



FIRST PRIORITY  
HOPE WEEKLY GUIDE

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# CHOOSE **FORGIVENESS**

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FORGIVENESS

# PLANNING GUIDE


## Plan To Win

FORGIVENESS


### 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 FORGIVENESS



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 freeing it is to choose forgiveness and that we forgive others, because we have been forgiven. Let’s start things off with prayer.”

#### OPENING PRAYER

**INTRODUCE SPEAKER:** “Today my friend \_\_\_\_\_ is going to talk about what it looks like to forgive others and share a Help Tool that will show it.”



SPEAKER

### PART 2 - HELP WEEK DISCUSSION

- Look over the Help Week Discussion page and Help Tool to make sure you understand it.
- Read the Help Week discussion.
- Then pass out the **Candy Cane Gospel** to each student.
- **HELP TOOL:** Candy Cane Gospel



HOST

### PART 3 - ENDING THE CLUB

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

Speak the Truth

- Post on your social media a picture of the Candy Cane Gospel.

#### 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 Forgiveness.”

#### 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 FORGIVENESS

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### HIGHLIGHT SCRIPTURE

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” **Ephesians 4:32**

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### EXPLAIN

In a fallen world, forgiveness is essential to maintain close relationships. We all need forgiveness, and we all need to grant forgiveness. Why? Because we all sin, and we all have been sinned against. But asking for and granting forgiveness are not easy tasks! If you're a Christian, asking and granting forgiveness are not optional. Jesus said in Matthew chapter 6 verse 15, that if you do not forgive others, the heavenly Father will not forgive you: “but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” It is important for you as a Christian to understand and practice forgiveness.

The Apostle Paul tells us in Ephesians chapter 4 verse 31 how we are to put away all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and slander. In verse 32, it tells us how we are to replace these sins: “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” What does it mean to ask forgiveness or to forgive someone? Paul says that we are to forgive each other “just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.” God didn't say, “Hey, don't worry about it. We all make mistakes!” He didn't just brush our sin aside. He requires that the penalty be paid. But in love, He sent His own Son to bear the penalty that we deserved.

How do we put forgiveness into practice? To forgive someone is to promise not to bring the matter up again or use it against them. God forgives us, so that we may be reconciled to Him and enjoy a close relationship with Him. When we forgive others, we should also seek to restore the broken relationship. This does not always mean becoming best of friends, but it should at least mean that we are friendly towards the person. To say, “I forgive you, but I never want to see your ugly face again,” is not to forgive as God forgives! We are still commanded to love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, bless those who curse us, and pray for those who mistreat us. Luke chapter 6 verses 27 and 28: “But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.”

When you forgive, you will get rid of your bitterness, which eats at your soul. You will enjoy restored relationships with others, along with many other blessings. But the most important thing is that you will glorify God with your actions.

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### APPLY

Today's Help Tool is the Candy Cane Gospel. It is a great way to share how Jesus forgives. (Pass out a candy cane and a card to each person. Instructions below will help you explain.)

The shape of the candy cane reminds us of a **Shepherd's Staff**. In John chapter 10 verse 14, it says, “I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.”

- The **Red Stripe** on the candy cane represents the blood that Jesus shed to forgive us of our sins. Romans chapter 5 verse 8 says, “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” We need forgiveness, because in Romans chapter 3 verse 23, we are reminded that we ALL have sinned: “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
- The **White Candy** represents the forgiveness of sins and a clean heart. First John chapter 1 verse 19 says, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
- When the candy cane is turned upside down, it represents a “**J**” for **Jesus!** To begin a relationship with Him, we must do what Romans chapter 10 verse 9 says, “if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

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### RESPOND

Let's get into groups and practice sharing the Candy Cane Gospel, before we leave today. It is a great example of forgiveness.

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### BIG IDEA TO REMEMBER

Forgive each other just as Jesus forgave you.

FORGIVENESS

# HELP WEEK TOOL

## CHOOSE FORGIVENESS

FORGIVENESS

### CANDY CANE GOSPEL



**SHEPHERD'S STAFF**  
JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD  
JOHN 10:14

**RED STRIPES**  
REPRESENT THE BLOOD THAT JESUS SHED ON THE CROSS TO FORGIVE US OF OUR SINS  
Romans 5:8

**WHITE CANDY**  
REPRESENTS THE FORGIVENESS OF SIN AND JESUS GIVING US A CLEAN HEART  
1 JOHN 1:9

**"J" FOR JESUS**  
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# OVERCOME WEEK

## CHOOSE FORGIVENESS



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 an unknown superhero or a famous villain?
- Would you rather have lots of energy or lots of money?
- Would you rather have a lifetime of free Netflix or an unlimited gift card to Starbucks?
- Would you rather be able to taste colors or see smells?
- Would you rather be forgiven or forgive someone?

**INTRODUCE SPEAKER:** “Last week we talked about not only the need to forgive others, but we also learned how to do that. Today my friend \_\_\_\_\_ is going to talk about what we must overcome to forgive others and to ask for forgiveness.”



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 share.



HOST

### PART 3 - ENDING THE CLUB

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

Offer a Question

- Post this question on your social media: What do you think someone needs to do to be forgiven?

