

*The First  
Principle*  
A NOVEL

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Publications

# DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR *THE FIRST PRINCIPLE*



1. Vivica learns that the cost of following Jesus Christ is high, and it affects her relationships with people she loves. If you've chosen to follow Christ, how has that impacted the relationships in your life? Have you ever experienced persecution for your faith?
2. Ben is determined to share his faith with Vivica, even though he hadn't while they were dating. What are some circumstances that might cause you to keep quiet about your faith? How can you get past them?
3. Vivica struggles with why God allows bad things to happen when he has the power to stop them. Have you ever struggled with this issue? When?
4. In the story, exclusivist Christians are accused of promoting hate speech. Why are Jesus' words in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me," so hard for some people to accept?
5. In spite of her distant relationship with her mother, Vivica wants her approval. How does this influence Vivica's decisions?
6. Is it ever appropriate to disobey a parent's wishes? What does the Bible say about this?
7. Even though the Revised Freedom Version of the Bible had been used for many years in the United Regions of North America, Genevieve still kept a copy of her grandmother's unauthorized Bible. Why do you think she saved it?
8. Do you think Genevieve could ever change? Why or why not?
9. The novel contains many futuristic elements involving technology, government, and social values. Which of these elements do you think could happen in the future? Why?
10. What did you think of Vivica's choices? What would you have done if you were in her position?
11. How is the Emancipation Warriors' fight for freedom similar to the American Revolution? How is it different?
12. Do you think the Emancipation Warriors were right to fight against their government? Why or why not? What would you be willing to fight for?
13. Why do you think the people in the United Regions of North America were willing to accept the Peace and Unity Act and the Posterity Protection and Self-Determination Act?

14. The Posterity Protection and Self-Determination Act's name contains words that have positive connotations; however, the words mask some very evil ideas—forced termination, population control, etc. What are some other terms in the story that have positive connotations but mask evil ideas? How is this similar to the language used by our own government and media? Can you think of specific examples?
  
15. The following words come from the U.S. Declaration of Independence: *We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.*

Do you believe people have the right to abolish and institute a new government today? Do you believe all of us are endowed with unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness that should be protected? Or are the principles of safety, tolerance, and unity more important? Why?

