

OVERCOME WEEK “THE CONVERSATION WITH ENEMIES”



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 enemies.



Speaker

Gospel Discussion

“Overcoming Fear of the Conversation with Enemies”



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

Give others opportunities to volunteer and lead.



Gospel Discussion

"Overcoming Fear of the Conversation with Enemies"



Highlight Scripture

1 John 4:18a

"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear."



Explain (Give context)

What motivates us to react to our enemies? Last week we talked about how the Gospel demands that we love our enemies. We are to even love them enough to show it and share it.

It's HARD to love enemies, especially if they have gone out of their way to cause us great pain. Most of the time, our behavior towards our enemies is motivated by fear. Fear of pain, fear of losing, fear of what they are going to do next. 1 John 4 tells us, however, that we need not fear, only love – and love BRAVELY.

This doesn't mean that we allow people to abuse or take advantage of us, but it does mean that we withhold any rights to get even. We refuse to repay hate with more hate. We even refuse to avoid them. Instead, we practice FORGIVENESS.

Did you know that hostility met with kindness and forgiveness is a picture of the Gospel? You are sharing the Gospel with your actions when you respond like Jesus did. Who knows, you may even get the opportunity to explain why you don't react like other people – the hope of Jesus Christ in your life. If we picture people the way Jesus does, we will understand how much he loves them, enough to die on a cross for them.



Apply

Think about your own life and those who have hurt you. How did you react? Were you Christlike? Did you get an opportunity to share the Gospel?



Respond (Groups of 3-5)

Here is an example of how you could start a conversation with an enemy:

"Hi, _____ We've gotten off to a bad start this school year and I just wanted to let you know that I don't hate you. Have I done something to hurt you? I want to know where you are coming from and make peace between us. I try to follow the teachings of Jesus and so I should try to love you instead of getting back at you. How can we find a solution?"



Bottom Line

Loving your enemies is about releasing revenge so you can love them like Jesus.



Disciple Tip

Becoming like Jesus is a lifelong journey of pursuing the heart of Jesus.