

THE SECOND ACT

COUNT WHAT REMAINS

Leader & Facilitator Guide

A six-session church curriculum for leading biblically grounded conversations from The Second Act.

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.

Leader orientation

Your task is not to explain every painful event in the story or in participants' lives. Your task is to create a truthful, Scripture-centered environment where people can listen, speak, pray and take a faithful next step.

Before the first meeting

- Preview the film and all six sessions.
- Identify a pastor or ministry leader to whom difficult pastoral-care situations can be referred.
- Know your church's policies for disclosures involving abuse, minors, self-harm or immediate safety.
- Decide whether the group will watch the full film together or begin after a separate screening.
- Use only film clips for which your church has appropriate exhibition/clip rights.

Facilitation principles

Ask open questions. Allow silence. Do not reward polished spiritual answers over truthful ones. Distinguish forgiveness from reconciliation and trust. Avoid promising that faith will produce a preferred outcome. Keep returning to what the biblical text actually says.

Session 1: When God Doesn't Answer the Way We Want

Theme	Faith in grief and unanswered prayer
Read	Psalm 13; Psalm 34:18; John 11:32-36
Big Idea	Biblical faith makes room for lament.

From the film

Audrey's grief refuses easy explanations. Henry gives her permission to speak honestly to God, and later Daniel refuses to explain Henry's death with a cliché.

Biblical perspective

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.

Leader preparation

Do not rush participants toward an explanation for suffering. Allow silence. If recent bereavement surfaces, facilitate rather than counsel beyond your role.

Suggested 75-minute flow

Welcome/check-in 10 min • Film connection 8 min • Scripture reading 12 min • Teaching/discussion 30 min • Practice/prayer 15 min

Discuss

- What is the difference between complaining about God and lamenting to God?
- Why do people feel pressure to explain suffering quickly?
- What would honest prayer sound like for you this week?

Practice this week

Write a one-paragraph lament to God using four movements: what hurts, what you do not understand, what you are asking for, and what you can still entrust to Him.

Prayer prompt

God, help me tell You the truth, receive Your grace, and be faithful with what You have placed in front of me. Amen.

Notes:

Session 2: Handing God the Hard Parts

Theme	Surrender and honest prayer
Read	Psalm 62:8; 1 Peter 5:7; Philippians 4:6-7
Big Idea	Surrender is not pretending to be calm or certain.

From the film

Henry teaches Audrey to hand God the hard parts, even anger. Daniel's first prayer in years is awkward and uncertain, but it is still a return toward God.

Biblical perspective

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.

Leader preparation

Distinguish surrender from passivity. Participants can entrust outcomes to God while still making responsible decisions and seeking help.

Suggested 75-minute flow

Welcome/check-in 10 min • Film connection 8 min • Scripture reading 12 min • Teaching/discussion 30 min • Practice/prayer 15 min

Discuss

- What are you trying to control that is not actually yours to control?
- How can surrender and responsible action happen at the same time?
- What makes honest prayer difficult when faith feels thin?

Practice this week

Make two columns: 'Mine to carry faithfully' and 'Mine to hand over.' Pray through both.