

THE BLIND

THE TRUE STORY OF THE ROBERTSON FAMILY



I AM SECOND

DISCUSSION GUIDE



God loves to turn families full of dysfunction into dynasties full of love and goodness. The Robertson family is testament to this. They started with many struggles. Their early years were filled with addiction, arguments, and troubles of all sorts. But God took hold of this family and made them into something new. It's a story he's crafted countless times before. In the Bible, there is a book dedicated to another such story featuring two widows, Ruth and Naomi. Here you'll discover how God can transform any family, yours included, no matter what the struggles.

**This study is not just for you. It's for you and
your family and loved ones. It's for you and
your fiance, your spouse, children, and
relatives. Consider inviting them to join you in
this transformative study about turning family
dysfunction into the picture of love and support
that God intended for every family.**

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1.0 – The Blind

Many of us know Phil, Miss Kay and the rest of the Robertson family from their hit reality television series or their many books. But before the dynasty, it was just Phil and Miss Kay in the backwoods swamps of 1960s Louisiana. *THE BLIND* tells their love story, their struggles to build a family and the demons that nearly tore them apart.

While their story is unique, the challenges they faced are ones that all of us can resonate with. The lessons they learned can inform each of our journeys with God, our families and ourselves. This discussion guide will help us to see what those lessons are so we can experience the same kind of hope and purpose that Phil and Miss Kay found.

Opener



Watch: the trailer at iamsecond.com/film/the-blind-movie or in theaters September 28

Discussion Questions:

- What did you like about the movie?
- What parts of the story did you find either inspiring or challenging to watch?
- What parts of Phil and Miss Kay's story did you resonate with most? Why?

Care

Phil and Miss Kay each faced certain challenges. Some of their challenges came from their childhood. Other challenges came as they struggled to raise their family, build a marriage, overcome addiction and more. But in the end, they cared for each other and learned to rely on the support of each other to make it through.



Discussion Questions:

- What are some challenges that you faced when you were younger?
- When is a time when you needed to rely on someone else to get through something?
- What are some challenges that you are facing today?

Talk with God about

A challenge you are facing. Talk with God about it and ask him to help you. If you don't feel comfortable doing this, you may also ask someone else to pray for you.

Read a Bible Passage

The following Bible passages have been selected to help you follow along the same journey that Phil and Miss Kay went on. Read and discuss each one.

1.0 – The Blind *Continued*

Read: **Jeremiah 29:11**

The Plans of God and Man

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Phil and Miss Kay began their life together with big plans for their future. But their road ahead took them down some very unexpected paths. You, too, have hopes and dreams for your future and have likely experienced some of the same types of struggles and disappointments that you saw in the movie.

Discussion Questions:

- What are some of the hopes and dreams that you have had for your life?
- What unexpected turns or struggles have you faced along the way?
- What are God’s plans for your life? How might they differ from your own?

Read: **James 1:13-15**

The Tempting Power of Sin

“When a person is tempted, they shouldn’t say, ‘God is tempting me.’ God can’t be tempted by evil. And he doesn’t tempt anyone. But each person is tempted by their own evil desires. These desires lead them on and drag them away. When these desires are allowed to remain, they lead to sin. And when sin is allowed to remain and grow, it leads to death.”

Phil was tempted by a number of things. And these temptations took him away from God’s plan for his life. We each face similar kinds of temptations that can take us, our families and others off of God’s plan for our lives.

Discussion Questions:

- What sorts of things was Phil tempted by?
- What sorts of things have you been tempted by?
- How have you seen these things taken you away from God’s plan for your life?

Read: **I Peter 2:24**

New Life and Forgiveness

“He himself carried our sins’ in his body on the cross. He did it so that we would die as far as sins are concerned. Then we would lead godly lives. ‘His wounds have healed you.’”

Phil eventually placed his faith in Jesus. The preacher in the movie described it as the old Phil dying and someone new emerging. This is what happens when you trust Jesus to forgive your sins. Your old self dies and God begins something new in you.

Discussion Questions:

- How did Phil and his family change after he committed his life to Jesus?
- What do you think would change in your life if you were fully committed to Jesus?
- What do you need to commit to Jesus, today?

Set Goals

- What will you do to LIVE out what you have learned today?
- Who can you TELL about what you’ve learned?

Live and Tell

How will you LIVE out what you’ve learned?

What do you need to TELL your family about this story or what you’ve learned?

Want to know more about what it means to put Jesus first in your life? Learn more at iamsecond.com/live-second

2.0 – Dysfunctional Beginnings

Both the Robertson family and Ruth’s family struggled in many ways. Whether from mistakes of their own making or from circumstances beyond their control, every family will face struggles. However, Ruth also knew she had choices that were in her control. She made one simple but powerful choice to support her widowed mother-in-law and follow after the God of Israel. And it’s a decision that continues to ripple across history. It’s a decision that can ripple through your family as well.

