

MONTH 5, VOLUME 4

# HOPE

THE HOPE  
OF CHRIST  
IN EVERY  
STUDENT

# WEEKLY GUIDE



# PATIENCE

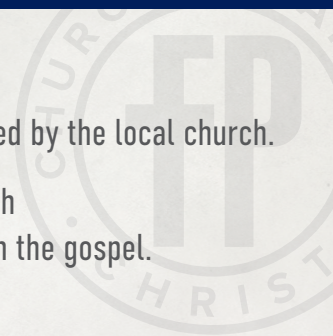
2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR



# 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.

# PATIENCE

## 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 fruit of the Spirit, **PATIENCE.**"
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Introduce Student Leading Discussion:** "Today, my friend, \_\_\_\_\_, is going to share with us about why patience and perseverance are important to a missionary mindset."



### **GROUP TIME: What to do When Nothing Happens (20 Minutes)**

**Student Speaker:** This month we are going to talk about patience. This is a great thing to talk about because so few of us are! We live in a very fast-paced world where the latest news, entertainment, and updates can be had in an instant on our phones. Items that take longer than 2 days to ship to our house seems like an eternity. Even though patience seems kind of foreign to us, the Bible has something to say to us about it. Patience is listed as a fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5. The book of Proverbs lists it many times as a desirable quality. But how does it relate to being a missionary to our school?



In the late 1700s, there was a missionary named William Carey. He was raised in the middle of England and became a shoemaker. He later would leave the shoe business and become a pastor. He eventually founded a missionary society and moved to India with his family around 1793 to be a missionary. Life as a missionary was very hard for the Carey's. William came down with malaria and his 5-year-old son died of dysentery. His wife struggled with mental health to the point where she had to be confined to a room and physically restrained from hurting herself and others. William spent seven years in India before a single person got saved. Even in all of these hardships,

Carey would write, "Well, I have God, and His word is sure." Williams Carey showed both patience and perseverance in his work for the Lord! **Romans 12:12** says,

*"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."*

## PATIENCE Help Week Leader Guide (continued)

William Carey's life is an example of that verse. He was patient through struggles and patient as ministry seemed slow to advance. The Bible makes it clear that salvation is through Christ alone and there is nothing that we can do to earn it. Therefore we are not responsible for people accepting or rejecting it. As Christians, we are simply commanded to go and share the good news with everyone! Some will want to hear the message that we bring and others will not, but we must still go and share!

Maybe you are feeling discouraged right now because living for Christ is hard. Maybe you struggle to keep God first in your life. Maybe you are very passionate about following Christ - and despite your praying and your effort to make a difference, nothing seems to be happening. When all of your work feels worthless, remember this:

Some of the costliest things take time to make. In fact, usually, the longer it takes to create something, the more expensive it is. Diamonds are some of the most expensive gems in the world because of their rarity due to taking so many years to form under pressure in the earth.



SO KEEP GOING! Keep praying and believing that your friend or family member can be saved. In the end, it will all be worth it if you simply continue following Jesus and persevere through the hard times. Even if only one comes to Christ before you graduate, wouldn't that be worth it? Think of all the lives God may reach through them!



**APPLY IT:**

**Discussion Option 1:** What is something in your life that you had to wait for a very long time to come to fruition? Was it worth it? What made it worth persevering?

**Discussion Option 2:** Do you struggle to be consistent in praying for your school and for you lost friends? What can you do to remind yourself to do that each day?

**ACTION CHALLENGE:**

- **Group Challenge:** Make a post or meme about how waiting is worth it and post to social media using the words “WORTH IT” or the hastags #firstpriority #worthit
- **Share Challenge:** Encourage a friend or acquaintance who may be going through a difficult time in life. Do something thoughtful! Then invite them to First Priority!
- **Prayer Challenge:** Go around the table and share about someone or something that you are praying for/about that God has not answered yet. Pray for that specific thing/person in the group.

