



## **Live Second: 365 Ways to Make Jesus First (I Am Second Daily Readers)**

*Doug Bender*

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Athletes and actors, models and musicians, pastors and politicians... many have stepped forward, looked in the camera, and proclaimed, "I am second." But most in the I Am Second movement are not celebrities. They are ordinary people - and they've come to the simple realization that when God comes first in their lives, everything makes sense. But living second is not easy. It takes grit and humility, submission to God's will, a willingness to listen and serve, and openness to God's healing and call. *Live Second* is a daily guide to making Jesus first in your life. With 365 readings, prayers, action steps, and an online community of support, what you hold in your hands is a tool built to help you make truth, Scripture, and Jesus your number one priority, each and every day of the year. Following Jesus is not meant to be easy, just worth it. *Live Second* is exactly what you need as you become the new, inspired, God-honoring creation he made you to be.

## **Live Second: 365 Ways to Make Jesus First (I Am Second Daily Readers) Details**

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Author : Doug Bender

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## **From Reader Review Live Second: 365 Ways to Make Jesus First (I Am Second Daily Readers) for online ebook**

### **Jeff Bjorgan says**

A really neat idea for a devotional, Live Second provides daily readings to help people establish a value of putting their faith first in their lives. But this is no run-of-the-mill devotional. Bender works at turning one's devotional time into a social network, providing links to on-line videos of celebrities from different backgrounds telling their faith stories, suggested hashtags for sharing reflections on twitter, and inserting smart tags for allowing interaction with your phone. I'm not sure the intended audience, but to me, it would be a great gift teens or a recent graduate.

(This book was provided courtesy of Graf-Martin Communications and Thomas Nelson Publishing in exchange for an honest review)

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### **David Cohen says**

I was looking for a book to help me not only learn more about my faith, but also help me with my day to day life. Little did I know how much this book would change my life so quickly. Each day i have been learning more and more what it truly means to be a Christian and to live second. The format made it very easy for me to use as a personal bible study and as a great tool for small groups. I would encourage everyone to pick up a copy between December 9-15 for your friends and family and even for the people in your life, who aren't believers and who are very resistant to becoming believers. When you purchase the book during that week you will receive \$150 in free downloads! This book can lead you to big changes in your life, as you learn how to live second.

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### **Michael Bells says**

title: LIVE SECOND: 365 WAYS TO MAKE JESUS FIRST

author: Doug Bender

date: 2012

publisher: Thomas Nelson

As the title suggests this is a daily reader. And no I haven't read the whole book yet.

The book feels like a daily devotional, but it's designed to be used in alignment with the Bible. Each day's entry contains a key verse, but the reader is encouraged to also read the larger context. Live Second covers a great deal of the Bible, but it is not a chronological or comprehensive Bible study. There are also web links, QR codes and suggested twitter hashtags to access I am Second films for further exploration of the day's theme.

The book helps the reader, clearly and Biblically, understand who should be - and needs to be - first. And with that understanding comes action: live it, tell it. Each day we are challenged to do something with what you have read and reflected on.

Live Second is a simple, even casual kind of book. The page layout is easy on the eyes and inviting. As you open it up, it gives you the impression: "I can do this!" While the book is broken down into readings / reflections of 52 weeks (7 days a week), it is not dated, so if you miss a day or two or more, you can pick up where you left off.

I received this book free from the publisher through book review program. The opinions are my own.

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### **Elle says**

It seems like many of us have grown up in a culture that tells us we should put ourselves first. We should strive to be in charge of our own future, to make first place on teams, to go after the promotion at work, to focus on me and what my needs are. Many of us have fallen into this trap of putting ourselves first, of never asking for help and relying on ourselves to get the job done, to provide for our families, to get to the next step in our lives, we lean on ourselves and see asking or seeking help as a sign of weakness.

Live Second tells you just the opposite. To go against the grain of what culture will accept as the norm, and look to someone else to provide, offer guidance, someone for you to lean on in time of trouble. Live Second will challenge you to step back and not put yourself, your family or your job first. Live Second is a daily reminder to instead of putting things of this world and ourselves in first place, to change positions and place ourselves second and put Jesus first everyday.