Opener



Watch: chapter 1, 2, or 3 from the **Dysfunction to Dynasty** series. iamsecond.com/dynasty

Question:
How do you relate to the Robertsons’ story?

Care

What is something good you see in your family?

What are some of the challenges in your family?

Talk with God about

A good thing in your family that you are thankful for.

A challenge in your family that you could use his help with.

Read a Bible Passage

Big Idea: The setting of this story is that of despair. A famine had spread across the land, forcing many families to flee looking for food and other ways of supporting themselves. Elimelek and his wife, Naomi, ended up raising a family in a foreign land as a result. But disaster struck again when Elimelek



and both their sons died. Naomi decided it was time to return to her native land. Without any prospects or promises of a better life, she told her daughters-in-law that they should try to make a new life and start a new family without her. It was only Ruth who decided to stick with her widowed mother-in-law, against all advice. But that act of stubborn love ended up transforming not just Ruth, but her whole family for countless generations. Every relationship, especially family relationships, face trials and difficulties. But as Ruth discovered, committing to God’s plan for love and family is the one sure path through it all.

Read: **Ruth 1**

- What did you like or relate to in this story?
- What challenges do you see in this family?
- What does this story teach about families?
- What does this story teach about God?

Live and Tell

How will you LIVE out what you’ve learned?

What do you need to TELL your family about this story or what you’ve learned?

3.0 – Dysfunctional Belongings

Both the Robertson family and Ruth’s family struggled to build a place where everyone was accepted and belonged. But Ruth, as the Robertson family did, learned that she belongs with God and that he is watching over her.

Opener



Watch: chapter 3, 6, or 7 from the **Dysfunction to Dynasty** series. iamsecond.com/dynasty

Question:
How do you relate to the Robertsons’ story?

Care

What is a good thing that has happened in your family this week?

What is a challenging thing that has happened in your family this week?

Talk with God about

A good thing in your family that you are thankful for.

A challenge in your family that you could use his help with.

Support

How did you live out or talk with your family about what you have learned since the last meeting?

Read a Bible Passage

Big Idea: Everyone needs a place to belong. Family is meant to be exactly that place. But what happens when families are broken or dysfunctioning? This is exactly the question that was surely running through the minds of Naomi and Ruth. They had built a life together with their husbands but then tragedy took it all away. Naomi only had a distant relative of her dead husband’s to seek help from. And aside from her widowed mother-in-law,



Ruth too was alone, having moved away from everyone she knew. Boaz though shows a picture of what family is meant to be. Though he cannot undo the past or eliminate the difficulties facing Ruth and Naomi, he dedicates himself to being an agent of love within his family. Like Ruth’s decision in the previous chapter, Boaz’s decision to give love in the face of hardship unleashes a contagious healing process in all of their lives.

Read: Ruth 2

- What did you like or relate to in this story?
- What challenges do you see in this family? Specifically, how might Ruth have struggled to feel like she belonged in her new home?
- What does this story teach about families? Specifically, what can be learned from Boaz’s example?
- What does this story teach about God?

Live and Tell

How will you LIVE out what you’ve learned?

What do you need to TELL your family about this story or what you’ve learned?

4.0 – Dysfunction and Hope

Both the Robertson family and Ruth’s family had many struggles, but God had hope and a path forward for both of them. And he has a path forward for your family, too.

Opener



Watch: chapter 4 or 5 from the **Dysfunction to Dynasty** series. iamsecond.com/dynasty

Question:
How do you relate to the Robertsons’ story?

Care

What is a good thing that has happened in your family this week?

What is a challenging thing that has happened in your family this week?

Talk with God about

A good thing in your family that you are thankful for.

A challenge in your family that you could use his help with.

Support

How did you live out or talk with your family about what you have learned since the last meeting?

Read a Bible Passage

Big Idea: Hope admits things are not as they should be but also trusts that there is One who can make them right. Ruth and Naomi began their journey together not knowing where their paths would lead. They didn’t know where their food would come from or who, if anyone, would be able to help them. Boaz, too, had to learn that God’s plan tends to take surprising turns in each of our lives. Boaz surely spent many years wondering whether God had a plan for his married life and why it was taking God so long to find him a wife.



But trusting that God has a plan that each of them could place their hope in, even if it didn’t always make sense, proved to be the only sure thing any of them could count on. And it’s the only sure thing your family can count on, too.

Read: **Ruth 3**

- What did you like or relate to in this story?
- What challenges do you see in this family?
- What does this story teach about families?
- What does this story teach about God?
Specifically, where do you see God providing a path forward for Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz?

Live and Tell

How will you LIVE out what you’ve learned?

What do you need to TELL your family about this story or what you’ve learned?

5.0 – Dysfunction to Dynasty

God can reform any dysfunction into a lasting and beautiful dynasty. He did this for the Robertson family. **He did it for Ruth and Boaz’s family. He can do it for yours, too.**

Opener



Watch: chapter 8 from the **Dysfunction to Dynasty** series.
iamsecond.com/dynasty

Question:
How do you relate to the Robertsons’ story?

