



FIRST PRIORITY  
HOPE WEEKLY GUIDE

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# CHOOSE LISTENING

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LISTENING




# PLANNING GUIDE


## Plan To Win

LISTENING


### HELP WEEK

 PROMO: \_\_\_\_\_


 WELCOME: \_\_\_\_\_

 HOST: \_\_\_\_\_


 SPEAKER: \_\_\_\_\_

 FOLLOW UP: \_\_\_\_\_


### OVERCOME WEEK

 PROMO: \_\_\_\_\_

 WELCOME: \_\_\_\_\_


 HOST: \_\_\_\_\_


 SPEAKER: \_\_\_\_\_


 FOLLOW UP: \_\_\_\_\_

### PREPARE WEEK

 PROMO: \_\_\_\_\_

 WELCOME: \_\_\_\_\_


 HOST: \_\_\_\_\_


 SPEAKER: \_\_\_\_\_


 FOLLOW UP: \_\_\_\_\_

### ENGAGE WEEK

 PROMO: \_\_\_\_\_

 WELCOME: \_\_\_\_\_

 HOST: \_\_\_\_\_

 SPEAKER: \_\_\_\_\_

 FOLLOW UP: \_\_\_\_\_

### NOTES

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# HELP WEEK

## CHOOSE LISTENING



Helping each other believe and share the Good News of Jesus.



HOST

### PART 1 - STARTING THE CLUB

“Welcome to First Priority. We are glad you are here! This month we will learn how talking less and listening more helps us to get to know those around us and gives us an opportunity to share Jesus with them. Let’s start things off with prayer.”

#### OPENING PRAYER

**INTRODUCE SPEAKER:** “Today my friend \_\_\_\_\_ is going to talk about what it looks like to be slow to speak and quick to listen and share a Help Tool that will remind us of how to do that.”



SPEAKER

### PART 2 - HELP WEEK DISCUSSION

- Look over the Help Week Discussion and Help Tool to make sure you understand it.
- Read the Help Week discussion.
- Then pass out a **W.A.I.T.** sticker and **THE Cause Circle** card.
- **HELP TOOLS:** W.A.I.T. Sticker and THE Cause Circle card



HOST

### PART 3 - ENDING THE CLUB

#### SOCIAL MEDIA CHALLENGE for “H” Week

Speak the Truth

- Choose this week to be silent on social media and listen to those around you.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Everyone remember to share the Good News of Jesus with someone this week. Next week is Overcome Week! Start thinking now about who you can invite to join you as we continue our theme Choose Listening.”

#### CLOSING PRAYER

## BEHIND THE SCENES



PROMO

Invite people and promote the club meeting.



WELCOME

Create a welcoming environment.



FOLLOW UP

Be available for anyone who would like to pray or talk more.





SPEAKER

# HELP WEEK DISCUSSION

## CHOOSE LISTENING

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### HIGHLIGHT SCRIPTURE

“Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.” **James 1:19**

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### EXPLAIN

We live in a world of talk. Talk, talk, talk. Speak, speak, speak. Everyone, it seems, wants to be heard. We have become a culture full of talking heads, regardless of where we find ourselves. And the chatter is deafening. Into this noise comes the words of James in chapter 1 verse 19, “Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.” This verse is almost impossible to understand by a culture intent on talking. We have it backwards: we are quick to speak, slow to hear.

Do you remember the story of Martha and Mary in Luke chapter 10 verses 38 through 42? Luke offers us a helpful contrast in speaking and listening. Martha was frantically trying to make dinner preparations for Jesus and the disciples. I envision her running around the house, uttering things under her breath like, “I can’t believe Jesus is here on such short notice” and “Why doesn’t Mary get in here and help me?” Unlike Martha in verse 39, it tells us what Mary was doing: “And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to His teaching.”

Not surprisingly, Martha gets a bit frustrated at Mary’s lack of effort with the event. So Martha does what we probably all would do under similar circumstances - she starts talking. In verses 40 through 42, it says, “But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, ‘Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.’” We are not left to wonder which course of action Jesus commands. We see it in His gentle rebuke: “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.”

