

THE HOPE OF CHRIST IN EVERY STUDENT

HOPE

WEEKLY GUIDE

PRAYER

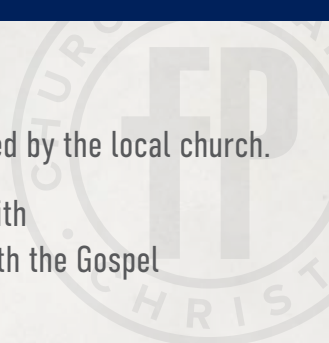
MONTH 1, VOLUME 3



FIRST PRIORITY

is a campus evangelism strategy implemented by the local church.

MISSION: To Unite The Local Body of Christ With
A Plan of Action To Influence The Schools With the Gospel



FIRST PRIORITY BUILDS NETWORKS OF SUPPORT



Students “The Players In the Game” Taking The Love & Message of Jesus Christ As Missionaries To Their School.



Parents “The Fans In The Stands” Praying For, Supporting & Discipling Their Children.



Churches “The Coaches On The Sidelines” Equipping, Encouraging and Empowering Students.



Educators “The Referees Of The Game” Providing Guidance and Direction.



Business / Community Leaders “The Owners Of The Team” Investing Leadership, Mentoring and Resources In Their Community.



“First Priority is the most innovative way to reach a city for Christ. It unites our local churches together as one to make a difference.”

– Dr. Jay Strack, President of Student Leadership University

PLANNING GUIDE

Help Week:

Host:

Leadership speaker:

Behind the scenes organizer:

Overcome week:

Host:

Leadership speaker:

Behind the scenes organizer:

Prepare week:

Host:

Faith story 1:

Faith story 2: (optional)

Faith story 3: (optional)

Behind the scenes organizer:

Engage week:

Host:

Activity Leader:

Gospel speaker:

Behind the scenes organizer:

Host: Welcomes, opens in prayer, introduces the week, introduces the speaker, makes announcements, talks through response cards, thanks everyone, and dismisses.

Behind the scenes organizer: Makes necessary arrangements for (but doesn't do it all him/herself) greeters (who also hand out response cards), food, decor, printing, music.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP UNIVERSITY'S

THE LIFT TOUR 2018

theLIFTtour.com

"And I, when I am LIFTED up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself."

- John 12:32

The LIFT Tour is a world-class weekend experience that will challenge your students at all points in their spiritual walks to forsake selfish dreams, desires and demands, and embrace a Christ-centered lifestyle.

theLIFTtour.com

In partnership with



November 10-11: Augusta, GA**
 November 10-11: Kansas City, KS**
 January 12-13: Benton, AR
 January 12-13: Huntsville, AL
 January 26-27: Panama City, FL
 February 2-3: Columbia, SC
 February 9-10: Houston, TX
 February 9-10: Dothan, AL
 February 9-10: Maryland
 February 16-17: Tulsa, OK
 February 16-17: Orlando, FL

February 16-17: NW Arkansas
 February 22: Dallas, TX
 February 23-24: Memphis, TN
 February 23-24: Nashville, TN
 February 23-24: Rome, GA
 March 2-3: Jackson, MS
 March 16-17: Atlanta, GA
 March 23-24: Atlanta, GA
 March 23-24: Chattanooga, TN
 March 23-24: Jacksonville, FL
 More cities and dates coming soon...

EXCLUSIVE EARLY BIRD DEADLINE:

Register by **August 31st | \$39** by **November 10th | \$45**

**Check theLIFTtour.com for Augusta, GA and Kansas City, KS pricing

Speakers and Artists



LU Worship Collective



Drew Worsham



Fedel



Jeff Wallace



D.A. Horton



Brent Crowe



Joseph Sojourner



Ryan McDermott

...and many more

Speakers and Artist vary by location, visit: www.theLIFTtour.com

PRAYER

Help Week Leader Guide

Help Week: A time for student leaders to equip their peers to become missionaries to their school, as they plan and pray for the month of campus ministry ahead.