Live Second is not your normal book or devotional, it is a daily reader that will challenge you to put Jesus first in every circumstance, but unlike other daily devotionals Live Second also uses social media to continue the discussion of what you learn each day and to share with others what being second means.

Live Second is broken down into different sessions with an over-arching theme and focus, each daily reading will provide you with Bible passages, questions to help you to dig deeper into the passage as well as questions to encourage you to implement what you learn into your everyday life.

Live Second is a book like no other that combines a daily devotional with social media to help you to grow in your walk with God and to teach you what it means to be second. This is an amazing book that will change who you are and how you respond to the world around you. Be prepared to see a change in your life and take the steps to becoming Second, I am Second, are you?

I received this book complimentary from the publisher in exchange for an honest review, all thoughts and opinions are my own.

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### **Stephanie Ziegler says**

I GIVE THIS BOOK: 4 3/4 out of 5 stars

If it is not obvious, I have not completed the 365 days. Today is day 19. For the purpose of my review, BookSneeze.com and Thomas Nelson, Inc., I cannot wait 365 days to tell the readers what I think of this book. I feel that because each day of each week has the same instructions, two weeks is a good sample of the book to review.

Maybe you are like me and have been struggling to read the Bible, especially in its original typescript. It is a daunting task and one to easily push to the back burner. It is time to put you second and God first! This is the best devotional about the Bible that I have come across so far. The only reason it does not score a perfect 5Bs is that the videos are not supported to be watched with a Kindle. I would have to turn my computer on every first day of the week and sometimes that does not happen. Therefore, my day ones just consist of me reading the Bible passage.

What is even better is that I found a Kindle app called "Bible.is". This app has various versions of the Bible to choose from and it has audio. I like to listen and read along. There is a choice to have the Bible read to you normally or "dramatically". I chose dramatic. Each person has a different voice, the tone of the voice is accurate and dramatic music plays in the background. Even though each day calls for specific Bible passages to be read, I have found myself wanting to continue listening. It is so much fun!

You can start this book any day of the week, any time of the year. I was fortunate enough to be able to start on the first of the year. Every night before bed, I sit down and listen/read the Bible passages. Sometimes I lose sleep thinking about what I have learned, so maybe read this in the morning.

This is a great book for book clubs. I would suggest meeting once a week on day one or two to discuss day one together.

Always remember, take life one page at a time!

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### **Kevin Thompson says**

For a little while now I have been familiar with the I am Second videos. The videos themselves feature prominent Christians (politicians like Mike Huckabee, sports stars like Tong Dungy, music stars like the former singer from Korn and models like Kathy Ireland to name just a few) explaining why God comes first in their lives. If you have not checked them out already, they are worth watching. Now, Thomas Nelson has published a 365 day devotional guide based on these videos.

The basic set-up is quite interesting in my opinion. There are a total of 12 different sessions featuring different topics , each session consisting of 4-5 weeks of particular sub-topics. You begin the week with one of the I am Second videos (internet links through QR codes) and then answering a few questions based on some Bible passages. Each other day of the week begins with a Bible passage to read and consider. Below each passage you will find the following headings: Talk with God (prayer), Live it (application) and Tell it (teach it to others).

The biggest thing this book has going for it is the use of interactive media. Not only are you watching videos, but you are interacting with others online who are going through the same sections. Each day ends with an encouragement to tweet your lessons for other to benefit from and discuss. I can think of many young people I teach who would eat this up! But this feature intrigues me not just because of the "cool factor" this may have, but because of the idea of community this promotes. Too often devotions are seen as only personal. This idea tends to lead to subjectivity without much accountability. Having and sharing your devotions with a community (even the if only the online Twitter community) does promote at least some sense of connection with other believers and may provide a little bit of push back and iron-sharpening-iron when needed.

The negative aspect of this book is its lack of depth. This is not a devotional for mature Christians wishing to draw closer to God through deeper interaction in the Word. I really was not impressed with the actual content. However, as I alluded to above, I could see how this could be used by young people who may be new to the faith. This book would help them formulate a helpful pattern of how to begin your devotional life. It does promote stability, regularity and organization.

