THE HOPE OF CHRIST IN EVERY STUDENT HOPE WEEKLY GUIDE BROKEN MONTH 3, VOLUME 3 FIRST PRIORITY

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.



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

- John 12:32

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





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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

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BROKEN

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
- 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 Jesus' command

to GO and make disciples. This month's theme is *BROKEN* and focuses on the truth that the world is broken by sin and God's plan to fix it. God is always giving us a choice to accept his plan, and after we accept it we get to set others free from the world's brokenness. This month we get to put into action last month's theme of GO by going



to tell our friends that God has a remedy to the brokenness we see around us and that we feel within us. The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed" Isaiah 61:1

- · Opening Prayer
- Introduce Student Leading Discussion: Today, my friend, _______, is going to share about why sharing God's plan to remedy our broken relationship with Him through Christ with our friends is vital.

GROUP TIME: Broken But Not Forgotten Together (20 Minutes)

Assigned Speaker Suggestion: First, it is important to understand that we as Christ-followers (believers) have the good news that saves and if we don't share it with others how will they know.

"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)

The world has a broken perception of who God is, and the Bible reveals God's heart to us and his character.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2:8–9, NIV)

Before we can have a relationship with God, we must understand that God is holy and cannot be in the presence of sin. The Bible says that the wages of sin are death (permanent separation from God).

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

Thankfully the story doesn't end there! God has allowed us to be His ambassadors to share the good news that God also loves the world and He has paid the price for sin (His own death).

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." (2 Corinthians 5:20, NIV)

When we commit ourselves to be God's ambassadors, we have opportunity to share where our HOPE comes from and share how others can have a relationship with God. Being reconciled to God does not mean that our lives automatically become perfect, but that we understand the incredible thing that God has done for us. He has overcome the power of sin! He has crossed the divide that separated us from Him! We can then focus on heavenly things and not earthly things as our eternity will be with God!

"The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent." (2 Peter 3:9 NIV)

BROKEN Help Week Leader Guide (continued)

APPLY IT:

Discussion Option 1: Imagine a teenager working with his or her dad to rebuild an old car. Some may think the overall worth of the car will not justify the time and resources the project will require. The two of them, however, focus on spending time together and restoring it to a new condition. This is how God wants us to see our relationship with Him. Instead of just focusing on our sin and brokenness, He wants us to understand that He is restoring us back to the identity and relationship we were created for. How does this relate to sharing the gospel in your school?

Discussion Option 2: The Japanese have a method for repairing broken ceramics called *Kintsugi*, which uses a special lacquer mixture that contains gold, silver, or platinum. The philosophy behind the technique is to recognize the history of the broken object. Instead of replacing the object or hiding the cracks, they fuse it together in a way that actually reveals and reminds them of the story behind it. Just like the broken ceramic, our lives have been broken by sin and God repairs our brokenness with the love that He poured out on the cross through Christ. How could this relate to the way you share your testimony?



BROKEN Help Week Leader Guide (continued)

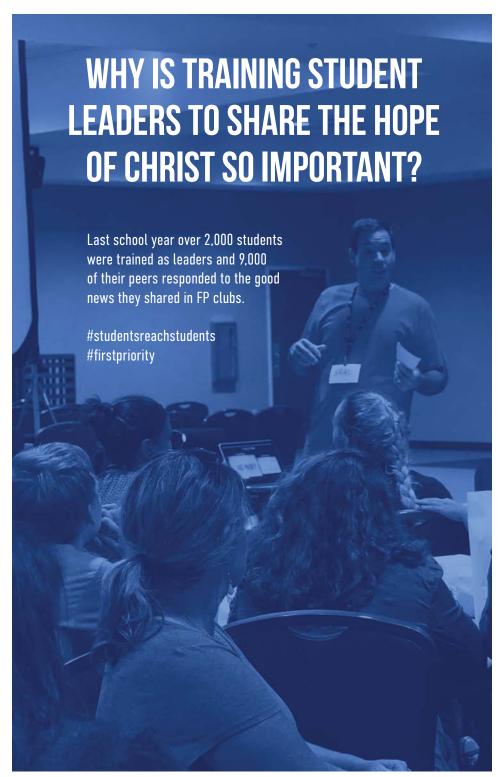
ACTION CHALLENGES:

- **Group Challenge:** Write: "DON'T GETTRICKED- God loves you and wants a relationship with you." and write the verse reference John 3:16, on a large poster board. Take a group photo with the poster and post to social media referencing Romans 10:15-16 and using the hashtags #FirstPriority and #FPGodloves
- **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.





BROKEN

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
- (Optional) bring two small flower pots in plastic grocery bags and some sort of glue.
- (Optional) bring Band-Aids for the group challenge.
- 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 God has helped us overcome our brokenness and how we can
 share the gospel of hope with others.
- · Opening Prayer
- Introduce Student Leading Discussion: Today, my friend, ______, is going to share about how God helped them to overcome their broken view of His love for them and how they accepted God's view of love.

