

THE HOPE OF CHRIST IN EVERY STUDENT

HOPE

WEEKLY GUIDE

NEW

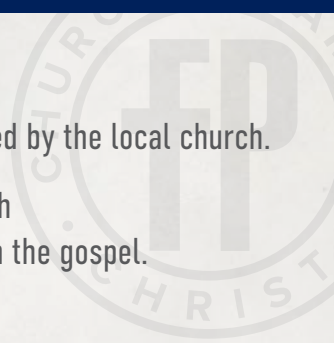
MONTH 6, VOLUME 3



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.

YOUTHPASTORSUMMIT.COM

YOUTH PASTOR SUMMIT

Free 2-Day Conference

AS A GIFT TO STUDENT PASTORS,
VOLUNTEERS, AND EDUCATORS

ORLANDO: March 19-20, 2018

DALLAS: April 9-10, 2018

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: April 16-17, 2018

NASHVILLE: April 23-24, 2018

Speakers Include:



Jeff Wallace



Levi Lusko



Eugene Cho



Danielle Strickland



Brad Lomenick



Greg Stier

...and many more



Brent Crowe



Bob Goff



Ben Trueblood



Dr. Robert Smith, Jr.



Megan Fate Marshman



David Nasser

Register AT YOUTHPASTORSUMMIT.COM

Youth Pastor Summit is an Extension of Student Leadership University
in Partnership with LifeWay Students  LIFEWAYSTUDENTS

NEW

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. This month's verse is **2 Corinthians 5:17**. This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Introduce Student Leading Discussion:** "Today, my friend, _____, is going to share about why living the new life in Christ is the most important part of our witness."



GROUP TIME: New (20 Minutes)

Assigned Speaker Suggestion: Today is a new day. This is a new year. Which means, new opportunities, new goals, new dreams, and new plans. You have probably already begun thinking about the new things you want to do this year and the new things you would like to have. You may start a new sport, get a new phone, or do something you've never done before. Maybe you are making a fresh start to embrace a whole new you. You may be looking forward to some new movies that will release this year or visiting a brand-new place. Either way, new things can be fun, exciting, and take us on a journey.

[Feel free to share a story about how your view of something or someone changed because of your relationship with Christ]

What if today was the first day of a totally new way of living?

What if you had the chance to do anything you wanted to do or go anywhere you wanted to go? Actually, you can! Today is automatically the first day of the rest of your life, which means you have a big decision to make.

What will you do with the life you have been given? Think about it – you have been given the opportunity of a lifetime. The opportunity to dream, achieve, and succeed.

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH THE LIFE YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN?

Now for a second question: Who will you impact? New opportunities, new places, and new goals, mean you will meet new people. New people that need to hear about the hope of Jesus. The kind of hope that you have embraced because of your relationship with Him.



What if we all realized that our lives have been made new by Jesus? When we were made new we were also given a new purpose. Our purpose is to be a reflection of Jesus to those around us through our character, attitude, words, and actions. Our new purpose also reveals that we are missionaries. We are called and sent by God

to spread the good news of Jesus to our school.

NEW Help Week Leader Guide (continued)

Being new also gives us a new perspective. We begin to see things through a new lens – the lens of God’s love. God desires for the students at our school to know Him through a relationship with Jesus. What if we begin to see others the way God does and live out our purpose to tell others about the hope found in Christ?

When Jesus gave his followers a new mission, he told them this:

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8 NLT)

Jesus gave them their instructions. He told them they would start with the people closest to them and then spread the good news everywhere – to the ends of the earth! They embraced the mission and saw thousands come to new life in Christ. Has our mission changed? Are we somehow prevented from leading people to Christ? Let’s discuss the meaning of this verse.

APPLY IT:

Discussion Option 1: Do you think God would command His people to do something they were not equipped to do? What does Acts 1:8 tell us that we have been equipped with and equipped for? How does this verse change how you see your role in God’s plan?

Discussion Option 2: What parallel in our lives can we draw Jesus’ words, “Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth” in Acts 1:8? How do these words apply to you and give you a hint about your mission as a Christ follower? How does this verse change how you see others around you?



