

MONTH 4, VOLUME 4

HOPE

THE HOPE
OF CHRIST
IN EVERY
STUDENT

WEEKLY GUIDE



PEACE

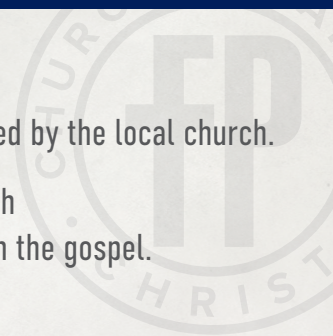
2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR



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.

PEACE

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: 2 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 month we're going to talk about the kind of **PEACE** that Jesus offers to us."
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Introduce Student Leading Discussion:** "Today, my friend, _____ is going to share with us about how dedicating ourselves to one purpose gives us peace."



GROUP TIME: Can I Get a Witness? (20 Minutes)

Student Speaker: It is important to understand that we as Christ-followers have the good news of a Gospel intended to be shared with the world. The eternities of those around us depend on us understanding our calling.

If you are a Christian, God has called you to be a missionary in your city, community, and school. We often think of missionaries as people who sell almost everything they own, learn a new language, and move halfway around the world. But, in **Acts 1:8**, Jesus tells His followers,



“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses on Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Jerusalem and Judea are where the disciples did life on a daily basis. Jesus seemed to be asking them to start right where they were! The command to be a witness still applies to us as Christians today. That should be our primary purpose in life. If we make this our primary purpose, then we begin to see all the other things in life, school, sports, band, job, etc., as a way to glorify God. We no longer find our purpose in those things alone but in our true calling of leading others to Christ.

It can be tempting even for Christians to be overly concerned with the expectations of the world and diminish our calling and concern with eternity. Most people want to acquire things and achievements because they think that it will bring peace to their lives. People try to find this peace in their school-work, athletics, significant others, jobs and careers, and all kinds of other places. Trying to find our purpose in anything other than Jesus can lead to a life of worry and anxiety because none of those things will ever give us a true sense of peace or purpose.

PEACE Help Week Leader Guide (continued)

Can you imagine how remarkably simple our lives would be if we viewed everything through the lens of being a witness? You would no longer study just to get good grades and scholarship opportunities, but so that you could use your education as a way to have influence with others and be a witness to the Gospel. You would no longer practice your sport, instrument, or activity to simply be the best but to put yourself in a position to be a witness to those that you had influence with. It would no longer be about picking a college or career to make money or have status, but it would be about being a witness in whatever field of study or career path that you choose.

There will still be times when we will worry and have anxiety in our lives when we have a big test or have to make big decisions. But we can rest in the peace of God knowing that we are doing His will by being a witness.

“Trying to find our purpose in anything other than Jesus can lead to a life of worry and anxiety because none of those things will ever give us a true sense of peace or purpose.”



PEACE Help Week Leader Guide (continued)

APPLY IT:

Discussion Option 1: What area of your life would be more peaceful right now if you looked at it through the lens of being a witness? Be as specific as you can.

Discussion Option 2: If our main goal in life is to be a witness to the Gospel, then how does that affect our motivation in school, sports, band, etc? Should it motivate us more or less?

ACTION CHALLENGE:

- **Group Challenge:** Write “Join us for #FirstPriority” on a marker board and take a picture with those around you and share it on social media.
- **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 and pray that you all would look for ways to be a witness to those you have influence with.

WRAP UP: 2 minutes

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



PEACE

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 week is Overcome week, which is where we encourage each other to overcome our fear, anxiety, and worry about sharing our faith with our friends."
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Introduce Student Leading Discussion:** Today, my friend, _____, is going to share about the peace that God offers to those who follow His will.

GROUP TIME: God is With You (20 minutes)

Student Speaker: Think of a time when you felt like God was asking you to share your faith story with a friend.