So, while this book certainly has many positive aspects, I can't say it has earned my full recommendation.

Disclaimer: This book was provided by the publisher for review. I was under no obligation to offer a favorable review.

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## Caroline says

Love devotional-style books, but looking for something a little bit different?

Live Second: 365 Ways to Make Jesus First is from Doug Bender and the I am Second movement. Perhaps known most in the online world for their powerful, memoir-style videos interviewing people of all kinds in their faith journeys, I am Second aims "to inspire people of all kinds to live for God and for others." The Live Second book holds the same mission.

As the author states in the introduction, the devotions aim to "challenge you to consider what life would look like if Jesus were first" and "inspire your reflection and challenge your daily routine." These devotions speak in a challenging way. Nothing here is fluff, but all focused on reminding us God is First.

This book is one of the first social media integrated books I've read. Set up in weekly themes of one-page daily devotions, each page offers a verse, a Scripture reading, a one- to three-paragraph devotion, and questions to spur action in our own lives. Each devotion includes a specific hashtag to interact with others pondering the same topic on Twitter. The first devotion of each week shares a link to one of the well-done I am Second testimonial videos (or a QR code to find the video in the print version). It's honestly hard not to watch these videos. The last devotion in each week usually quotes a larger section of Scripture and offers a chance to worship, surrender, and praise. Readers are strongly encouraged to read these devotions in community, and act on the principles as a community, too.

The reflection questions offered do allow for open-ended introspection, but the same questions were offered week after week. I hoped for some more specific questions or guiding questions. The devotions are strong, and as the author states in the introduction, are not always going to be "encouraging" in a positive, affirming sense, but rather a pow, make-you-think sense. The devotions remain truth-founded, convicting, and cause inward reflection to spur outward reaction. This devotional could serve as a solid reading plan (roughly 1-2 chapters of reading each day), easily incorporated into study time with a brief devotion and call to action.

Perhaps one of my favorite parts of the book (besides the social media aspects) are the prayers. Short but influential, these prayers can be earnestly prayed as is, or used to spur more thoughts in your own heart. One of my favorite prayers (and one I've prayed several times since reading it):

"God, I want to make you First in my life. I struggle and I stumble and I need your help, but I want to be Second."

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## Mandolin says

Bender, Doug  
Daily Devotions

We've all seen or heard them: the billboards, bumper stickers, radio advertisements and television commercials featuring famous men and women from all walks of life who have united in their single desire to live second. If you've been intrigued by the message and done some research, you'll know that these people are a part of the I Am Second movement, which encourages its followers to place God before everything in life, including self. Only by doing this, the participants have found, can we find true peace, meaning and contentment in life. They all acknowledge that the path to living second is hard; it takes humility and courage and, above all, faith. But it is one that leads to great rewards, both here on earth and in eternity.

What does it mean to live second? This devotional guide provides 365 daily readings that include pertinent scriptures, occasional video interviews, daily challenges and a short essay about topics ranging from relationships to identity and obedience to commitment. Together, these tools aim to encourage the reader to put himself second in everything he does and give practical advice on how to do exactly that.

When the I Am Second billboards began appearing in my city, I was intrigued and sought out further information on the web. What I found was a message that clearly echoed my own spiritual desire: a yearning to stop living so selfishly and start living for the One I proclaim is my Lord. I struggle with this every day and I hoped that this book would provide me with a tool to help me in that struggle. Unfortunately, it fell far short of my expectations. I was immediately turned off by the author's introduction, which begins by telling the reader that a belief in Christ is not a pre-requisite to reading the book. That astonished me. I think that he was trying to impart his hope that the book would aid believers and non-believers to try to learn what Christianity is all about, but I felt that his statement brushed aside the importance of Christ and implied that the book would focus on a relationship with just a generic God. Though the subsequent readings show that he believes Christ to be central in the movement, that initial statement was still a bit off-putting. In addition, the readings themselves leave much to be desired. When I researched the movement and read the stories available online, I was most touched by their deeply personal nature and by the insights into the Christian walk that each provided. That quality is lacking in the devotional readings. Though they focus on pertinent scriptures and give a general idea about the application of the scriptural truth to life, there is something vital that is missing. It's hard to describe, but I just felt that there was no real heart in them. I didn't come away from each reading feeling as if I had learned something or been challenged. I know that this is harsh criticism, but I have read so many other better devotionals than this one and I just can't praise it as much as others have. I believe its main underlying fault is that it is trying to reach out to a broad, generic and secular audience and thus tries to soften the message to make it easier for anyone to understand. This impression is re-inforced by the book's focus on social media (including the use of twitter "hashtags" at the end of each entry. New Christians (or even non-believers, according to the author) will probably find much more benefit to it than long-time believers who have heard these generic messages over and over again and who need something more.

