

MONTH 2, VOLUME 4

HOPE

THE HOPE
OF CHRIST
IN EVERY
STUDENT

WEEKLY GUIDE



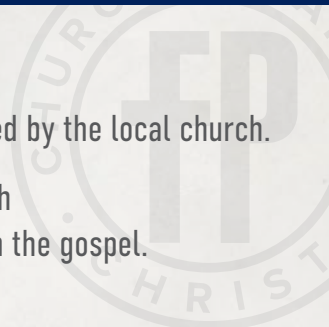
2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR



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.



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

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



“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:

Student speaker:

Behind the scenes organizer:

Overcome Week:

Host:

Student 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 presenter:

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.

LOVE

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.

PRE MEETING INSTRUCTIONS:

- Select one student to host this month's Help Week
- Remind students to post on social media and text friends reminding them about First Priority club

INTRODUCTION: 3 minutes

Welcome Students, Prayer and Introduction

- **Help Week Host:** "Welcome to First Priority! This week is Help Week, which is where we help each other become missionaries to our school. This year we're talking about the **FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT**, and this month we are going to talk about **LOVE** and what this means for us as missionaries."
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Introduce Student Leading Discussion:** "Today, my friend, _____, is going to share how understanding the love of God is vital to the mission of reaching our school for Christ."



GROUP TIME: Loved Because He First Loved Us (20 Minutes)

Student Speaker: Hey guys! Today we get to talk about *love*. And not the “I love my NFL team” type of love... or the “I love my favorite band” type, either. We’re talking about the *truest kind of love* – a love more important than any other reality in the world. Love is one of the fruits of the Spirit, actually. Check out these scriptures:

“Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.” (1 John 4:7 NLT)

“You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!” (Matthew 5:43-45 NLT)

Love is a powerful thing. The world around us is desperately looking for something to fill the empty void in their lives where God should be. The signs are everywhere. Bands are singing about this longing. Famous people who “have everything” still can’t seem to find fulfillment. Often, the more we try to fix or forget the problem, the worse the emptiness gets.

We normally care mostly about ourselves! [speaker suggestion: *share an example about how we’re naturally selfish*]

Jesus’ love is different! One time, He came upon a woman who was caught in a big act of selfishness - cheating on her husband. This woman *deserved severe punishment* according to the current law. Can you imagine what she felt like? Probably pretty lonely, guilty, ashamed, and hopeless. But Jesus reaches out to her in love, even when no one else did. And Jesus asks her to follow Him in a better way of life – letting go of selfishness and accepting His way.



You can have the same kind of love! God calls us to be holy – that is, to look and act like Jesus. He wants the *best* way of life for us. How does this happen? Especially when 99% of the time we think about *us!*

The world around us is desperately looking for something to fill the empty void in their lives where God should be.

LOVE Help Week Leader Guide (continued)

The act of saying “yes” to Jesus causes this “fruit of the Spirit” to begin to grow in our lives. In this case, what begins to sprout in our life is supernatural love. Think of it this way the more we follow the teachings of Jesus, the more we start to look like Jesus. Through Him, we can love our friends even when we don’t want to. Through Him, we can start caring about others (and stop caring so much about just our favorite basketball team or singer!). Today I want to challenge all of us to lay down their selfishness and take on *His love*.

The world around you desperately needs God’s love, so share it! His love is greater, deeper, and stronger than any other love we can know – and His love flows out of us! God loves us enough to take our story of selfishness and change it into a story of love. All we have to do is say “yes” to Him. If we do this, we look more like love.

APPLY IT:

Discussion Option 1: What if someone who isn’t popular needs a friend? What would it look like to love him/her? What if a group of your friends are making fun of someone else behind their back. What would it look like to be loving in that situation?

Discussion Option 2: Think about your favorite team sport. Can they succeed without selflessness? Why/why not? As a Christian, how is love necessary to the success of evangelism (sharing Christ)? Explain.



ACTION CHALLENGE:

- **Group Challenge:** Love Challenge!
 - i. Think of 5 or 6 ways you could show love to somebody – especially those who aren't already your friends.
 - ii. Try it
 - iii. Post about your experience on social media, with a brief picture and explanation! Have fun! Get creative.
 - iv. Dare others to *#PayItForward* and use 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.



LOVE

Overcome Week Leader Guide

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



PRE MEETING INSTRUCTIONS:

- 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

- **Overcome Week Host:** "Welcome to First Priority! This month we are talking about one fruit of the Spirit: **LOVE**. We will see how God's love helps us to overcome selfishness."
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Introduce Student Leading Discussion:** Today, my friend, _____, is going to share about a character in the Bible who found it better to overcome hate and choose love!

