THE HOPE OF CHRIST IN EVERY STUDENT

HOPE WEEKLY GUIDE

MIRACLE

MONTH 5, 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

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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.

"And I. when I am from the earth. I will draw all people to myself." - John 12:32

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David Nasser



Drew Worsham *Check theLIFTtour.com for Kansas City and Augusta pricing.



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HUNTSVILLE, AL January 12-13

PANAMA CITY, FL January 26-27

PHOENIX. AZ January 26-27

COLUMBIA, SC February 2-3

HOUSTON, TX February 9-10

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TULSA. OK February 16-17

ORLANDO, FL February 16-17

NW Arkansas February 16-17

DALLAS. TX February 22

MEMPHIS. TN February 23-24

NASHVILLE, TN February 23-24

ROME GA February 23-24

JACKSON, MS March 2-3

GREENVILLE, SC March 9-10

ATLANTA. GA March 16-17

CHATTANOOGA, TN March 23-24

JACKSONVILLE. FL March 23-24



THE LIFT TOUR IS AN EXTENSION OFSTUDENT LEADERSHIP UNIVERSITYIN PARTNERSHIP WITH LIFEWAY STUDENTS



MIRACLE

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
- Remember to meet with your leadership team to discuss the plan for the month and Engage Week plans including food

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. This month, our theme is "MIRACLE" and how our view of what God has done through Jesus impacts how we share the gospel.
- Opening Prayer
- Introduce Student Leading Discussion: Today, my friend,

is going to share about the miracle of the gospel.



MIRACLE Help Week Leader Guide (continued)

GROUP TIME: It's a MIRACLE! (20 Minutes)

Assigned Speaker Suggestion: Have you ever been in an impossible situation? Maybe you've attempted to do something extremely difficult, like making a halfcourt shot under pressure to win a prize, or maybe even just passing a difficult class! Many of our classmates are facing situations that seem impossible every day - problems that cause anxiety, confusion, and feelings of hopelessness. It could be a problem at home, losing someone they love, or feeling like an absolute failure. Maybe you have even felt that way at times. If so, you are not alone and neither are they. We all experience times in life that make us feel we need something - like a miracle.



What is a miracle anyway? A miracle is a surprising event that is not explainable by natural or scientific laws. A miracle is when the impossible is made possible by something or someone greater than us.

We all know people in our school whose hopes and dreams have been crushed. People who know they need

something even if they don't know what that something is yet. What if I told you that the only thing that could bring hope to our school is a miracle? A miracle that we have received and should share. That miracle is the gospel!

You see, we are not the first people to ever need a miracle. Throughout history, people have been searching for something or someone to rescue them. To rescue them from guilt, shame, regret, hopelessness and sin. The New Testament of the Bible contains these words in its first chapter.

"This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:18-21, NLT)

MIRACLE Help Week Leader Guide (continued)

The arrival of Jesus was a miracle! In the Old Testament, priests, kings, prophets, and shepherds were told by God that a savior was coming to rescue them from their sins and provide real hope for the future. Jesus' birth was a miracle because He was no ordinary man. He was the Son of God from Heaven!

Imagine this incredible moment! People had been waiting for thousands of years for the Messiah to come to rescue them. Now, an angel announces that it is time. Jesus will be born to bring hope and salvation. I wonder if in this moment, they truly understood the miracle they had been given?

We have received the miracle of Jesus. We believe He is the Son of God. You may remember the moment that you began following Jesus. The moment you realized that there is a life better than anything you ever imagined. But, we are not called to keep this miracle to ourselves. Instead, God has called us to be missionaries to our school. To share this miracle of hope with others. This is our moment to take the hope of Christ to our school!

APPLY IT:

Discussion Option 1: Why is it so important for Christians to believe that God does miracles? How does this help us be better missionaries to our school? Why did you come to that conclusion?

Discussion Option 2: Why is it bad for Christians to keep the good news of the gospel to ourselves? What is at stake when we do not share the good news? How can we remind ourselves of what is at stake?



MIRACLE Help Week Leader Guide (continued)

ACTION CHALLENGES:

- 1. Hashtag Challenge: Take a picture of your help week leaders leading the club and post on your social media using hashtags #FirstPriority and #FPmiracle
- **2. GroupChallenge:** This is a great season to consider collecting food for a local food pantry. Consider sharing with your entire school the need and work with your faculty sponsor to set up a food drive.
- **3. Prayer Challenge:** Have someone close club time in prayer asking that God would help believers at this school to be bold in knowing that God can do the impossible.

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

MIRACLE

Overcome Week Leader Guide

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



INTRODUCTION

Beforehand Task:

Select one student to lead this month's Overcome Week

1. 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.

MIRACLE Overcome Week Leader Guide (continued)

DISCUSSION: Nothing is Impossible (20 minutes)

Assigned Speaker Suggestion: Today is all about overcoming obstacles to sharing our faith. What is your biggest obstacle to sharing your faith? Fear? Peer pressure? Being laughed at? Being treated differently? Or maybe you just don't know what to say. You're not alone, because lot of people struggle to share their faith. However, that doesn't mean it actually is impossible or that we should give up.

Last week we talked about the arrival of Jesus being a miracle. A miracle that can change our school. The miracle was not only that Jesus came from heaven, but that He came with a mission. A mission to rescue us from our sins.

