

OVERCOME WEEK “THE CONVERSATION WITH BEST FRIENDS”



Overcome Week

Overcoming your fear of sharing the Gospel story.

Practice becoming like Jesus

by letting Him transform you from the inside out.



Promo:

Remember to invite people.



Welcome:

Remember to create a welcoming environment.



Host

Welcome to First Priority! Today is Overcome Week. Our goal is to learn how to overcome things that keep us from believing and sharing the Gospel in everyday life.



Pray



Game Choose a game or funny video to play for 3-5 minutes to get people laughing and talking.

Say something like: We are glad you are here! Today my friend _____ is going to talk about how we can overcome fears of having a conversation with Best Friends.



Speaker

Gospel Discussion

“Overcoming Fear of the Conversation with Best Friends”



Host



Announcements

Next week is Prepare Week! Start thinking now who you can invite to join you as we continue this conversation.



Pray



Follow-Up

Be available to talk or pray with people. Ask how you can walk with them on their Jesus journey.



Leader Tip

Leaders turn obstacles into opportunities.



Gospel Discussion

“Overcoming Fear of the Conversation with Best Friends”



Highlight Scripture

Mark 5:19

“And He did not permit him but said to him, ‘Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you.’”



Explain (Give context)

Best friends pretty much share just about everything right? We know each other far better than most people – and our best friends see us on our worst days and our best days. If you’ve ever been on a mission trip sharing the Gospel with strangers, you may have noticed that in some cases it was actually less stressful to share with a complete stranger than with someone who knows you extremely well. That’s because we have memories and history with our best friends, and sometimes that history doesn’t reflect Jesus, which makes the idea of sharing the Gospel awkward. In Mark 5, Jesus sets a man free who was possessed by evil. Seriously, this guy had more than just a few bad days – and even his friends couldn’t be around him. We know that he still had friends, but he had to live alone because of his condition. When Jesus set him free, the guy was so excited that he committed his life to LITERALLY follow Jesus everywhere. I guess he was excited that Jesus was willing to befriend him and set him free. Jesus, however, doesn’t give him the OK to travel changing the world by sharing the Good News with strangers. He tells him to go home and tell his FRIENDS what happened. Jesus knew that if people could see the difference between his current life and his former life that his story would be far more impactful to the people who knew him best.



Apply

Here are a few questions to ask yourself to make sure you are living up to your responsibility as a best friend. After all, why would you keep the BEST news from them?

#1 – Do my best friends know the truth about Jesus? Have I even asked them?

#2 – If not, have I ever taken the time to bravely share the Gospel with them?

#3 – What is keeping me from sharing? Am I afraid that they will point out something about my life that does not reflect the Gospel?

The challenge here is not to base your message on your own perfection, but on His mercy. That’s exactly what Jesus told the guy to say – “tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you.”



Respond (Groups of 3-5)

Here is an example of how you could start a conversation with your closest friends.

(Best friend) “I was just thinking the other day that we’ve know each other a really long time. I’d feel really bad if I didn’t share with you the best thing that ever happened to me, but I want to do that because you’re super important to me. The truth is, I’m really trying to follow Jesus these days and a lot about me is changing because of Him. Jesus forgives, heals, saves, and sets people free, and honestly I just felt like I had so much to hide, but now I’m living totally different because of how amazing His love is. I don’t know everything yet but I’m learning and I just wanted to sort of invite you to know Him like I do. Maybe we could do that together?” (This would be a good time to explain your salvation bracelet).



Bottom Line

Your best friends need to hear the best news - the Gospel of Jesus.



Disciple Tip

The Holy Spirit is shaping your decisions and actions to become like Jesus.

