revelation 21:4-5

Biblical hope does not redefine tragedy as good. It trusts that God remains active in suffering and can bring redemption, maturity, reconciliation and new forms of faithfulness from what He never asks us to pretend did not hurt.

- What does it mean to say God can redeem suffering without calling suffering good?
- What remains in your life that deserves to be counted?

Closing exercise: Count What Remains

Invite each person to name one loss they are carrying, one responsibility God has placed in front of them, and one gift that remains. Close in prayer without forcing explanations.

Pastoral note: grief, abandonment and family trauma can surface painful personal stories. Leaders should know their church's pastoral-care and safeguarding pathways.