CLUB TIME PREP:

- Select one student to lead this month's Help Week
- Bring a pad of sticky notes and a few sharpie markers for the action challenge
- Remind students to post on social media and text friends reminding them about First Priority Club Time

INTRODUCTION: 3 minutes

Welcome Students, Prayer and Introduction

- **Assigned Leader Opens:** Welcome to First Priority! This club is a place to seek and grow in God. This week is Help Week, which is where we help each other become missionaries to our school. As we prepare to serve God by being missionaries to this school, we are going to focus on prayer.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Introduce Student Leading Discussion:** Today, my friend, <insert name>, is going to share about why prayer is vital to the mission of the gospel on our campus this year.




GROUP TIME: Prayer Fuels the Flame (20 Minutes)

Assigned Speaker Suggestion: Dr. A. T. Pierson, a famous pastor, once said, “There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer.” The United States experienced three Great Awakenings and many other evangelistic movements, which all began in prayer. Throughout history, Christians have seen the lost-ness of people living without God in their lives and have taken Jesus up on his offer in Matthew 7:7-8:

“Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.” Matthew 7:7-8 (NLT)

We are meeting together today because we want to see our school changed by the gospel of Jesus Christ. If it is true that these movements all began in prayer, why would we want to begin this school year any other way? Just as a huge fire can begin with a single spark, I believe that hundreds of students can come to know Christ as savior this year because of a single prayer. I would love to think that I could do this myself, but the fact is, I cannot save a single person.

Neither can you. I don't personally have the time, resources, or skills to guarantee that hundreds would come to First Priority, become Christ followers, or begin attending a youth group for discipleship. However, when I look at all the students at our school, I see so many lost people that God wants to join his family. If we are going to SEE God do something great, we've got to ASK him to do something great! The idea behind this club is much bigger than just you or me!



If we are going to SEE God do something great, we've got to ASK him to do something great!

PRAYER Help Week Leader Guide (continued)

When we ask something of God, we can always expect that he wants to put his purposes and plan into action. But, we must ask ourselves if we are doing what He expects of us. Are we doing this? The Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 1,

“Above all you must live as citizens of heaven, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News.” Philippians 1:27 (NLT)

I believe that first we must pray, and not just alone, but also together, side-by-side. Prayer and unity are key. Second, we must be a witness to the gospel, unashamed of the testimony of Jesus. If we will commit to being bold in our witness this year, I believe God will use that boldness to reach lost people AND inspire saved people on our campus!

APPLY IT:

Discussion Option 1: Anyone can respond to this question: What are some benefits of prayer? How does it help you personally or everyone collectively? What do you see as the point of prayer?

Discussion Option 2: Anyone can respond to the question: What are some things that hinder or distract us from being people of prayer? What are some practical things we can do to be more intentional about having prayer time this year?



ACTION CHALLENGES:

- **Group Challenge:** Get a pad of sticky notes and make a list of seven things that you will pray for together, asking God to do big things at your school this year through the gospel. With a Sharpie, write all seven of those things on the sticky notes (one prayer reminder for each note) and have a student take a picture of each note. Each morning this week, that student will post a picture of a different sticky note to social media, referencing Matthew 7:7-8 and using the hashtags #firstpriority and #fpboldprayer as a reminder for everyone to pray that day. If you prefer, your club can create a social media account for the club with your school name, and a student can be put in charge of managing the account.
- **Prayer Challenge:** Give one sticky note to each student and have them write down a reminder to pray for the lost to come to Christ this year, then place it somewhere where they will see it each day.

WRAP UP: 2 minutes

- Share any FP Club announcements, including that next week's meeting is Overcome Week.



WHY IS TRAINING STUDENT LEADERS TO SHARE THE HOPE OF CHRIST SO IMPORTANT?

Last school year over 2,000 students were trained as leaders and 9,000 of their peers responded to the good news they shared in FP clubs.