I was provided with a free electronic copy of the book by Thomas Nelson's BookSneeze program in exchange for a non-biased review.

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### **Brandy Corona says**

One of my New Year's Resolutions is to make my daily walk in faith more of a priority. I was given this book by BookSneeze.com in exchange for a fair and honest review and it has been a real blessing.

Each day of this daily devotional truly makes you think and dig down deep into yourself. Being a Christian is hard in today's time, taking the time out to put Jesus first is difficult. I am going to incorporate this devotional along with a couple others in my daily walk.

I am really satisfied with how the devotional was laid out. There really wasn't a lot of "Bible thumping" at all. It is practical, it was written for every person from every walk of life. It is beautifully compiled and I loved all the personal stories that were included. I really love the I Am Second movement and the simple (but powerful) message behind it. We are all second compared to Jesus.

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### **Chris Barrett says**

*Live Second, An I am Second Daily Devotional* is a creative daily devotional. The daily readings are taken from the Old and New Testaments with a few questions to help the reader to engage with the passage. The entry for the first day of the week has a link for an inspiring "iamsecond" video profiling celebrities but most often ordinary people and how they are learning to put Jesus first in their lives. There are also suggested twitter hashtags to enable the reader to tweet their thoughts about any of the entries.

This is an excellent resource for anyone who is looking for a fresh way to make space in their lives to focus on Jesus and his message.

Chris Barrett

(note: this book has been provided courtesy of Graf-Martin Communications and Thomas Nelson in exchange for an honest review)

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### **Brenten Gilbert says**

Live Second is kind of a cool movement that collects testimonies from celebrities in the worlds of sports, acting, music, etc. The videos are well produced and feature honest revelations and sometimes surprising admissions from familiar faces. It's inspirational, encouraging, and, at times, emotional. The goal being to raise awareness of spiritual influences and stories of faith, while encouraging others to commit to putting God first in their lives and, themselves second.

This book attempts to build off of the momentum created by the videos and impart these timeless lessons into the lives of readers everywhere. And it may just be the most social media aware book I've come across - certainly as a devotional. Each entry - and they're broken into week-long themes - offers one of the videos, a brief written message, a Bible reading, questions designed to help you process that information and apply it

to your life, as well as a bevy of social media components. These are lessons designed to be both personal and shared and, for the most part, it works really well.

Oddly enough, the weakest component of this presentation is the videos. They are compelling, to be certain, but more often than not, they have very little to do with the subject matter assigned to the week in which they appear. Strange, yes. But, I wouldn't let that prevent you from incorporating this devotional into your daily routine. It's specifically designed to accommodate even the busiest of schedules.

- from TRudATmusic[dot]com[slash]raw (4/5/13)

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### **Liz Terek says**

'Live Second' is marketed as a 365 day, 52 week devotional that aims to teach the reader to put him or herself second. Meant for reflection & depositing godliness into routines, the author's goal is to encourage putting Jesus first.

Straight away, the author confused me. He makes a statement claiming that belief in Christ isn't a prerequisite to reading this book. If it isn't, then why would one wish to read about how to put Jesus first? Aren't those who read devotionals primarily Christians? Most devotionals are intended to strengthen one's Christian walk- something this book was lacking.

Regardless, within the contents of the book are Scriptures from Genesis to Luke & everywhere in between. Links to films are included which showcase insights from others. Small group participation is encouraged. What seems to be absent from readings, social media mentions, etc. is the author's personal viewpoints on his faith.