Last week we talked about our calling as a witness. Being a witness isn't easy! There is good news, though: God has promised to be with you if you obey His command to be a witness.

Let's look at a couple of examples for God promising peace to those who obey Him.

In **Jeremiah 1**, God tells Jeremiah to go and speak His message to the people of God. The message that Jeremiah was to share was one that would be very hard for the people to hear. But in **verse 17-19** God promised Jeremiah He would be with him!

"But you, dress yourself for work; arise, and say to them everything that I command you. Do not be dismayed by them... They will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, declares the Lord, to deliver you."

Notice that he didn't Jeremiah exactly what he would face, but He *did* tell him that He would be with him and would take care of Him. That is what true peace is about. It is not the absence of conflict; it is the promise that God is with us.

In **Matthew 28:20**, Jesus gives his final instruction to His disciples telling them to go and continue making other disciples and He closes out with this phrase, *"I am with you always, to the end of the age."* Jesus knew the task would not be easy so He promised them they would not be alone in it.



True peace
is not the absence of conflict it is
the promise that God is with us.

PEACE Overcome Week Leader Guide (continued)

Jesus also promised that the Holy Spirit would be with us and even give us the words to say! He says in Acts 1:8 that the Holy Spirit would give us power to be witnesses for Him!

God has called all of us to engage our friends with the Gospel by sharing it directly as well as in our lifestyle, the decisions we make, how we talk, and how we love one another. He knows this task is not going to be easy and may bring persecution, but He has promised us just like Jeremiah and the OG disciples that He will be with us. These truths should give us more than enough peace to continue to advance the Kingdom of God in our school!

APPLY IT:

Discussion Option 1: What are some of the excuses that keep us from sharing the Gospel with our friends? How does God's promise us of being present affect those excuses?

Discussion Option 2: What things as a child were you scared of unless you were with your mom or dad? (The dark, clowns, jumping off the diving board, etc.) Why were those things not as scary with a parent around? Realistically, what is the worst thing that could happen to you for truly living for Christ in this school?

ACTION CHALLENGES:

- **Group Challenge:** Take a photo, Instastory, or snap with those around you inviting people to FP next week!
- **Invite Challenge:** Text 2 friends you know are Christians and 2 friends you know aren't Christians 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 to 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

PEACE

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 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. Afterward, we are going to give some positive feedback on how well they did and also ask questions. Let's welcome them as they share."

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:** Have everyone post a short video with either an invitation to Engage week (including time, date, and location) or a video sharing a quick story of something that God has done in their life.
- **Prayer Challenge:** Pray for the sharing of the Gospel next week. Pray that the hearts of those who come to Engage week but do not know Jesus would be receptive to the good news.
- **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.

PEACE

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: Reverse Charades
- Preparation: None
- Play: Write 15 words on individual sheets of paper for the crowd to act out. Two contestants will come up front to guess the words. For each round, write the word on the board and make sure the contestants cannot see it. Here are some charade words that work well: Push-ups, Mosquito, Kissing, Pirate, Airplane, Alligator, Monkey, Balloon, Sleeping, Time, Swimming, Race-car, Guitar, Beard, Robot, Snowball, Earthquake, Yo-yo, Skateboard, Shopping cart, Seashell, Tickle, Limbo, Stars, Puppet, Turtle, Wave, Spider, Cheerleader, Newspaper, Spider-Man, Slam dunk, Swordfish, Lawnmower, Pizza, Cowboy, Nightmare, Owl, Sunburn, Dentist, Mirror, Lung, Washing machine, Jumping jacks, Chair, Shark, Ice cream cone. The first contestant to guess the word correctly wins the round and first one to 8 points wins the game.