#studentsreachstudents
#firstpriority

PRAYER

Overcome Week Leader Guide

Overcome: A time for student leaders to encourage their peers to overcome their fears of sharing the gospel.



CLUB TIME PREP:

- Select one student to lead this month's Overcome Week
- Post to social media and text friends inviting them to First Priority club

INTRODUCTION: 3 minutes

Welcome Students, Prayer and Introduction

- **Assigned Leader Opens:** Welcome to First Priority! This club is a place to seek and grow in God. This week is Overcome Week, which is where we encourage each other in how to overcome our fears of sharing the Gospel.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Introduce Student Leading Discussion:** Today, my friend, <insert name>, is going to share about overcoming obstacles to the gospel.

GROUP TIME: Powerful Prayer (20 minutes)

Assigned Speaker Suggestion: This month, we are talking about the impact of prayer in sharing the gospel. Have you ever thought about how powerful water is? Usually when you think of water, you probably think of it being cleansing, refreshing, and hydrating. Did you know that it is also surprisingly heavy? If you stood in fast-moving water just a few inches above your ankles, it could knock you off your



feet. One cubic yard of water (that's 3 feet x 3 feet x 3 feet) actually weighs 1,700 pounds! That's 200 gallons, enough to fill your bathtub at home five times. In a tsunami, water can move more than 50 miles per hour. If you can imagine the weight of 1,700 pounds moving that fast, think of the destruction it could cause. Now imagine an entire ocean wave! Pretty scary, right?

James 5 says, "The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results." James 5:16 (NLT)

Great power, when against us, makes us feel scared. When that same power is for us, however, we feel assured because we know we will not be harmed. Prayer is powerful because God, whom we pray to, has unlimited power. God has a purpose and plan, and he wants you to participate! The idea behind powerful prayer is that you try to understand God's purpose through his Word, and that you would ask him to accomplish his plan through you! Prayer is vital to the First Priority **HOPE** strategy, because without it, **WE'VE GOT NO POWER!** When God gives us a goal, it's usually too big for us to achieve on our own. This is why some people feel afraid to share the gospel or to use their influence for Christ. They simply can't imagine how they could accomplish it. What we need, though, is to have God's power to do God's work! This is where prayer comes in. Prayer helps us to overcome our fears because when we team up with God, we're teaming up with the Creator of the universe!



APPLY IT:

Discussion Option 1: What do you think God wants for this school? How do you think He wants to change it? What does he want to see happen? What does the Bible tell us about this?

Discussion Option 2: What are some bold things we could pray for that would make this school closer to what God wants? How can we participate in that change? Let's make a list of three things that we are going to continually pray for throughout this school year.

ACTION CHALLENGES:

- **Group Challenge:** During prayer in a few moments, one student will take a group picture of your club holding hands in a circle and praying and post to social media with the hashtags #firstpriority and #fpboldprayer
- **Invite Challenge:** Text 5 friends and invite them to First Priority and ask them if you can pray for them this week about anything
- **Prayer Challenge:** Everyone form a circle for group prayer time, praying for God to do big things at school this year.



WRAP UP: 2 minutes

- Share any FP Club announcements including that next week's meeting is Prepare Week

PRAY FOR 1

This month, as we focus on prayer, let's keep it simple. Take time each day to pray for 1:

- 1 FRIEND WHO DOES NOT FOLLOW CHRIST
- 1 FAMILY MEMBER
- 1 TEACHER
- 1 MEMBER OF THE ADMINISTRATION

Keep it simple on your own or invite a few trusted friends each day to join you to pray



PRAYER

Prepare Week Leader Guide

Prepare Week: A time for students to learn how to share their story of what their life was like without Christ in contrast to their new life with Christ.

CLUB TIME PREP:

- Select one student to lead this month's Prepare Week.
- Post to social media and text friends inviting them to First Priority Club
- Print Appendix A – Your Faith Story (1 per student) if you want to have every student attending club working on their testimony at the same time (recommended at least once a semester). Faculty sponsors can usually print these for you if given enough notice.

