

THE HOPE OF CHRIST IN EVERY STUDENT

HOPE

WEEKLY GUIDE

GO

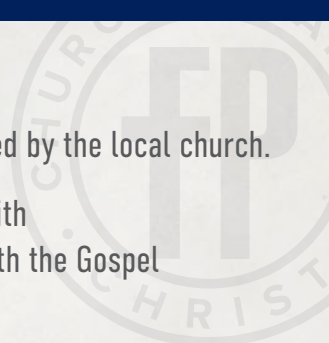
MONTH 2, VOLUME 3



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

GO

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
- Have someone bring an old pair of canvas sneakers (Ex: Converse style) 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. Last month, we talked about praying and asking God for our schools to be changed in a big way. This month, we get to put that prayer in action with our theme: "GO." It is based on the scripture in Matthew 28:19 that is known



as the Great Commission. *"Therefore, GO and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."* Matthew 28:19

- **Opening Prayer**

- **Introduce Student Leading Discussion:** Today, my friend, _____, is going to share about why unity with other Christ-followers is vital to GO and reach our school with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

GROUP TIME: GO Together (20 Minutes)

Assigned Speaker Suggestion: First, it is important to understand that Christ-followers (believers) need other believers. God's heart is for those who love Him to be unified through their love for Him, which allows them to love others because He first loved us.

"We love each other because God first loved us first." 1 John 4:19 (NLT)

The Bible also tells us that the world will know that we are Christians (Christ-followers) by our love for one another.

*"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."
John 13:35 (NLT)*

When we unify around love, our compassion for others grows and causes us to want to share where our HOPE comes from. Being united as Christ-followers doesn't mean uniformity and everyone doing everything the exact same way and going to the exact same places. Being united Christ-followers means we all have a part to play and are vital to reaching our schools with the HOPE of Jesus Christ, whether we are from the same church or not.



APPLY IT:



Discussion Option 1: Just like on a baseball team, the body of Christ has many “team mates”. In baseball, each team member has a position to play and their own style while doing it, teammates know they must work together with every person on the team in order to win the game. How do you think that can relate to Christ-followers working together in sharing the Gospel in your school?



Discussion Option 2: Just like in a band, the body of Christ has many “members”. Each musician understands that they each must play their own instrument but work together to have it flow and blend for the purpose of making the music sound good. How do you think that can relate to Christ-followers working together like this in sharing the Gospel in your school?



ACTION CHALLENGES:

- **Group Challenge:** Take a pair of shoes (example: an old pair of Converse Chucks) and write out this verse on the bottom. *“And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why is the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news.”* Romans 10:15-16 (NLT) Write “places” on one of the shoes and have students write all the places their feet take them weekly on the school campus. The other shoe will be your “people” shoe where everyone in club today will write their name on the shoe. Take a group photo with the shoes and post to social media referencing Romans 10:15-16 and using the hashtags #firstpriority and #fpgospelfeet .
- **Share Challenge:** Share with someone this week how Christ gives you peace in your life.
- **Prayer Challenge:** Have someone close in prayer for your group to be messengers who bring the good news of the gospel.

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

GO

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, _____, is going to share about overcoming obstacles to the Gospel.

GROUP TIME: Go Fish (20 minutes)

Assigned Speaker Suggestion: Did you ever play the card game “Go Fish” as a kid? The whole purpose was to match two of a kind by continually asking your opponent if they have the card you need. If they didn’t, they would say “Go Fish,” and you would pick up a card from the deck. The game kept going until someone finally got matches to all of their cards and lays all of their cards down. It was a game based on repetition and patience.

It reminds me of a story in the Bible when Jesus called His first disciples to work alongside of Him in sharing the HOPE that He came to give the world.



