



FIRST PRIORITY
HOPE WEEKLY GUIDE

CHOOSE COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY



PLANNING GUIDE

Plan To Win

COMMUNITY

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

HELP WEEK

CHOOSE COMMUNITY



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 our goal is to focus on the importance of connecting to a community of believers through the local church and how we were created to fellowship with one another. Let’s start things off with prayer.”

OPENING PRAYER

INTRODUCE SPEAKER: “Today my friend _____ is going to talk about our need for community.”



SPEAKER

PART 2 - HELP WEEK DISCUSSION

- Look over the Help Week Discussion page and make sure you understand it.
- Share the Help Week Discussion.
- Then introduce the youth pastor/volunteer/student that has joined you and give them a few minutes to share about their youth ministry.



HOST

PART 3 - ENDING THE CLUB

SOCIAL MEDIA CHALLENGE for “H” Week

Speak the Truth

- Post on your social media an ad or commercial for your youth group with the date and time you meet and invite your followers to join 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 Community.”

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 COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY

HIGHLIGHT SCRIPTURE

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”
Hebrews 10:24-25

EXPLAIN

On a scale of 1 to 10, how important is going to church to you? (Wait for students to respond.) Society would try to convince you that as long as you say you believe in God, you don’t need to go to church. Often times we may think we don’t need to hang out with other Christians to grow in our faith. But we do need each other, so that we stay faithful to the Lord. Without the support of a local church/youth group, we can easily fall back into our old way of living.

Our need for community is our focus in today’s scripture. In Hebrews chapter 10 verses 24 and 25, we are given a challenge; “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” When we stir up one another to love and good works, we are comforting those who are struggling, encouraging others to follow Jesus, and connecting to believers, so that they can grow in their faith. We are building COMMUNITY!

So why are people staying away from church? (Wait for students to respond.) Ask yourself this question: “Do I really believe that I need encouragement to maintain my faith?” The answer should be YES! Believers share their struggles with each other and pray for one another. In First Thessalonians chapter 5 verse 11, Paul encourages believers, “Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.” Allow fellow believers to encourage you, and if you are not a part of a church, we would love to get you connected today.

APPLY

Today our Help Tool will help us get connected to a local church. We have invited youth pastors from churches near you to share what is happening at their church and how you can get plugged in.

(Introduce the youth pastor/volunteer/student and give them a few minutes to share about their youth ministry and church.)

RESPOND

Take this time to get to know the youth pastor/volunteer and find a church where you can get connected.

BIG IDEA TO REMEMBER

We are called to community, so that we can connect with one another and grow in our faith.

OVERCOME WEEK

CHOOSE COMMUNITY



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 the funniest person in the room or the smartest?
- Would you rather live without music or movies for the rest of your life?
- Would you rather brush your teeth with a hairbrush or brush your hair with a toothbrush?
- Would you rather live in a world with no toilet paper or a world with no soap?
- Would you rather spend the weekend with friends or home alone?

INTRODUCE SPEAKER: “Last week we talked about the importance of getting connected to a community. Today my friend _____ is going to talk about overcoming not attending church.”



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: What church are you involved at?

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 COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY

HIGHLIGHT SCRIPTURE

“And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.” **Acts 2:44-47**

EXPLAIN

In a world where we have so much technology, like texting, facetime, and many other social apps, why do so many people feel alone? We were created to have relationships with others. We need each other.

In Acts chapter 2 verses 44 through 47, it gives us a look at the very first church. “And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.” It was a group of people gathering daily to worship, pray, eat, and share one another’s burdens. As these people continued to meet, their numbers grew, because they felt connected to people who cared and had things in common. They even sold their own things to meet the needs of others. This is exactly what the church is supposed to look like. Galatians chapter 6 verse 2 says for us to “bear one another’s burdens.”

Often people have a difficult time going to a church for several reasons. They don’t want to feel judged, or maybe they have been hurt in the past. Others find it difficult to open up to others about life’s struggles. This is exactly why it is important to get connected to a community of people that will encourage you, just as they did in the very first church. The church is where you can go to be encouraged and learn about how much God loves you and wants to use you to reach more people. The church is made up of people that welcome you in, point you to Jesus, and encourage your faith.

APPLY

Our shared gifts, our shared talents, and our shared resources make us better together. What do you need to do to get connected to a local church?

RESPOND

Let’s get into groups and share:

- What church you attend.
- About the things that you like about your youth group or church.
- Now make sure that everyone in your group has been invited to a youth group.

BIG IDEA TO REMEMBER

We are better together. Get connected.

PREPARE WEEK

CHOOSE COMMUNITY



Preparing your story of believing the Good News of Jesus.

COMMUNITY



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 is keeping us from getting plugged into a church. Today we have a guest panel sharing about their faith story.”



SPEAKER

PART 2 - PREPARE WEEK EXERCISE

- Prior to Prepare Week, select two to three church leaders who have experience in sharing their faith and live it out publicly to join the panel.
- 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.
- Introduce **Church Leader Panel**.



HOST

PART 3 - ENDING THE CLUB

SOCIAL MEDIA CHALLENGE for “P” Week

Answer the question

- Post on social media what church you attend and invite others to join you.

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 COMMUNITY

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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.)

CHURCH LEADER PANEL

Set up a couple of chairs in front of the club and have your panel sit in them. You can lead the discussion almost like a live TV show host.

Here are the questions for the panel:

1. When did you begin a relationship with Jesus?
2. How do you live out your faith in public?
3. What struggles do you have sharing your faith?

ENGAGE WEEK

CHOOSE COMMUNITY



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 heard faith stories from church leaders. 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

- Post an invite for people to attend your church and youth group this week.

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 COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY

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.

 <p>SCRIPTURE tells us who Jesus is and what He has done.</p>	<p>Have you ever wished that you could be a part of a story that is bigger than yourself? Jesus invited people into a story that changed everything. He invited people into community with God. All people can be a part of God’s family by believing in Jesus. But why is it such a big deal that Jesus invited us into the Gospel story? It is 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>TRUE identity begins with knowing that God created us.</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 have community with Him.</p> <p>Sadly, everything did not remain the way that God created it. Everything became broken.</p>
 <p>OUR 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 feeling like we belong in community with God and others, we often feel isolated and alone. We need someone to rescue us and bring us back into community with God.</p>
 <p>REAL 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. He has invited us back into community with God.</p>
 <p>You are invited into God’s story.</p>	<p>Jesus invited everyone to follow Him and join His community. No matter who you are or what you have done, you are invited into God’s community. You are invited into God’s story. This new life can begin by trusting and following Jesus.</p> <p>If you would like to begin a relationship with God, I would like to invite you to pray with me. PRAY: “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 Student Response Cards while the Host shares Response Time from Part 3.)</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.)

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 I have questions about following Jesus.
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