GROUP TIME: Love is Not Selfish (20 minutes)

Speaker Suggestion: Let's read about two best friends who really understood what love is.

"After David had finished talking with Saul, he met Jonathan, the king's son. There was an immediate bond between them, for Jonathan loved David.... and Jonathan made a solemn pact with David, because he loved him as he loved himself."

(1 Samuel 18:1, 3 NLT)

What is going on here? Here is the basic run-down. Jonathan was the son of the king at the time, Saul. So, Jonathan was a *prince*.

David, on the other hand, was not in the same privileged position. He was an average guy. But God said that *David would be king*.

Here's the deal: Jonathan could have chosen to be bitter about the fact that God basically gave leadership of the kingdom he was supposed to inherit to his best friend, of all people. He could have chosen to feel betrayed. He could have chosen to

HATE David. BUT, Jonathan and David cared more about each other than they cared about themselves. They wanted each other to succeed.

Have you ever cared about your friend's grade on a test more than your own grade? This kind of love is strong. Jonathan had a deep kind of love like this.

We can learn from Jonathan's love in that he was committed to David, he was more caring about David than he was himself, and he wanted David to succeed.



"There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:13 NLT)

Do we sacrifice our lives for our friends, today? Does our love for God cause us to love one another? What is your plan for sharing love with others like Jonathan did with David?



APPLY IT:

Discussion Option 1: Talk about what is easy to love (sports, movies, things that make you feel good) vs what is difficult to love (sacrificial love, taking the trash out, obedience to parents). Point out the difference between loving someone *selfishly* vs loving someone *sacrificially*. How did Jonathan do this for David (1 Sam 18:1-4, 1 Samuel 20, if you had more time)

Discussion Option 2: Think of an example in a movie, song, or play where love is *fake* (think of examples where it was filled with hatred, or self-love, or *manipulation*). Now, how does this contrast with Jonathan's love for David? Look at examples in the text where Jonathan *gave up* things for David, rather than *took*.

Discussion Option 3: Think of how many actions you do for a friend that are selfish. Have fun with it. Now, think of how many actions you can take that are selfless. How is sharing the gospel *selfless* rather than selfish?

ACTION CHALLENGES:

- **Group Challenge:** Post your plan, in some detail, for acting *selflessly* in loving others, like Jonathan. Make it fun! Post this in a group message or on social media. Have **#accountability** to accomplish your goals! Another idea is to try to show love and care to your teacher. Remember, they work hard to serve and teach you *day in and day out*. Even though no teacher is perfect, we are called to honor those in authority over us (Romans 13). Think of ways you can creatively love your teacher – and do it! Post to social media. Have fun!
- **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 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.



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

LOVE

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.



PRE MEETING INSTRUCTIONS:

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

INTRODUCTION: 3 minutes

Welcome Students, Prayer and Explanation

- **Prepare Week Host:** "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**
- **Introduce Students Giving Testimonies:** "Today, my friend _____ is going to share their story. Please listen respectfully as it takes a lot of courage to speak in front of others. At the end, we are going to give some positive feedback on how well they did and also ask questions. Let's welcome them as they share."

LOVE Prepare Week Leader Guide (continued)

TESTIMONY TIME: (15 minutes)

Share Testimonies

1. Student Testimony = _____

2. Student Testimony = _____

3. Student Testimony = _____

TESTIMONY WRAP UP:

- **Prepare Week Host:** "Let's 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."

[**OPTIONAL**]: Pass out printed copies of "Your Faith Story" and read, explain, and practice each step in groups of 2 or 3.

Appendix A

YOUR FAITH STORY - HOW TO WRITE YOUR TESTIMONY

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 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	

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.

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.

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!



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 #FPlove #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.

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.

LOVE

Engage Week Leader Guide

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



PRE MEETING INSTRUCTIONS:

- Confirm your student guest speaker and remind them to be prepared to share the gospel and an invitation to accept Christ. More 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

- **Engage Week 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: 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 TALK: Gospel, Invitation, and Response Cards – 15 minutes

Introduce Student Sharing the Gospel

- **Engage Week 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 them and we will explain what they are for later.”

Gospel

- **Gospel Presenter:** Begin the presentation by sharing a short version of your testimony.



GOSPEL PRESENTATION: R.O.C.K.



1. RECOGNIZE WHO GOD IS.

He is Holy, good, and Ruler of all things.