Mary was quick to listen and slow to speak. She knew when to be quiet. In a culture full of chatter, I want to learn how to be silent, so I can hear what the Lord wants to teach me. He’s speaking. Am I listening?

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### APPLY

Today we are going to use our Help Tool as a reminder to stop talking and start listening to God and others. Also, we will use The Cause Circle to help us be more intentional about sharing Jesus’ message.

- Pass out the W.A.I.T. stickers (Why Am I Talking) and place them on your binder or phone as a reminder to choose daily to listen.
- Then pass out The Cause Circle and explain: Prayer - Care - Share

**Prayer:** It all starts with prayer! Praying for the people we are seeking to reach with the Gospel prepares their hearts to hear the Good News of Jesus.

**Care:** Jesus modeled how important it is to care for people’s needs. In the same way, we must love those we are trying to reach. We do this by listening to them and caring for them.

**Share:** After prayer and care, we must lovingly share the Gospel message clearly and confidently. When we invite someone to put their faith in Christ, we are inviting them to make the best decision of their lives.

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### RESPOND

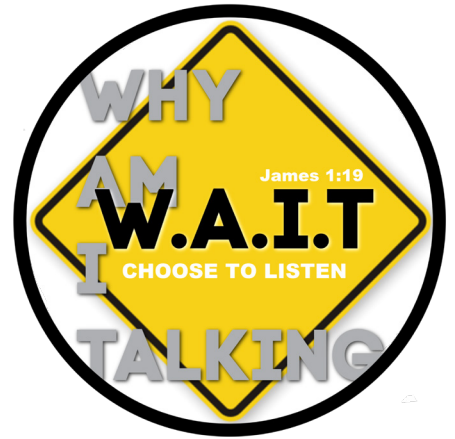
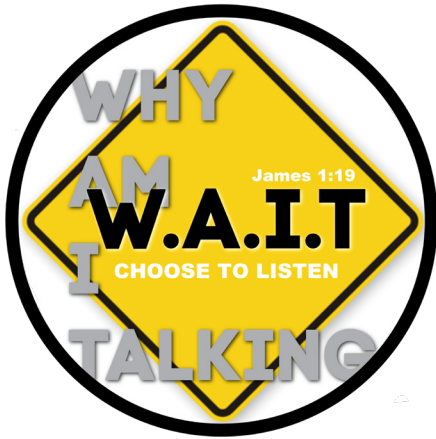
- Let’s take sometime before we leave and fill out our The Cause Circle card.
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### BIG IDEA TO REMEMBER

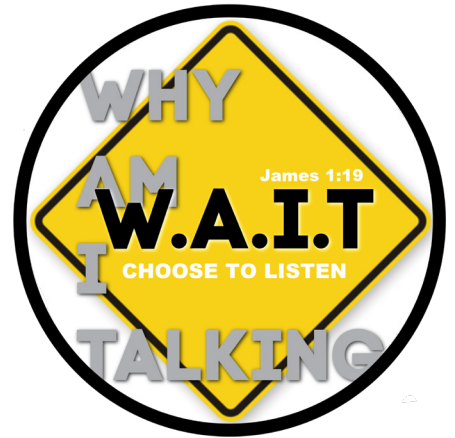
Choose today what James suggests in our highlight scripture; be quick to listen and slow to speak.

# HELP WEEK TOOL

## CHOOSE LISTENING



LISTENING



# HELP WEEK TOOL

## CHOOSE LISTENING

### THE Cause Circle

Who is God prompting you to **Pray** for, **Care** for, and **Share** the Gospel with? Write their names on the lines below.

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DARE 2 SHARE MINISTRIES

### THE Cause Circle

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DARE 2 SHARE MINISTRIES

LISTENING

# OVERCOME WEEK

## CHOOSE LISTENING



Overcoming things that keep you from believing and sharing the Good News of Jesus.



HOST

### PART 1 - STARTING THE CLUB

“Welcome to First Priority. We are glad you are here! Thank you for joining us for Overcome Week. Let’s kick things off with prayer.”