**WRAP UP: 2 minutes**

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



# PATIENCE

## 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 how God produces patience in our lives..



**GROUP TIME: Trust the process (20 minutes)**

**Student Speaker:** Think of a time when God asked you to share your faith story with a friend and they rejected it and maybe even you.

In 2018, one of the big stories in the NBA was the Philadelphia 76ers and their young and talented roster. For quite some time now the 76ers have been one of the worst teams in the NBA. They have finished at the bottom or close to the bottom of the standings. In doing this they received a lot of good players in the NBA draft. This year they made it all the way to the second round of the playoffs. Their motto over the last few years has been “trust the process.” Today I want to look at the process that God uses in our lives to bring about holiness and what that has to do with Overcome week.

*James 1:2-4 says, “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”*

How can James say to consider it a great joy when trials come into our lives? I don’t know about you, but I don’t like it when trials come into my life. Trials are hard. James knows that but he still tells us to be joyful about it. He can tell us to have that attitude because of what he says in the next verse. He tells us to “trust the process.” We are not supposed to be joyful about the trial for the trials sake, but we are to be joyful in the trial because it is part of a greater process.

He goes on to say that when our faith gets tested our endurance (or patience) grows. It is like a blade of grass. Every rain that comes along beats down the small blade of grass but it also brings water to make the grass continue to grow! Trials are simply times to grow.

Trials force our roots to go down deeper in Christ as we lean into Him for the strength to make it through the trial.



## PATIENCE Overcome Week Leader Guide (continued)

As our endurance continues to grow we become perfect and complete according to James. The perfection and completeness do not come because we have become completely patient, but because of how we have had to do to become patient. By leaning into Christ in our trials, we become more like Him. Being more like Jesus should be the goal of every Christian.

Jesus was never in a hurry. Jesus never worried that he wouldn't meet others' expectations. He never took shortcuts and never gave up through His toughest moments. Jesus endured the heaviest cross anyone could ever bear – the sins of the whole world and ultimate judgment against that sin. Even when you feel completely defeated, trust that God knows what He is doing. **TRUST THE PROCESS!**

### APPLY IT:

**Discussion Option 1:** Share about a time when you wanted to quit or take a shortcut, but instead decided to trust the process. What was the outcome?

**Discussion Option 2:** Share about a time when you shared about your faith with someone and got rejected and what you learned from it. Then share about a time you shared the gospel and someone decided to follow Christ.

### ACTION CHALLENGES:

- **Group Challenge:** Take a photo, Instastory, or snap with those around you and use #trusttheprocess #firstpriority
- **Invite Challenge:** Find 3 people that you know are not Christians. Pray for them over the next couple of days and invite the FP next week!
- **Prayer Challenge:** Lastly, get into groups of three or four and spread out. Pray for each other that God would lead you through the process of trusting Him.

### 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

# PATIENCE

## 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.

# PATIENCE

## 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](http://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: 10 Things
- Preparation: None
- Play: Divide up into groups of 4-5 people. Task the groups with finding 10 things that all of them share in common (besides the obvious, e.g., that they are human). The first group to come with their 10 wins!

**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.

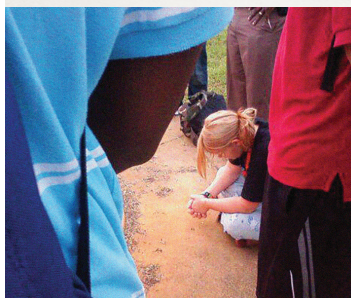
- **TOTALLY** pure and perfect, God created the world to be a place of beauty and meaning. He created each of us with purpose and identity. God has designed every person you see in this room. God's good creation was broken when sin entered the world. Sin is anything – thought, word, action or attitude – 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.**

© 2018 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**

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

 /fpofamerica

 /fpofamerica

 /fpofamerica

 [www.firstpriority.club](http://www.firstpriority.club)

The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®) copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. ESV® Text Edition: 2011. The ESV® text has been reproduced in cooperation with and by permission of Good News Publishers. Unauthorized reproduction of this publication is prohibited. All rights reserved.