INTRODUCTION: 3 minutes

Welcome Students, Prayer and Introduction

- **Assigned Leader Opens:** Welcome to First Priority! This club is a place to seek and grow in God. This week is Prepare week, which is where we practice sharing our personal story about how we came to know Jesus.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Explain Sharing and Testimony Time:** <insert name> is going to share their story. Please listen respectfully as it takes a lot of courage to speak in front of others. At the end, we are going to give some positive feedback on how well they did and also ask questions. Let's welcome them as they share.

PRAYER Prepare Week Leader Guide (continued)

GROUP TIME: 3 Testimonies (20 minutes)

3 Share Testimonies

- › Student 1 Testimony = _____

- › Student 2 Testimony = _____

- › Student 3 Testimony = _____

- **Leader Host:** Thank you for sharing, <insert name>. Now let's take a minute to share some positive feedback about how they did. Also, feel free to ask them questions about their story.
- **(Optional)** If you are working on testimonies collectively, pass out *Appendix A – Your Faith Story* and read/explain/discuss each step.

ACTION CHALLENGES:

- **Group Challenge:** Everyone think of one short statement that summarizes what God has done in your life and post it to social media with the hashtags: #firstpriority #FPprepareweek
- **Prayer Challenge:** Pray daily for the students in your school who need to hear the HOPE of Jesus Christ and for Christ following students to be encouraged to be bold in talking with others about Jesus. Write their names on a sticky note and place it on your bathroom mirror and inside your locker as a reminder to pray for them each day.
- **Invite Challenge:** Personally invite at least 5 students to Engage week next week. They can be friends or virtual strangers, but how will they know Jesus if no one ever invites anyone to hear more about Him?

WRAP UP: 2 minutes

- Share any FP Club announcements, including that next week's meeting is Engage Week. Remind everyone to bring a guest because it will be a fun atmosphere with food and a game, as well as a student giving a gospel presentation.

FIRST PRIORITY IS INFLUENCING STUDENT LEADERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO SHARE THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST IN THEIR SCHOOL.

- 25 Million Teenagers
- 41,000 schools
- 325,000 churches
- 1640 Coordinators
- 100 Regional chapters
- 1 FP Family



**ROCK IN THE
POND THEORY**

Do you know a community that needs a First Priority movement started? Throughout the year we train FP Coordinators to lead this movement into their community. Go here to get started;

firstpriority.club/roles/first-priority-coordinator

PRAYER

Engage Week Leader Guide

Engage Week: A time for students to engage their school with the gospel.

CLUB TIME PREP:

- Confirm your student or guest speaker and remind them to be prepared to share the gospel and an invitation to accept Christ. Gospel Presentation options can be found at FirstPriority.club
- Confirm that Student Response Cards have been printed and will be ready to hand out to students as they enter your meeting space. Faculty sponsors can print for you if requested in advance.
- Confirm that arrangements for food for the club have been completed and that it is ready to serve just before club opening.

INTRODUCTION: 3 minutes

- Allow students to fellowship as student leaders prepare the group activity.

Welcome Students, Prayer and Introduction

- **Assigned Student Leader Host:** Welcome to First Priority! Today we are going to start with a game to get to know one another. There is food for everyone here, so please feel free to grab a bite to eat while we get started.



GROUP ACTIVITY TIME: 5 minutes

- Game: Mix and Mingle
- Preparation: No preparation necessary
- Play Game: Get the group to stand in the middle of the room. The leader of the game will stand at the front of the room, facing the group. The game leader will call out a choice to the group, pointing to opposite sides of the room for each option. For example, the first choice could be “inside vs outside”. When the game leader says “inside” they would point to the left side of the room, when they say “outside” they would point to the right side of the room. Each of the players then run or walk to the side of the room which they prefer. For example, if I like “outside” more than “inside” then I would go to the right. It’s good to do a variety of choices and some will provide laughter and some might be more serious.