#### OPENING PRAYER

#### GAME OF CHOICES - WOULD YOU RATHER?

- Would you rather be stranded in the jungle or in the desert?
- Would you rather only be able to whisper or shout?
- Would you rather all your shirts be two sizes too big or one size too small?
- Would you rather wrestle a bear or wrestle an alligator?
- Would you rather lose the ability to speak or to hear?

**INTRODUCE SPEAKER:** “Last week we learned the story of Mary and Martha and about being still and listening. Today my friend \_\_\_\_\_ is going to talk about what we need to overcome, so we can listen better.”

LISTENING



SPEAKER

### PART 2 - OVERCOME WEEK DISCUSSION

- Look over the Overcome Week Discussion page to make sure you understand it.
- Read Overcome Week Discussion.
- Then break into groups and discuss.



HOST

### PART 3 - ENDING THE CLUB

#### SOCIAL MEDIA CHALLENGE for “O” Week

Offer a Question

- Post this question on your social media: Who do you listen to when you need advice or encouragement?

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Everyone remember to share the Good News of Jesus with someone this week. Next week is Prepare Week! Start thinking now about who you can invite.”

#### CLOSING PRAYER

## BEHIND THE SCENES



PROMO

Invite people and promote the club meeting.



WELCOME

Create a welcoming environment.



FOLLOW UP

Be available for anyone who would like to pray or talk more.



**SPEAKER**

# OVERCOME WEEK DISCUSSION

## CHOOSE LISTENING

### HIGHLIGHT SCRIPTURE

“Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.” **Proverbs 19:20**

### EXPLAIN

Last week we learned the story of Mary and Martha and about being still and listening. Mary would listen well, while Martha stayed busy and missed out on what Jesus had to say. We have the same problem. We want to be heard. We want people to hear about our day or our experiences. Why is it so difficult for us to listen? We struggle with this, because we would rather speak our thoughts instead of listening to the thoughts of others.

Proverbs chapter 19 verse 20 tells us to “listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.” So listen to advice and take instruction. This verse describes the need for listening. It takes effort, patience, and being intentional. A lot of times we barely listen, because we are distracted by our surroundings. Instead of concentrating on what’s being said, we are busy deciding what to say in response or mentally rejecting the other person’s point of view.

Proverbs chapter 18 verse 2 says, “It is the fool who takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.” It means a lot to a person to be heard. When someone starts talking to you, they are inviting you to walk with them and go on a journey for a short time. Maybe it’s not your first choice of conversation, or maybe you are in a hurry and feel like you don’t have the time. Stop and take the time to invest in someone else’s story. Be an example of God’s love, and let His light shine through simply by listening.

The Bible says that Jesus was a friend of sinners. That’s our example—to be a friend, to listen to people, see where they are, and then take them where they need to go.

### APPLY

Be ready whenever someone needs to talk. It might mean you have to give up a lunch or maybe a workout. God is asking us to represent Him to others, and God always listens to us.

### RESPOND

Let’s get into groups and discuss these questions:

- Who is someone you listen to when you need advice?
- When you listen, are you listening to learn from them or waiting for a moment of silence so you can interject what you think?
- Share a time when NOT listening got you in trouble.

### BIG IDEA TO REMEMBER

The best ministry you might do for someone today is to simply listen.

LISTENING



# PREPARE WEEK

## CHOOSE LISTENING



Preparing your story of believing the Good News of Jesus.



HOST

### PART 1 - STARTING THE CLUB

“Welcome to First Priority. We are glad you are here! Thank you for joining us for Prepare Week. Let’s kick things off with prayer.”

#### OPENING PRAYER

**GAME:** If you have time, play a game to help everyone feel welcome.

**INTRODUCE SPEAKER:** “Last week we talked about what we need to overcome, so that we can listen better. Today \_\_\_\_\_ is going to share with us how we can share our faith stories without saying a word.”

LISTENING



SPEAKER

### PART 2 - PREPARE WEEK EXERCISE

- Look over the Prepare Week Exercise page and make sure you understand it.
- If you have students signed up to share their **Faith Story**, let them go first.
- Read the **Cardboard Testimony** discussion.
- Then pass out paper and pens to each student to write down their cardboard testimony.