ACTION CHALLENGES:

- 1. Group Challenge:** Write out Acts 1:8 on a whiteboard or poster board and take a group photo with it. Post the photo to social media referencing Acts 1:8 and using the hashtags #FirstPriority and #FPNew
- 2. Share Challenge:** Share with someone this week how Christ has given you a new life.
- 3. 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

NEW

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 obstacles of sharing the gospel. This month our theme is "NEW." Our theme verse is **2 Corinthians 5:17**. This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Introduce Student Leading Discussion:** Today, my friend, _____, is going to share about overcoming obstacles to sharing our faith.

DISCUSSION: New Obstacles (20 minutes)

Can you imagine jumping from being on the middle school football team straight into the NFL? What if you took your first guitar lesson, but then was asked to play the next night for a famous band? It wouldn't just be scary, intimidating and hard, it would be practically impossible.

With new goals, new opportunities, and new dreams, come new challenges and new obstacles. Helping people find new life in Christ is not always an easy path. But, it is a path worth traveling.

Paul, the author of many of the New Testament books of the Bible, understood how true this is. He wrote this,

"I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. I love God's law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord."
(Romans 7:21-25 NLT)

You may find that you relate to the words of the apostle Paul. He found a war going within his mind. He wanted to do what was right, but continued to find that there

were obstacles in front of him. What kind of obstacles keep you from sharing your faith? You probably thought of one just now. How can you

Jesus offers us the freedom and ability to overcome our obstacles as we place our trust in Him.



overcome these obstacles? The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord! Jesus offers us the freedom and ability to overcome our obstacles as we place our trust in Him.

[Feel free to share a story about how you overcame an obstacle to sharing your faith or living out your faith publicly at school.]

What if God wants to give you a new perspective, a new outlook on life? What if Christ could help you turn your obstacles into opportunities? This is the awesome thing about the new life in Christ. It is not a somewhat better you, it is a brand new you. It is Christ in you and through you.

NEW Overcome Week Leader Guide (continued)

APPLY IT:

Discussion Option 1: If the old you and the new you are in conflict like Romans 7:21-25 says, what is the best way to overcome that conflict?

Discussion Option 2: When you have begun living the new life in Christ, but start living like the old you, what do you think you are communicating to your school?

ACTION CHALLENGES:

1. **Group Challenge:** Take two creative photos of similar objects, one old and one new (for example, an apple), label them “old” and “new” and post on social media using the **2 Corinthians 5:17** and the hashtags #firstpriority and #FPnew

2. **Personal Challenge:** Write **2 Corinthians 5:17** down somewhere where you will see it every day this month as a reminder to live the new life intentionally.

• **Prayer Challenge:** Lastly, get into groups of three or four and spread out. Take 2 minutes and take turns praying for each other to walk in the new life. Then, we are going to huddle up and someone can close out our club time in prayer.



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



It's the song that brings ultimate hope to so many. Next spring, MercyMe's hit song will encourage people in a whole new way when it comes to life on the big screen! A gripping reminder of the power of forgiveness, **I CAN ONLY IMAGINE** beautifully illustrates that no one is ever too far from God's love—or from an eternal home in Heaven.

BRING YOUR GROUP!

Learn more at ICanOnlyImagine.com/Groups
or call **844.422.8259**

ICANONLYIMAGINE.COM



THIS FILM IS NOT YET RATED

© 2017 Imagine Rights, LLC. All Rights Reserved.

NEW

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 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, we are going to practice how to share our God story or testimony of how God has changed our lives. Testimony simply means testifying or sharing the truth about something. In this case, we are practicing sharing the truth about our lives before and after we encountered Jesus. 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."

NEW Prepare Week Leader Guide (continued)

GROUP TIME: (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 (God Stories) for ten minutes.