Here are some examples of choices

1. Nature vs. City
2. Casual vs. Dress-up
3. Performing vs. Watching
4. Snickers vs. Butterfinger
5. Coke vs. Pepsi
6. Country Music vs. Literally Any Other Music
7. Superman vs. Batman
8. Apple vs. Banana
9. Mac vs. PC
10. Odds vs. Evens

GROUP TIME - GOSPEL: 15 minutes

Introduce Speaker Sharing the Gospel

- Student Leader Host: Today, my friend, <insert name>, is going to share about something that is very important to them. Please listen respectfully, as it takes a lot of courage to speak in front of others. You all were given a student response card that looks like this (hold up a sample card) when you came in. Just hold on to it and we will explain them to you shortly.

Gospel Presentation

- Gospel Presenter: Share the gospel and give a personal invitation using this sample presentation or use Appendix B “Sample Gospel Presentation or another gospel presentation at FirstPriority.club.

INVITATION & STUDENT RESPONSE CARDS: 5 minutes

Opportunity to connect to Jesus

- If everyone would just take a minute and think about what was shared today. If you would like to have a relationship with Jesus today, then simply take a minute where you are and let Him know that. Then, on your response card, simply let us know that you made that decision today so that we can connect with you to answer any questions you may have and celebrate your new life in Jesus.
- If you have questions and don't know what you want or feel, mark that on your student card so we can connect with you and just listen to what you have to say. We would love to help you find answers to your questions.
- If you are not interested in having a relationship with Jesus at this time, it's ok to be honest and mark that on your student response card. No one here will judge you.



Opportunity to connect to a local youth group

- We also want to make sure everyone here has an opportunity to connect with a local youth group if they are not involved in one right now. Simply mark that on your card and we'll gladly help you with that.

WRAP UP: 2 minutes

- As we wrap up, I want to close in prayer, but first I wanted you to know that <insert name> is available to connect with you if you have questions today. Also, the response cards can be given to <insert name> and will only be used for follow up requests. Thank you for coming today and join with me as I pray thanking God for His love for all of us today.
- **Student Leader Host:** Thanks so much for coming today! Please turn in your card to <insert name> before you leave. We meet here every week at this time, so you are all invited to come back next week.

Appendix A

YOUR FAITH STORY

Your story is one of the most important tools you have been given by God to share the gospel with the world around you! Finding the power in your story will depend on how you learn to tell it. The first step to being able to tell a powerful story is to **WRITE IT DOWN**. This will give you the ability to edit the specifics and memorize. The second is to **PRACTICE OUT LOUD** with a close friend or parent so that they can give you useful feedback. The third is to **SPEND TIME IN PRAYER AND IN THE SCRIPTURE** to ask God to speak through you before you share your story publically, because God can do more in others through you than you can do by yourself!

1. START WITH A KEYWORD

The first step in writing down your faith story is choosing what keywords describe your life before Christ. Below is a list of emotions. Circle two or three that adequately describe how you felt as a result of a problem you faced without Christ in your life. You are not limited to this list, so feel free to chose a keyword of your own! This part helps keep your story compelling and on track.

KEYWORDS

alienated	bitter	fearful	hurt	rejected
alone	confused	frustrated	insecure	uncertain
angry	depressed	guilty	lonely	unforgiving
apathetic	distrusting	heartbroken	lost	unloved
ashamed	doubtful	hopeless	prideful	worthless



2. SET UP THE BACKGROUND

Now describe the situation in which you came to face this problem and why your keyword describes the way you felt. It is more important to be honest than dramatic. This helps people to relate with your story personally and understand why we need God in our lives. If you need more space, continue on the back.