“One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” And they left their nets at once and followed him.” Matthew 4:18-20 (NLT)

Jesus finds some fishermen and He tells them to follow him and learn how to basically catch men instead of fish. Did he expect them to walk around villages with the big nets and just randomly cast them over people they encountered and “catch them” like they did when they would cast their nets over the sides of their boats? Of course not! But it was similar because just like in fishing, to be successful, you have to go with a purpose and keep trying even when you don’t succeed at first.

How sad would it be if we only pray for students to have the same HOPE in Jesus Christ we have, but never share that HOPE with anyone? Praying in faith should plant the seed of hope that sprouts the action of sharing our faith.

“So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” James 2:17 (NLT)

“But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?” Romans 10:14 (NLT)

GO Overcome Week Leader Guide (continued)

APPLY IT:

Discussion Option 1: What does “fishing for men” look like in your school day? When are some opportunities you have through the school week to share the HOPE of Jesus Christ with other students?

Discussion Option 2: What are some fears you have that have stopped you from sharing the HOPE of Jesus with other students and how can you overcome them? What are some times that you overcame that fear and shared your story of faith in Jesus Christ? How did you feel afterwards?

ACTION CHALLENGES:

- **Group Challenge:** Take a group picture with your “GO FISH” sign and post on social media with the hashtags #firstpriority and #fpgofish.
- **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:** Lastly, get into groups of three or four and spread out. Take 2 minutes pray as a group for those students who you will be texting in the Invite Challenge.



WRAP UP: 2 minutes

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

THE SONG YOU KNOW,
THE STORY YOU DON'T

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE

IN THEATERS SPRING 2018

AN ERWIN BROTHERS FILM



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GO

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:** Assigned Leader Suggestion: "Today, we are going to practice how to share our God Story or testimony of how God has changed our life. Testimony simply means testifying or sharing the truth about something. In this case, we will practice sharing the truth about what our lives were like before we encountered Jesus and after we encountered Him. If you have never done something like this and are nervous, or are not a Christian, don't sweat it. We are glad you are here and if you are not comfortable sharing, just listen while others share and encourage them."

60 Prepare Week Leader Guide (continued)

GROUP TIME: Go and Tell (20 minutes)

Break Out Group Time

Assigned Student Leader: We are going to break into groups of 3 to 4 students to allow everyone to practice their testimonies for ten minutes (God Stories).

We have passed out a copy of "Your Faith Story" to help everyone get started on how to share your God Story/Testimony. Basically, you want to focus on these three things:

1. What your life was like before Jesus. (Ex: did you feel alone, were you greedy about material things, were friends your only focus, etc.)
2. How you encountered Jesus. (Ex. When did you first hear about Jesus and what made you respond to him in your life?)
3. How has your life changed since encountering Jesus?

Group Wrap Up

- **Leader Host:** "As you are finishing up, take the next couple of minutes to give positive feedback to those who shared about how they did and feel free to ask them questions about their story.

ACTION CHALLENGES:

- **Group Challenge:** Get everyone huddled together and take a photo of everyone's shoes and post it to social media with the hashtags: #firstpriority #fpreadytogo #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 the following verse on a sticky note and place it on your bathroom mirror and inside your locker as a reminder.
*"As soon as I pray, you answer me; you encourage me by giving me strength."
Psalms 138:3 (NLT)*
- **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

GO

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.



60 Engage Week Leader Guide (continued)

GROUP ACTIVITY TIME: 5 minutes

- Game: **Form a Group**
- Preparation: No preparation necessary
- Play: Easy game that can be used to divide into teams if need be.
Simply yell, "Form a group according to . . . (GPA, hair color, cavity #'s, sibling #'s, shirt color, etc.)"

GROUP TIME - GOSPEL: 15 minutes

Introduce Speaker Sharing the Gospel

- **Student Leader Host:** Today, my friend, _____, 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 "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 to think about what was shared today. If you would like to begin a relationship with Jesus right now, I invite you to 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 and answer any questions you may have to 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 _____ is available to connect with you if you have questions today. Also, the response cards can be given to _____ and will only be used for follow up requests. Thank you for coming today and join in me as I pray thanking God for His love for all of us today.
- **Student Leader Host:** Thank you so much for coming today! Please turn in your card to _____ before you leave. We meet here every week at this time, so you are all invited to come back next week.