That is good news! The kind of news that everyone should hear about.

"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? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!" (Romans 10:14-15 NLT)



God invites us on an incredible mission. A mission to tell others about the miracle of Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection.

The good news is that God has not sent you on this mission by yourself. He actually promised another miracle, that He would be with you to help you overcome obstacles wherever you are,

even in school! This is what Jesus said to someone about impossible situations.

"Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible." (Matthew 19:26 NLT)

On our own, it would be really difficult to tell others about the miracle of Jesus. But, Jesus said that with God everything is possible. God is the one who gives us the strength, and ability to share to the hope of Christ with others. That's a miracle!

MIRACLE Overcome Week Leader Guide (continued)

APPLY IT:

Discussion Option 1: What are some fears that you have allowed to prevent you from identifying publicly as a Christian or sharing the gospel with others?

Discussion Option 2: Who in here today can testify that God does miraculous things even when circumstances seem impossible? How have you seen God do the miraculous when the gospel is shared?

ACTION CHALLENGES:

- 1. **Hashtag Challenge:** Take a photo with Matthew 19:26 highlighted and post on social media using the hashtags #firstpriority and #FPmiracle
- Personal Challenge: Write Matthew 19:26 on a post-it note and stick it somewhere you'll see it every day this week as a reminder.
- Prayer Challenge: Text someone to ask how you can pray for them. Commit to pray for that need every day. Before the next club meeting, text that person back to let them know you've been praying for them and want to see how things are going. If God hasn't answered yet, keep praying!



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

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MIRACLE

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
- Select 1 to 3 people to share their faith stories. One person can share for 15 minutes or 3 people can share for 5 minutes each.

INTRODUCTION: 3 minutes

Welcome Students, Prayer and Explanation

- **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, my friends are going to practice how to share their faith story of how God has changed their life. Testimony simply means testifying or sharing the truth about something. Please listen carefully to them, as it takes a lot of courage to speak in front of others. Afterward we will take a minute to give them some feedback and encourage them to continue developing their story."

MIRACLE Prepare Week Leader Guide (continued)

TESTIMONY TIME: (20 minutes) 3 Share Testimonies > Student 1 Testimony = _____

- Student 2 Testimony = _____
- > Student 3 Testimony =

TESTIMONY WRAP UP:

- 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:** Get everyone huddled together, take a photo and post to social media with the hashtags: #firstpriority #FPmiracle #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.
- Invite Challenge: Personally invite at least 5 students to Engage Week next week.

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

MIRACLE

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 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 and Pray

• **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."



MIRACLE Engage Week Leader Guide (continued)

GROUP ACTIVITY TIME: 5 minutes

- Game: Name that Tune
- Preparation: Must have a smart phone with internet access and a bluetooth speaker.
- Play: Give a list of TV show song themes to the campus coach for approval and have each cued up on your smartphone ready to play for a game of name that tune. Select 3-5 people to come up front to play each round, and begin playing a song from the list. The first person to name the TV show correctly wins the point. Play for as long as time allows as people are walking into club, and make sure you have plenty of time left for the gospel presentation.

PRESENTATION TIME: 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.



MIRACLE Engage Week Leader Guide (continued)

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.
- 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.
- 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.

STUDENT	
RESPONSE CARD	
My response to the gospel message today tolease only check one):	
Today, I prayed to receive Christ Ivouid like more information about the Gospel have already prayed to receive Christ before today am not interested	
Myname	
Cel #	
Church you Attend	1
Who invited you to First Priority today?	
The information you put on this card and be given to a student leader to follow up with you. Your information will not be stored or given to anyone etie.	

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 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 please join
 with 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 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 <u>my issues of unworthiness and fear of rejection</u>. 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. <u>The</u> <u>impact of that moment changed everything</u>."

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

G.I.F.T.

God Inviting (us to be) Forgiven (and to) Trust (Him)

GOD

God is perfectly good, and He created the whole world to reflect His goodness. The first people lived in perfect relationship with God by obeying Him, and He loved them very much with a perfect love.

"And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good." (Genesis 1:31 ESV)

INVITING

The first people disobeyed God, breaking their relationship with Him, which became known as sin. Sin drove a wedge into man's relationship with God and messed up how we were supposed to experience life. Sin results in death. Even today, people try to fix their relationship with God by doing good, but no amount of good deeds can remove our personal sin. So, God reaches out toward us and invites us into a new relationship with Him.

"For if because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:17 ESV)

FORGIVEN

God sent His son, Jesus as a gift to the whole world. Jesus lived His life without disobeying God at all, and then let Himself be nailed to a cross to die for sin in our place. He traded His innocence for our guilt. That means that He paid the price we owed so that you and I could be forgiven. This is the free gift that God offers us, the gift of salvation. To receive it, we cannot earn it, or it would no longer be a gift.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." (Ephesians 2:8 ESV)

Appendix B SAMPLE GOSPEL PRESENTATION (continued)

TRUST

In order for us to begin a relationship with God and be saved from our sin, we must receive God's gift of salvation. To receive this gift, you must believe God and turn to Him by trusting Jesus, putting Him in charge of your life. Then, the Bible says that you will be saved.

"because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9 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 of living
- 3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and was raised to life to save 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 so I could be saved. 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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