Care

What is a good thing that has happened in your family this week?

What is a challenging thing that has happened in your family this week?

Talk with God about

A good thing in your family that you are thankful for.

A challenge in your family that you could use his help with.

Support

How did you live out or talk with your family about what you have learned since the last meeting?

Read a Bible Passage

Big Idea: While it is God who provides the path, he leaves it to us to decide what we will do with that path. Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz each had the opportunity at many points along the way to leave God’s path for their family and their lives. How different would this story have been if Ruth had not stayed with her mother-in-law, if Naomi had lost hope and not tried to help Ruth find a husband, or if Boaz had simply sat and waited to see if things would work out on their own. Instead, each of them engaged in the



process of change that God was leading them on. Each one took risks, made sacrifices, and stepped out in faith. Each one, as a result, experienced the joy of what selfless love can really look like when it takes hold within a family.

Read: **Ruth 4**

- What did you like or relate to in this story?
- What challenges do you see in this family? What would Ruth and her family have missed out on if she had made a different decision about sticking with her mother-in-law?
- What does this story teach about families?
- What does this story teach about God? How did God transform this disparate people into a dynasty?

Live and Tell

How will you LIVE out what you’ve learned?

What do you need to TELL your family about this story or what you’ve learned?

Live Second Group Basics

This guide is meant to facilitate real life change in the lives of everyone involved. Follow these simple principles to get the most out of this discussion guide.

S

Stories and Small

Encourage people to tell their story. Listen to the stories of others. Then discuss the 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 contributes

Help people learn how to grow by doing these things themselves: 1) tell others about Jesus (everyone needs to be able to communicate what they are learning), 2) learn from the Bible, 3) talk with God, 4) help and encourage others, and 5) endure hard times.

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 God and progress. Leaders are unpaid and without formal training.

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. At the beginning of each meeting review the previous meeting’s commitments. This creates an environment in which loves 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 to start a new group. Meet in homes or neutral places. Meet with new leaders in their groups as a coach, and encourage them to do the same for others. Stay connected for ongoing training and accountability.

D

Discuss and discover

Focus on the Bible. Trust the Holy Spirit to help each person to discover the meaning of Scripture as your group discusses it. Lead through asking questions rather than lecturing.

How To Lead My Group

As you lead your group, keep in mind that it is about much more than knowledge. It is about changed lives. It is about finding the truth and living that truth out. It is about people and families becoming free and learning what true love really looks like. Whether your group is forming just for the purposes of this study or has been meeting for sometime, the following tips will help everyone have a transformative experience, including you.

Keep Talking with God.

You have a big job in front of you, so continue to ask God to help you. It is a simple step that is often overlooked, but you will be glad you did it. You are on your own only if you fail to ask for God's help.

Be Authentic.

Be your real self as you lead. Do not be fake or shallow. And avoid churchy words to help communicate this. Model to your group that this is a place where honesty and acceptance are normal and expected. As a leader you will need to open up about your own pains and be vulnerable. Ask tough questions that will help the group to do the same.

Keep it a Discussion.

This is a discussion group - not a time to practice your public speaking skills. Make sure discussion happens by asking good questions (many of these are already provided in this discussion guide). Bring short but challenging thoughts (rather than lengthy lessons) and keep the discussion on point. Allow people time to truly wrestle with what the Bible says without forcing an answer. Each lesson has a core idea and following the lesson helps bring out that idea. Before you start, make sure you as the leader are familiar with this material. And as the group discusses, ask yourself, "Have we talked about the main things?"

Don't Skip Parts.

Each part of each unit is important. It is especially important to do the Live and Tell and Support sections. Though actively discussing specific application

points and how everyone is actually doing with those applications is not always standard in a small group, it makes all the difference. Again, the point of this is changed lives, not just knowledge. Change means doing stuff with what you learn.

Ok Not to Know Answers

Sometimes the discussion will raise questions to which you do not know the answers. When this happens, remember that you are not expected to know everything. It is perfectly acceptable to tell your group that you just do not know the answer, but would be willing to help find the answer. Sometimes postponing certain questions like this until later is the best way to go.

Keep it Simple

In your group, forget big church models where a skilled musician leads worship and a highly trained teacher preaches a sermon. This is a different kind of group. A discussion oriented group such as this teaches everyone how to hear and respond to the leading of the Holy Spirit through his Word and in their hearts.

Keep it Biblical

1 Corinthians 14:26 says, "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." Instead of viewing yourself as the primary teacher, view yourself as the facilitator. It is your responsibility to get everyone to participate in the process and to bring a hymn, an instruction, or a revelation.

Join the Community

There is a ton more available to help you succeed in leading this or any group. When you join the I Am Second Community for FREE, you will gain access to I Am Second's full film archive, tools and resources on how to Live Second, and be able to talk to a free Live Second Coach to find trainings and other resources so you can to help more and more people follow Jesus.

» Join the community at iamsecond.com/join «

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