HOST

### PART 3 - ENDING THE CLUB

#### SOCIAL MEDIA CHALLENGE for “P” Week

Answer the question

- Post on your social media your cardboard testimony.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Don’t forget to share the Good News of Jesus with someone this week. Next week is Engage Week! Start thinking now about who you can invite to join you to hear the Good News of Jesus.”

#### CLOSING PRAYER

## BEHIND THE SCENES



PROMO

Invite people and promote the club meeting.



WELCOME

Create a welcoming environment.



FOLLOW UP

Be available for anyone who would like to pray or talk more.



**SPEAKER**

# PREPARE WEEK EXERCISE

## CHOOSE LISTENING

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### FAITH STORY

Today \_\_\_\_\_ is sharing their faith story.

Please listen, as it can be hard to share in front of people. Remember, there is power in your story.

(After students share, continue to the exercise below.)

LISTENING

### CARDBOARD TESTIMONY

We have seen homeless people standing on street corners with a piece of cardboard and a message, such as “Will Work for Food,” “Need Money,” or “Please help me feed my family.” That is where the idea for cardboard testimonies began. The silent message can speak volumes in just a few words.

We have put our own spin on the idea by sharing a few words on one side of the cardboard about our life before Jesus and writing a few words on the back about our transformation after Jesus made us a new creation. Not many of us get an opportunity to stand before an audience and speak about what the Lord has done in our lives. Even fewer Christians want to speak before an audience because of fear. A cardboard testimony is a way to share the change Jesus has made in our lives without speaking a word. It is a powerful witness to the transforming power of God’s Spirit in our lives.

- Paul is one of the most prominent Christians in the Bible. His testimony would probably say:  
side one: murderer - Christian hater  
side two: evangelist - prisoner for Jesus
- The disciple John would perhaps say:  
side one: selfish - angry  
side two: beloved by Christ
- Zacchaeus encountered Christ, who invited Him home to dinner. His testimony?  
side one: cheater - thief  
side two: generous - forgiven
- One of the most powerful testimonies would come from Lazarus:  
side one: literally dead for 4 days  
side two: alive - healthy - following Jesus

Now we’re going to share our cardboard testimonies. (Pass out paper and pens to everyone.) On one side write what your life was like before Jesus, and keep it simple. Flip it over to the other side and write the difference Jesus has made in your life.

What does your cardboard testimony say?

(If time allows, without saying a word, show side one that shares your life before Jesus. Pause for a moment, so that people can read it. Then flip to side two that shows the difference Jesus has made in your life.)

# ENGAGE WEEK

## CHOOSE LISTENING



Engaging your school with the Good News of Jesus.



HOST

### PART 1 - STARTING THE CLUB

“Welcome to First Priority. We are glad you are here! Thank you for joining us for Engage Week. Let’s kick things off with prayer.”

#### OPENING PRAYER

**GAME:** If you have time, play a game to help everyone feel welcome.

**INTRODUCE SPEAKER:** “Last week students were able to share their faith story without saying a word. Today my friend \_\_\_\_\_ is going to talk about the Good News of Jesus.”

LISTENING



SPEAKER

### PART 2 - ENGAGE WEEK DISCUSSION

- Look over the Engage Week Discussion GOSPEL S.T.O.R.Y. to make sure you understand it.
- Read Engage Week Discussion. Then close in prayer.
- Next have the Host read the **Response Time** below.
- Pass out **Student Response Cards** to each student.



HOST

### PART 3 - ENDING THE CLUB

**RESPONSE TIME:** (Pass out Student Response Cards)

“Everyone take a minute and think about what was just shared today. If you decided to begin a relationship with Jesus, then on your response card check the first box. If you have questions or would like us to help you find a youth group to go to, check that box, and we would love to get you connected. Take a few minutes to fill out your card, and we will come around to collect them.”

#### SOCIAL MEDIA CHALLENGE “E” WEEK

Proclaim the Gospel

- Use the MySharePal app to share the Gospel with someone today.  
Focus on listening to them.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Thank you for coming. Join us next week for Help Week!”