EXAMPLE: *"My parents divorced when I was younger... I blamed myself and began to feel unworthy of relationships... so I become isolated and alone because I was afraid of being rejected for being unworthy..."*

Appendix A YOUR FAITH STORY *(continued)*

3. SHARE HOW JESUS ENTERED YOUR STORY

Now describe how you came to know Jesus. Be sure to describe that moment (or that process) if you can with adjectives that show how meaningful and impactful it was for you. Try to describe how Jesus touched your heart, and how you responded (such as asking Him to be your Lord and Savior). This part challenges people's idea of what God is like.

EXAMPLE: *"One summer I attended church camp with my youth group and we talked about new identity in Christ and being loved as God's children. God began to speak to my heart and to my issues of unworthiness and fear of rejection. One evening I experienced the love of God and realized that Christ died for my sin, so that I could have a loving relationship with God. So I asked Him to save me and forgive me of my sin. The impact of that moment changed everything."*

4. STATE THE IMPACT OF CHRIST ON YOUR LIFE



Now describe how Christ impacted your problem and your life. Use the emotion opposite of your keyword and share how Christ either reversed your problem or is continually giving you the power to overcome. This is the part that inspires your hearers to place their hope in Christ!

EXAMPLE: *"What changed after that was my view of myself. I began to trust that God really did love me and want me to be in relationship with Him. I had once been unworthy, but now I was given worth. I was once alone, but now I see myself as wanted, loved, and together with God and His family. I was once afraid of rejection, but now I know that I am fully accepted by Him, and He is giving me the faith and the strength to overcome the attitudes of the past."*

Appendix B

SAMPLE GOSPEL PRESENTATION

Begin the presentation by sharing a short version of your testimony.

For example: *“I was raised in church. I’d never really thought of my story as being powerful, but when I think about how Christ died for me, a sinner, I am very grateful that Jesus did for me something I could not do for myself. This fact is powerful enough all by itself. I love to serve God because of all that He has done for me.”*



What Is the Gospel?

• Answer: The Father God Adopting Me.

FATHER GOD

God made all of creation. The first people in God’s creation—Adam and Eve—had a perfect relationship with the Father. However, they turned away from Him and creation fell into sin and brokenness. This resulted in separation from God and the free

and full life we were intended to experience. God was deeply grieved over His creation.

“The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth ... and it grieved Him to His heart.” - Genesis 6:5-6 (ESV)

ADOPTING

God’s heart was so hurt over His creations’ brokenness that He sent His Son Jesus. God sent Jesus to pay the price (redemption) to restore our relationship back to the Father. Jesus sacrificed His own life on a cross in our place and was also raised back to life to end our alienation from God and bring us into a loving relationship that lasts forever. Only because of Jesus can we be adopted as sons and daughters of God—part of His family, along with the benefits of being His children.

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.” - Galatians 4:4-5 (ESV)

“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.” - Romans 8:14-16 (ESV)

Appendix B SAMPLE GOSPEL PRESENTATION (continued)

ME

You and I were born into the same experience, the inevitable realization that something is not right with the world or us. We discover that we are alienated, alone, and missing out on real life. Life without a relationship with God is a broken existence. The good news is that it can be restored by making the decision to follow Jesus and placing our trust in Him. Once this happens, we have a relationship with God and His family (fellow believers who follow Him)—a true belonging quite possibly for the first time. You, too, have the opportunity to follow Him and place your trust in Him to receive a loving relationship that lasts forever.

“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.” - John 1:12 (ESV)

HOW TO RECEIVE CHRIST AS SAVIOR

1. Confess your need (I am broken and in sin)
2. Change your direction in life, knowing that God’s way of living is better than our way living
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and was raised to life to redeem you and restore your relationship to God
4. Receive through prayer the free gift of salvation and begin your journey as part of the family of God.

WHAT TO PRAY

Father God,

I know that I am broken, and I need your forgiveness. Jesus, I believe you died and were raised to life to redeem me. I want to turn away from my old life and toward a completely new life with You in your family. Right now I put my trust in you and invite you to come into my life and change it. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



We believe in the impossible:
THE HOPE OF CHRIST
IN EVERY STUDENT
at your school.

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