In **Revelation 4:8**, we see God's angels chanting,

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty— the one who always was, who is, and who is still to come."

God is Holy, Almighty, Eternal and we have broken His laws.

2. OWN UP TO OUR SIN.

Not just listing the wrongs you've done but agreeing with God that you have lived in sin, committed wrongs against Him, and deserve the consequences.

Romans 3:10-12 says,

As the Scriptures say, "No one is righteous- not even one. No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one."

You see if we are honest all of us have probably lied, spoken evil towards people, or yelled in anger at others. We have broken the commands and tried to do things our way. And that way leads to death.

So what can we do?

3. CONFESS YOUR NEED FOR FORGIVENESS AND MAKE JESUS LORD OF YOUR LIFE.

This means you confess your helplessness to God, ask for His mercy in forgiving you, and confess your desire to follow Jesus.

Romans 3:23-24 says,

"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God freely and graciously declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins."

God has made a way for us to be saved through believing in His son, Jesus. All we have to do is talk to God, own up to our sins, and ask Jesus to be our Lord from this moment onward.

GOSPEL PRESENTATION (continued)

Romans 10:9 says,

“If you openly declare (confess) that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Once you’ve had that honest discussion with God (prayer) and acknowledged that Jesus is Lord, your past is erased and your future forever secure.

4. KNOW THAT JESUS WILL NEVER LET YOU GO.

This is important because if you are taking these steps to be a disciple/follower of Jesus you need to know that not everything you do will be right. You are still going to stumble and get tripped up, but God is at work within you to overcome all things. Keep moving forward. Keep your eyes on Christ the One who founded or started our faith and the one who finishes and perfects our faith. We are not alone in this, so don’t let doubts or mistakes keep you from the good things that God is doing in and through you.

Ephesians 4:30 says,

“And do not bring sorrow to God’s Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.”

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.

STUDENT RESPONSE CARDS: 5 minutes

Opportunity to connect

- If everyone would just take a minute and think about what was shared today. If you decided to follow Jesus today, then on your response card, simply let us know that you made that decision 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 or would like us to help you find a local church youth group, 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 what you are looking for.
- If you are not interested, that's okay to. No one here will judge you, we are just excited that you are hanging out with us today.



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:** 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.

FOLLOW UP GUIDE

Following up with those who just committed their lives to Jesus or have questions is equally as important as sharing the Gospel! This guide will give you a few pointers on how to do follow up correctly. If your club chooses, you can put one student leader in charge of the follow-up process or delegate to a team of students. Remember, your main goal is to be **HELPFUL!**

SIX THINGS TO DO WHEN FOLLOWING UP

- 1. Determine how many and what kind of follow-up has been requested.** As soon as possible, read through the response cards after you have collected them and let your Campus Coach know how many people committed their lives to Christ and how many students have questions or want someone to follow up with them.
- 2. Organize the response card information.** Write down on the follow-up chart the names, response, and contact info of everyone who made decisions and requested to talk with someone.
- 3. Make contact within 24 hours with everyone who responded** to the Gospel on Engage Week. This can be done by text message, personal conversation at school or social media, just remember to check with your parents for permission before contacting someone you do not know. The initial message should be something like this: *"Hello _____! My name is _____ and I saw that you came to First Priority club this week! We are really excited you came and we hope you'll come back next week. I also noticed that you marked on your response card that you [prayed to begin a relationship with Christ] -or- [wanted to talk with someone about the Gospel] so I wanted to ask how I could help you."* If you have questions about their responses, you can contact your Campus Coach for guidance.
- 4. Invite them to church!** If they were invited by a friend to First Priority, ask that friend to invite them to youth group this week, since they are more likely to attend church with someone they know. If they plan to go to church for the first time, you can also ask your campus coach to notify the student pastor that they will be having a new guest this week! Make sure to discard any response cards that you will not be needing for follow-up.
- 5. Offer a free Bible to those who prayed to receive Christ** if Bibles are available through your First Priority club or church. Make sure one is available before you offer and make sure they receive it if they accept.
- 6. Share any cool stories of salvation and new local youth group members** with your Campus Coach! He or she will want to celebrate with you about what God is doing through your club!

ENGAGE WEEK FOLLOW UP

School: _____ Month: _____

Mtg: _____ Coordinator: _____

Student Name	Committed life to Christ	Wants to talk with someone	Wants info on a local church	Follow up dates and details
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				

Notes:

PRAY FOR 1

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

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

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

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

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