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 connecting the monthly theme of "Thankful":

1. What your life was like before you found the HOPE of Jesus Christ. (Ex: did you feel alone, were you greedy about material things, were friends your only focus, etc.)
2. How did you encounter Jesus and submit your life to Him? (Ex. When did you first hear about Jesus and what made you respond to Him in your life?)
3. In what ways has God made your life new? (2 Corinthians 5:17)

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:

- **Invite Challenge:** Personally invite at least 5 students to Engage week next week. They can be friends or people you barely know, but how will they hear the gospel if no one ever invites anyone to hear more about Him?
- **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.

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

NEW

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."



GROUP ACTIVITY TIME: 5 minutes

- Game: **Backward Charades**
- Preparation: You will only need a white board and a dry-erase marker.
- Play: Form two teams. You will need to select a guesser from each team. They will go up onto the stage and face their team, looking away from the whiteboard. When ready to start, write the first word on the whiteboard large enough so that all members of the teams can see it. As soon as the word is written, the remaining members of each team begin acting it out in order to help the guesser figure out what the word is. The first team to get their guesser to say the word correctly, is awarded a point and the game continues until one team reaches 10 points. There are a few very important rules that need to be followed:

1. The guesser may not turn around to look at the word on the whiteboard
2. None of the actors can make any type of sound effects
3. No pointing out or drawing out any letters or words
4. Actors may use any props that can be found in the room

Here are a few suggestions for words to guess: Bank, Bees, Olympics, Hockey, Marathon, Rodeo, Sprinkler, Washing dishes, Justin Bieber Concert, Bowling, Church, Tarzan, Google, Tooth Fairy, Mime, Unicorn, Your Campus Coach

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."

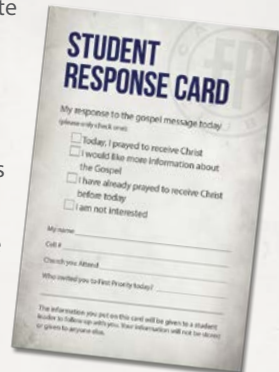
Gospel, Invitation, and Response Cards

- **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 so that we can connect with you and answer any questions you may have to 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. 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 & 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 publicly, 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 choose 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.)

A BRAND-NEW LIFE

THE BROKEN RELATIONSHIP

God made all of creation. Everything out of nothing – that’s a miracle. Not only did God create plants, animals, and the solar system, He also created humans. From the dust of the Earth God made us. He breathed His life into us. We were given the ability to love, create, and make decisions. Most importantly, with the ability to communicate with Him.

The first people in God’s creation—Adam and Eve—had a perfect relationship with Him. This was a miracle.

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. From that moment on, humans needed a miracle. A miracle that God promised would come.

*“Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’” **Isaiah 7:14***

THE MIRACLE

God never intended to leave us without hope. He promised that He would rescue us from our sins and restore our broken relationship with Him. The good news that Jesus would arrive was announced throughout history by kings, priests, prophets, shepherds, farmers, and common people. Jesus did not come to us in any way, He came in a miraculous way, the virgin birth. Not only was His birth a miracle, it was also a mission. A mission to rescue people from their sins. Jesus loved every person unconditionally. Because of His love for us, He died for our sins on the cross, so that we could have the gift of eternal life now and forever.

*“And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” **Matthew 1:21 NLT***

Appendix B SAMPLE GOSPEL PRESENTATION (continued)

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

Our relationship with God was broken, which caused every other aspect of our lives to be broken as well. This broken relationship brought guilt, shame, regret, and bad decisions which we call sin. Through faith in Jesus and His miraculous work for us on the cross, we are given new life. A new life that begins with a redeemed relationship with God through Jesus. We can now experience hope, forgiveness, peace, and righteousness. We can live the life that God intended full of meaning and purpose, with the hope and assurance of eternal life.

"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

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.

© 2017 The information found in this and other guides provided by First Priority of America, Inc. are the property of (FPOA) and require a covenant relationship with (FPOA) to use the content, name, and logo(s). For more information about starting a First Priority movement in your community, contact (FPOA) at one of the locations below:



First Priority of America
PO Box 473
Brentwood, TN 37027
888-808-FPOA (3762)

 /fpofamerica

 /fpofamerica

 /fpofamerica

 www.firstpriority.club