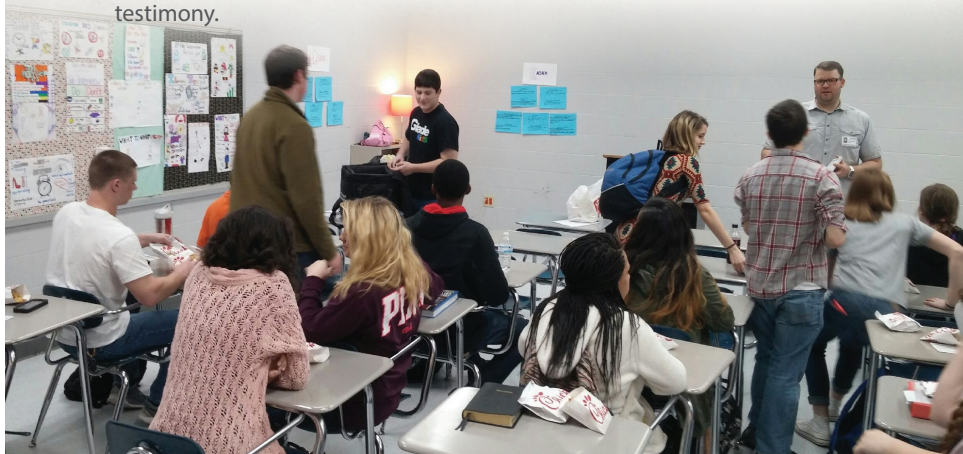
GROUP TALK: Gospel, Invitation, and Response Cards – 15 minutes

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: T.U.R.N.T.

Totally Un-condemned and Remade New Today

Today, I'm sharing some good news with you. No matter what you have done or what you have been through, there is HOPE. Let me tell you about it.

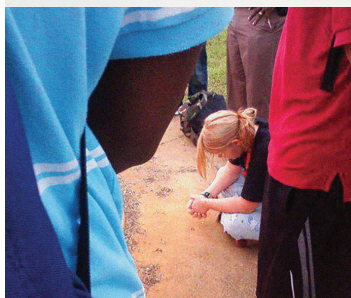
- **TOTALLY** pure and perfect, God created the world to be a place of beauty and meaning. He created each of us with purpose and identity. God has designed every person you see in this room. God's good creation was broken when sin entered the world. Sin is anything – thought, word, action or attitude – that doesn't meet God's standard of perfection (we call that 'holiness' in the Bible). Our independence separated us from God and our sin made it TOTALLY impossible to have a relationship with Him. And sin isn't just wrong stuff we do – it's inside us. We can never be good enough to get rid of it. Sin also carries a price tag with it – death (**Romans 6:23**).
- **UNCONDEMNED** because God's Son took on our guilt and punishment, there is HOPE for you and me. God loves us - He didn't want us to be separated from Him. John 3:16 tells us what God did to bridge the gap between our sin and His holiness: *"For God loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."* Jesus paid for the wrong that you have done, are doing, and will do in the future. He paid for it by dying on the cross and taking the punishment that you and I deserve. God the Father also raised Him from death - and His life offers to us the hope of eternal, never-ending life.
- **REMADE** and restored is what God wants your life to be. He wants a relationship with you. He has removed the obstacle of sin and is inviting you today to accept the sacrifice Jesus made for you. We accept that by believing in the sacrifice and confessing Jesus as our Lord.

GOSPEL PRESENTATION (continued)

- **NEW** life begins when you make Jesus your Lord and Savior. Romans 10:9 says that if you want to be saved, you must “confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him [Jesus] from the dead.” You must believe this by faith. This is only the beginning, though; as following Jesus is something you choose to do daily.
- **TODAY**, you can begin a relationship with God. You don’t have to schedule an appointment with God or set a future goal to make yourself acceptable to Him. You can turn to God right now, just as you are - trusting Him to do the work of salvation in you..

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.

STUDENT RESPONSE CARD

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

Today, I prayed to receive Christ

I would like more information about the Gospel

I have already prayed to receive Christ before today

I am not interested

My name _____

Cell # _____

Church you Attend _____

Who invited you to First Priority today? _____

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

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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