STUDENT RESPONSE CARD

My response to the gospel message today
(Please only check one)

Today, I prayed to receive Christ

I would like more information about the Gospel!

I have already prayed to receive Christ before today

I am not interested

My name _____

Cell # _____

Church you Attend _____

Who invited you to First Priority today? _____

The information you put on this card will be given to a student leader to follow up with you. Your information will not be stored or given to anyone else.

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

Sample Presentation: If you read about someone on their social profile, is that the same thing as actually knowing that person? Of course not. The same is true about knowing God. It is possible to know about God without actually personally knowing Him. A great example of that is a man named Paul in the Bible.

Paul, whose name in Hebrew was Saul, lived in Jesus' time here on earth, and considered himself a good religious man because he had read a lot about God, but he didn't have a relationship with Him. After Jesus had been crucified, resurrected (came back to life) and went back to heaven, Paul was involved in the rounding up of Christ-followers for them to be persecuted for their faith. He was also present at the first recorded death of a person killed for their faith in Jesus, named Stephen.

Paul's life was forever changed though when he had an encounter with Jesus while on the road to a place called Damascus. He was traveling to herd up Christ-followers for persecution. Jesus appeared to Paul and spoke to him and his life was forever changed after encountering Jesus. Paul had a lot of head knowledge and thought he knew about God and how he thought he would save mankind. When God did something different, Paul didn't recognize it because he didn't have the Holy Spirit to help him understand it.

"But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means." 1 Corinthians 2:14 (NLT) Once Paul accepted Christ as his personal Savior and believed in Him, he had the Holy Spirit to help him understand. You can find more of Paul's story in the Bible in Acts 9. After that encounter, Paul became the best known missionary sharing the love of Jesus with people everywhere he went at all costs.

PERSONAL STORY: 5 minutes

Sample Story: I can relate to Paul's story because I grew up going to church and heard all the Bible stories, but didn't realize until later that there was more than just knowing stories to really know God. I didn't understand what it meant to have a relationship with Him.



Appendix B SAMPLE GOSPEL PRESENTATION (continued)

Before I came to Jesus, I felt and acted _____, but then someone shared with me about how much Jesus loves me and what He did on the cross for me. That truth changed my life forever and now I get to share it with you. I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and submitted my life to him when I was _____ years old and it happened at _____ when I _____.

I remember feeling _____ at the time, but once I prayed to Jesus and asked Him to forgive my sins and that I wanted to love Him and live my life telling others about Him I felt _____.

Today, I want to give you the opportunity to know Jesus like I know Him. Some of you listening to my story may relate. Maybe because you grew up in church or attend church every week, people already think you are a Christ-follower. But just like Paul, maybe you are ready to encounter Jesus in a life changing way that goes way deeper than just attending church or praying before meals.

Maybe you have been one of those people who have made fun of or mocked Christfollowers. Jesus wants you to know that He died on the cross for you anyway because He loves you.

Maybe you have been waiting for someone to share with you that Jesus Christ chose to come to earth in human form to take our place in receiving punishment for our sins because He loves us. Maybe you have been waiting to hear what the Bible says in John 3:16, "For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."

God's heart is that we love Him as He first loved us and that we have a relationship with now through eternity and for us never to be separated from Him. The Bible tells us in Romans 10:9 that "If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

INVITATION & STUDENT RESPONSE CARDS: 5 minutes

Please refer to page 19.

WRAP UP: 2 minutes

Please refer to page 19.



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

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First Priority of America
115 Penn Warren Drive Suite 300-205
Nashville, TN 37027
888-808-FPOA (3762)

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