GROUP TIME: Broken (20 minutes)

Assigned Speaker Suggestion: Option #1: Break into two teams and give each team



a flower pot in a plastic bag. Ask one member of the team to drop the bag from a height of two feet. Then the team will open it up, grab the glue, and put it back together as fast as they can, trying to beat the other team. The race keeps going

until the timer goes off after 5 minutes.

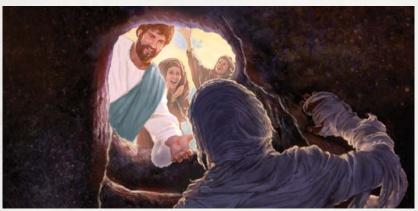
Option #2: Tell a story about a time when something important to you was broken.

This reminds me of a story in the Bible when Jesus was told that His friend, Lazarus, was sick. He sends a message back that we can read about in John chapter 11.

When Jesus heard it, He said, This sickness will not end in death but is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it. (John 11:4)

Lazarus died before Jesus arrived, but Jesus knew that would happen. When he said his sickness would not end in death, he knew he would be resurrected as an example of how Christ would rise from the dead to save us from permanent death caused by the sickness of sin.

"I know that You always hear Me, but because of the crowd standing here I said this, so they may believe You sent Me." After He said this, He shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out bound hand and foot with linen strips and with his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him and let him go." (John 1:42-44)



Jesus raised Lazarus back to life in to show that He has power over death. Ultimately, death exists because of sin. Sin tears our lives apart – BUT - there is NO part of my life or your life that Jesus isn't capable of restoring if we place our hope in Him.

APPLY IT:

How sad would it be if we never told others how Christ defeated death on our behalf? Eternal life is an incredible gift! There is no greater hope in all the world! Still, some people choose not to believe. Have you ever seen something on social media you thought was probably fake? Social media is filled with videos and pictures that call authenticity into question. Jesus, by contrast, is the REAL DEAL.

"I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life." (John 5:24 NLT)

Discussion Option 1: How does this story motivate you in sharing Christ's story knowing that some won't believe it is true, but others will? What are some opportunities you had last week to share the hope of Jesus Christ with others?

Discussion Option 2: What are some fears you have that have stopped you from sharing the hope of Jesus with others 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 afterward?

ACTION CHALLENGES:

- **Group Challenge:** Take a group picture showing your arms in a "huddle" with Band-Aids on your hand. Post "I was broken but now I'm healed" on social media with the hashtags #firstpriority and #fpbrokenbuthealed
- 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



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BROKEN

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."

GROUP TIME: Broken but Restored (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 #fprbrokenbutrestored #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. "But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in Him you will have life by the power of his name." (John 20:31 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.



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

BROKEN

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 Follow Up 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 is it 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.



BROKEN Engage Week Leader Guide (continued)

GROUP ACTIVITY TIME: 5 minutes

- Game: The Story
- Preparation: No preparation necessary
- Play: Each player is given the name of an object, a name and a place. The player
 has a maximum of 3 minutes to tell a story using the object, name and place.
 The next person in line must continue the story using the names they were
 given. In the end you should have created an interesting and funny story!

GROUP TIME - THANKFUL FOR SALVATION: 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, Invitation, and Response Cards

• **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 and think about what I 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. We want to connect with you and answer any questions you may have and celebrate your new life in Jesus.

STUDENT

- 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. The great thing about Jesus is that He died on the cross for us out of love, knowing that some would not love Him back. That is not to make you feel bad, but to let you know that Jesus still loves you and died for you and cares for you no matter what you write on that card. No one here will judge you.
- 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.

Opportunity to connect to a local youth group

• We also want to make sure to give everyone an opportunity to connect with a local youth group if you are not involved in one right now. Could each of you please mark your level of interest in connecting with a local youth group? Also, if you are already connecting with a local youth group, we want to know so we can help you invite other students to join you.

WRAP UP WITH RESPONSE CARD DIRECTIONS & PRAYER: 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 qu	estions today.			
Also, the response cards can be given to	and will			
only be used for follow up requests. Thank you for coming today and please				
join me as I close us out in prayer 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 e	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 <u>unworthy</u> of relationships... so I become <u>isolated</u> and <u>alone</u> because I was <u>afraid</u> of being <u>rejected</u> 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 acte	ed	, but then someone
shared with me about how much Je	sus loves me and what He did	on the cross for me.
That truth changed my life forever a	nd now I get to share it with ye	ou. I accepted Jesus Christ
as my Lord and Savior and submitte	d my life to him when I was _	years old and it
happened at	when I	A BI
I remember feeling	at the time, but once I prayed	d to Jesus and asked Him to
forgive my sins and that I wanted to	love Him and live my life tellin	ng 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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