#### CLOSING PRAYER

## BEHIND THE SCENES



PROMO

Invite people and promote the club meeting.



WELCOME

Create a welcoming environment.



FOLLOW UP

Be available for anyone who would like to pray or talk more. Do the follow-up sheet and process.








# ENGAGE WEEK DISCUSSION

## CHOOSE LISTENING

### GOSPEL S.T.O.R.Y. SCRIPTURE. TRUE. OUR. REAL. YOU.

The word **Gospel** means **Good News**. It was used to announce good news about a new king. The good news told about the king's message, actions, and victories. The Gospel of Jesus is found in the Bible. It is the Good News of who Jesus is and what He has done. The Gospel story also tells us who we are, why we are broken, and how Jesus is the King who gave His life to rescue us. We are invited to be a part of God's story by trusting and following Jesus.

LISTENING

|   |   |
|---|---|
|  <p><b>SCRIPTURE</b><br/>tells us who Jesus is and what He has done.</p>   | <p>There are many voices that we are told to listen to. Some are good, like teachers, coaches, and parents. Other are not so good. We have to choose who we will listen to. The Gospel story tells us to listen to Jesus because of who He is.</p> <p>The Bible tells us the true story about who Jesus is and what He has done. Mark chapter 1 verse 1 tells us exactly who Jesus is: "The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." Mark says clearly that Jesus is the Son of God. We can look to Jesus to know exactly what God is like. The entire story of the Bible is about how Jesus is coming to rescue people from sin, because He is the true King.</p> |
|  <p><b>TRUE</b><br/>identity begins with knowing that God created us.</p> | <p>But wait, why do we need Jesus to rescue us from our sins? Let me explain.</p> <p>The story began with God creating all things. He called everything that He made, good. He created humans to know Him and to represent Him on the earth (Genesis 1:27). God created you, knows you, and loves you more than you could ever imagine. He has created you to love Him and other people. This is your true identity. God also created you to hear His voice and respond.</p> <p>Sadly, everything did not remain the way that God created it. Everything became broken.</p>   |
|  <p><b>OUR</b><br/>lives are broken by sin.</p>                          | <p>The first humans that God created chose to turn away from Him. They broke their relationship with God. We have all chosen to live our own way, too. We have failed to fulfill God's purpose for our lives to love Him and other people. This is called sin. The Bible says that we have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Our lives and the world that we know are broken by sin. Instead of listening to God, we listen to other voices that lead us away from Him. This causes us to feel distant and disconnected from God. We need someone to rescue us and reconnect us to God.</p>  |
|  <p><b>REAL</b> love is Jesus giving His life for ours.</p>              | <p>Jesus came with a message of Good News. He was sent by God to rescue us and restore our relationship with God (Luke 19:10). Jesus never sinned. He perfectly loved God and all people. Jesus showed us real love by giving His life for our sins. He died and was buried, but on the third day, God raised Him from the dead. He was seen alive by over 500 people (1 Corinthians 15:3-6).</p> <p>He is the true King who rescued us by His love. Listening to Him is the first step to being rescued.</p>   |
|  <p><b>You</b> are invited into God's story.</p>                         | <p>You have a choice about who you will listen to. By listening to this Good News about Jesus and believing it, you can be rescued from sin. You are invited into God's story. It begins with a choice to trust and follow Jesus.</p>   |
|   | <p>If you would like to begin a relationship with God, I would like to invite you to pray with me.<br/> <b>PRAY:</b> "God, I believe this Gospel story of Jesus. I know that I am broken. I ask you to forgive me of my sins. I want you to be the King of my life. I choose to trust and follow Jesus today and forever. Amen."<br/> (Pass out <b>Student Response Cards</b> while the Host shares <b>Response Time</b> from <b>Part 3</b>.)</p>   |

# STUDENT RESPONSE CARD

My response to the Gospel story today.  
(Please only check one.)

- I began a relationship with Jesus today.
- I have questions about following Jesus.
- I am already a follower of Jesus.
- I am not interested.

I would like to get connected to a youth group.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

What church do you attend? \_\_\_\_\_

Who invited you to FP 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.



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LISTENING

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