With all the info provided, unfortunately, I benefitted very little. A 'wow' factor was missing. The paragraph long readings were too brief & too vague in my opinion. Other devotionals have included more personal insight. Social media hype & hoopla don't impress me. Quality Christian writing does. Honestly, I felt that all the author accomplished was to read Scripture & then paraphrase it.

Should Doug Bender do additional devotionals, I'd hope he'd peruse a few bestselling ones & incorporate their techniques. With hopes that folks will be nudged towards God's Word, I rate it a 3 of 5 stars. Publisher Thomas Nelson can provide further details.

I was provided with 1 eBook in order to write the review without further compensation. All opinions are my own.

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### **Denise DiFalco says**

This book is for anyone who is looking to enhance their relationship with God along with those who have reached the end of their rope and are tired of this world's misgivings. If you are ready to give God control and be the type of character he intended us to be...Live Second is the answer. Learning to lean on Jesus and fully submit our wills is difficult because it goes against our human nature but with God's Spirit we can overcome all obstacles. There is no greater joy than living in the service of our King and our brothers and sisters. Step by step and day by day Doug Bender gives us inspiration to continue on this sacred journey. The writer supplies the student with plenty of support through online resources and websites. We all can be the light that this dark world so badly needs, can you think of a higher calling? This marvelous book is easy to

read and understand and will be an uplift to the spirits of those who read it. I am grateful to Booksneeze for the opportunity to review this book which is life-changing in exchange for my honest review.

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## **Anna Schaeffer says**

### **Summary:**

Live Second actually shows you what living second looks like. The daily devotions are short (they take between 5 – 10 minutes), but they're packed with sound, biblical advice and ways you can live out your faith. Topics range from discovering God, to relevant issues like identity, to spreading the Gospel, and more. A daily devotion is set up like this: The first day of each week opens with an I Am Second video , followed by a Scripture passage and thought-provoking questions, practical ways to live out this area of your faith, and a prompt for sharing what you've learned. The following days include: A Scripture passage, followed by an explanation of the passage and how it is mirrored in our lives today, a prayer to guide your quiet time with God, ways you can live out what you learn, and a reminder to tell others what you learn.

### **My Thoughts:**

I'm a big fan of daily devotionals, but most just skim the surface for me. I want more than just a quick, five-minute passage to read; I need something with depth that both causes me to think and provides practical ways for me to use what I study. I need something deeper than just a feel-good, surface level daily devotion. Live Second went beyond my expectations. It gives you short daily assignments, but they're deep; there's a lot packed in there. It's a good tool to use if you want to study the Word in the mornings, but don't have a lot of time. For more in-depth study, I recommend exploring more of the Scripture passages along with the devotion (read surrounding passages, use other study messages in combination with the passage, etc.), but I was not disappointed with the quality of this study. It's a study for people who truly desire to live a life that puts Jesus first.

### **In Conclusion:**

From the inspiring stories of faith presented in the linked I Am Second videos, to the compelling Scripture passages and thought-provoking questions, Live Second is a powerful addition to your devotional library. It's designed to help you truly live your life second, and it personally challenged me in every passage I read.

I have the ebook version of this book, so it's very easy to click over to the I Am Second videos at the beginning of each section. It's also available in print, if you prefer a hard copy.

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**Disclosure of Material Connection:** I received this book free from the publisher through the BookSneeze®.com book review bloggers program. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 : "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

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## **Jeni says**

live second: 365 Ways to Make Jesus First...

Wow, what a refreshing daily journey for folks at all walks of life. From those who consider themselves devout followers, sitting at the foot of the teacher, to those standing at the edge of the crowd, unsure, confused, but curious...this book is an awesome journey for all of us.

The book's author, Doug Bender, promises this to be a "guidebook for travelers, a handbook for seekers and a motivational manual for the uninspired" – and he's hit the nail on the head!

This is a challenge to all of us to evaluate what our lives would look like if we put Christ first – not our jobs, not our friends, not our spouses, not even our children, but Jesus first. Live second.

If you are curious about what this "Jesus stuff" is all about, if you are a broken believer who needs some encouragement, or if you are a content Christian who needs a challenge to, I strongly encourage you to pick up a copy of this book and start your own journey!

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