#### 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 FORGIVENESS

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### HIGHLIGHT SCRIPTURE

“bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.” **Colossians 3:13**

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### EXPLAIN

When we think about forgiveness, it brings certain pictures to our mind. Maybe it's something that makes you think of a time when you were forgiven, because you had done something wrong. Did you feel a sense of relief when it was over? Maybe you have forgiven someone that has wronged you. Maybe you were in the right, but you still wanted to forgive them. How did you feel about that? Forgiveness is a choice we make.

In Colossians chapter 3 verse 13 it says, “bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.” We are to forgive. We are to work through difficulties in relationships and to forgive one another, even as Christ has forgiven us. We are NOT perfect!

TRUTH ALERT: You WILL mess up and make mistakes.

You will want forgiveness for something you have done or mistakes you have made. We understand forgiveness when we receive it and when we are actually and truthfully sorrowful for our actions. We hope to be restored to a clean slate. We can only forgive others, when we realize how much Jesus has forgiven us by his death.

Forgiveness is an exciting thing to receive. Think of how you felt when you realized your sin was forgiven and Jesus was now Savior and Lord of your life. We want our friends to experience this, too, as we share the Gospel in love and not in fear.

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### APPLY

Think of a time in your life where you dreaded to ask for forgiveness. Maybe it's not the first time you messed up or failed in something. Just the thought of asking for forgiveness makes you sick at your stomach. Think of it this way. If you had someone to go before you to soften the blow or ease the pain of seeking forgiveness, wouldn't that make things easier? This is what Jesus has done for us and we can help others find Jesus, too.

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### RESPOND

Let's get into groups and share:

- A time when you were forgiven. You don't have to go into deep detail here.
- When you had to forgive someone else.
- A time where forgiveness was withheld from you. How did you feel?

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### BIG IDEA TO REMEMBER

We forgive others, because we have been forgiven.

FORGIVENESS

# PREPARE WEEK

## CHOOSE FORGIVENESS



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 forgiving others, because we have been forgiven. Today my friend \_\_\_\_\_ is going to share how God’s forgiveness is a part of our story.”



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 Prepare Week Exercise.
- Then pass out the **WHICH ONE IS GREATER** handout, and allow students time to write out their story.



HOST

### PART 3 - ENDING THE CLUB

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

Answer the question

- Post on social media what it means to you to be forgiven.

#### 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 FORGIVENESS

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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.)

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### WHICH ONE IS GREATER

#### Begin by asking:

- Revenge or mercy?
- Hate or love?
- Punishment or forgiveness?

First John chapter 1 verse 9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

A great way to share your story is to be honest about your own struggles and stories of forgiveness. We all need God's forgiveness. Use the following questions to share your story in the sheet we are handing out.

1. Describe a time when someone did something wrong to you, and you chose to forgive them.
2. Describe a time when you needed someone to forgive you. Did you ask them to forgive you?  
How did it make you feel?
3. Describe a time when you asked God to forgive you. How did it feel to know you were forgiven by Him?  
Was there a Bible verse that spoke to you about it?
4. What would you say to someone who is not sure if God will forgive them for something they have done?

# PREPARE WEEK HANDOUT

## CHOOSE **FORGIVENESS**

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4. What would you say to someone who is not sure if God will forgive them for something they have done?

# ENGAGE WEEK

## CHOOSE FORGIVENESS



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 we shared our story about forgiveness. Today my friend \_\_\_\_\_ is going to talk about the Good News of Jesus.”



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 Candy Cane story from Help Week to share the Gospel with someone that didn’t come to club.

#### 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 FORGIVENESS

### 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.

FORGIVENESS

 <p><b>SCRIPTURE</b> tells us who Jesus is and what He has done.</p>	<p>Have you ever done something that you wish you could undo? Have you ever wondered if God would forgive you for things you have done wrong? Is there someone who can rescue you from the guilt of past mistakes? The Gospel story tells us that God wants to forgive us. Jesus has the power to forgive us for anything we have done wrong 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> 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.</p> <p>Sadly, everything did not remain the way that God created it. Everything became broken.</p>
 <p><b>OUR</b> 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. Because of this, we feel guilt and disconnected from God. We need someone to forgive us.</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). He is the true King who rescued us by His love.</p>
 <p><b>You</b> are invited into God’s story.</p>	<p>Jesus often said that He had power to forgive sins (Mark 2:10). His death and resurrection proved that He can forgive anyone who asks Him. He will forgive you! 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. <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.”</p> <p>(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.



# 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.

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# FOLLOW-UP GUIDE

## Steps To Following Up

### 3 FOLLOW-UP STEPS

Following up with those taking their next step of following Jesus is just as important as sharing the Good News of Jesus. This guide will give you some pointers on how to follow up.

#### 1. Organize

- Sort through the Response Cards.
- Write down the names, responses, and contact info on the Follow-Up Sheet.
- Discard the Response Cards when finished.

#### 2. Communicate (Can be a conversation, text message, or on social media)

- Thank them for coming to FP, and ask how you can help them, based on what they checked on their response card. Ask if you can pray for them.
- Invite them to a youth group and back to FP.
- Tell them about the YouVersion Bible app and ask if they would like help getting a Bible.

#### 3. Celebrate

- Share stories of students following Jesus with your FP Club, Club Coach, and youth group.

### FOLLOW-UP SHEET

STUDENT NAME	Began relationship with Jesus	Questions about following Jesus	Wants to connect to a youth group	Follow-up dates and notes

FORGIVENESS