



# TO BE LOVED OR NOT TO BE LOVED?

**MAIN POINT:** The Unconditional love of God!

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 John 4:8

## START UP

### WELCOME (4 mins)

**SAY:** Welcome to Equip Week! We are glad you all made it back. This is going to be an EPIC month for us in First Priority.

**PRAYER (Mentor have a student leader open in prayer)** God, thank you for bringing us all here today. We are thankful for you and that you allow us to meet here every week. Help us to learn how we can share your love with others around us. Amen.

### GAME (8 mins) – Shadow Boxing

Every student get a partner. Students take turns pointing either up, down, left, or right. The other student cannot look the way the student has pointed. If a student looks the direction their partner has pointed, they lose and are out. Have winning players play against each other until you have one winner.

## TOOL TIME

(Mentor or student leader introduces The Four)

**SAY:** Today we are going to learn about how we can share the story of Jesus with our friends. We are all called to share Jesus with the people around us. Jesus told his disciples to pray that people would come and share about Him with those who have not heard.

**READ:** Matthew 9:37 “Jesus said to his disciples, “The harvest is great, but the workers are few.”

## ASK:

- What do you think Jesus meant by saying that the harvest is plentiful? (*There are many who have not yet heard about Jesus.*)
- What does He mean the “workers are few?” (*We need more people to talk about Jesus.*)

**SAY:** One of the reasons Jesus wants everyone to know about him is because He loves us so much. And when we share about God’s love to others, we demonstrate our love for Him.

## ASK:

- What is a popular movie that is about a love story?
- Why do you think people are so interested in love stories?

**SAY:** Scientists have said that all humans have the fundamental need to be loved and to love others. It doesn’t have to be a romantic love. This is true in our family relationships, our friendships, and our romantic relationships. When we feel loved by someone else, it gives us a deep sense of happiness or joy. When we demonstrate love to someone else, it gives us a deep sense of contentment. That is what happens when two people love one another.

But God loves us in a completely different way.

1 John 4:8 tells us that, “God is love.”

That means that he doesn’t just *have* love, but it is His very nature. God loves us no matter what. That is called unconditional love. We don’t normally love people who don’t love us. But God chooses to love everyone, whether we love Him back or not.

*Tool Time continued*

**ASK:**

- How does it make you feel that God loves you unconditionally?

**SAY:** Today we are going to explain how to begin telling others about Jesus.

*(Give everyone a bracelet of The Four.)*

**SAY:** The first symbol is a heart. The heart represents God's love. The point is that God loved us before we ever thought about loving Him.

*"God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God loves in them."*

Because God loves us, He wants to have a relationship with us. God chooses to love us whether we love Him back or not. But the Bible says that if we love Him back, He lives in us and we live in Him.

*"You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence, and the pleasures of living with you."  
- Psalm 16:11*

Remember what we said about love? It brings us happiness when we receive it and contentment when we give it. That is exactly what this verse says. When we experience God's love, we have joy and contentment.

Using The Four to share Jesus with your friends is a great way to demonstrate your love for God. Telling them how they can have a relationship with Jesus is one of the most loving things you could ever do for your friends. We want you to be able to share Christ with your friends outside of First Priority club as well.

Every week we are going to keep building on how to share the story of Jesus using the Four. Keep coming back so you can understand fully how you can share the gospel with your friends.

## DIG IN

**ASK:**

- How does it make you feel that God loves everyone unconditionally?
- How can sharing the love of Jesus with your friend demonstrate your love for God?

## PRAYER TIME

*(Take a couple of minutes to pray and thank God for his love for us.)*

Heavenly Father, thank you that you love us no matter what. Thank you that you allow us to love you and to love others. Help us to be bold in sharing your love with others. Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS *(2 mins)*

Next week, we will be back here at the same time. Be sure to be here as we prepare, plan, and pray for Invite Week in two weeks. Also, remember to invite your friends and to share with them the love of Jesus this week.



## WE HAVE ONE JOB!

**MAIN POINT:** God has called us to GO make disciples!

**SUPPLIES NEEDED:** Invite Cards, Prayer Cards, and Invite Week Planning Guide

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 28:20

### START UP

#### WELCOME (4 mins)

**SAY:** Welcome to Prepare Week! We are glad you made it back and we are looking forward to an awesome time learning how to share Christ with our friends.

#### PRAYER (Mentor have a student leader open in prayer)

**SAY:** God, thank you for everyone coming back today. I pray you help us to learn how to share your love with our friends. Thank you for letting us meet here today. Amen.

#### GAME (8 mins) – Zip or Bang

*Form a circle, standing close together. Pick a player to begin. The first player says “Zip” or “Bang.” If they say “Zip,” the turn passes to the player at their left. If they say “Bang” it passes to the player to their right. The next player must respond quickly, within a second, by saying “Zip” or “Bang” to pass the turn. If you don’t respond within a second when it’s your turn, you’re out. Also, if you speak out of turn or laugh, you’re out. Only the player whose turn it is may speak, and they can only say “Zip” or “Bang.”*

**The game continues until there are only two players left – both of whom will be declared the winners.**

### TOOL TIME

#### SHARING GOD’S LOVE

**SAY:** Last week, we talked about how our gospel sharing tool, The Four, begins with a heart to symbolize God’s love. We talked about how much God loves us and how He longs for a relationship with us. Once we begin a relationship with God, He desires for us to pass His love along to others. This is why it is important for us to plan how we will share our faith, to practice sharing our faith, and to pray for the people we are going to share our faith with this week.

Jesus gave his disciples an important job in Matthew 28. It is one that he wants us to continue even today.

**READ:** Matthew 28:19 “Go and make disciples of all the nations.”

#### ASK:

- What do you think it means to go and make disciples?
- How do you feel about being asked to do such an important job?

**SAY:** Jesus told the disciples to go and He promised to be with them. They were not going to be left alone, but was going to be with them through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**READ:** Matthew 28:20 “And be sure of this: I am with you always.”

*Tool Time continued*

**SAY:** Jesus has promised to be with us whenever we go and share His love with others. He also told us that His plan for sharing His love for others was when those who believe in Him tell those who do not yet believe in Jesus about His love for them.

**READ:** *Romans 10:14 "But how can they call on him to save them unless that believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have not heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?"*

**ASK:**

- Who do you think is supposed to tell others about Jesus?
- How do you feel about that?

**SAY:** Today, we are going to do three things to help us tell others about Jesus.

### 1) Plan - Invite Cards/Social Media

One way to begin telling others about Jesus is to invite them to club next week for Invite Week. All you have to do is take some of these Invite cards and give them to your friends. Also, post on your social media account that next week is Invite Week. If everyone in here today brings one more person next week, think about how many people will hear about Jesus.

### 2) Practice - The Four

Not only should you invite people for club next week, but you can begin to have conversations with your friends about Jesus using The Four. You can begin by sharing with your friends how much Jesus loves them and how knowing Jesus loves you has changed your life. We know you don't know all the different parts of The Four, but you know how Jesus has impacted your life. Start there and let God guide your conversation.

### 3) Prayer Cards

Write the names of some friends you want to invite for next week and spend this week asking God to encourage them to come. We believe that if you talk to God about your friends, you are more likely to talk to your friends about God.

## DIG IN

### INVITE WEEK PLANNING

We want you to have a role in sharing the Gospel next week. So, we need someone to volunteer for the following roles next week:

- 1) Leader for social media/remind posts
- 2) Leader for playing music
- 3) Leader for games
- 4) Leader for door holding
- 5) Leader for greeting others as they walk in
- 6) Leader to share the gospel with the club

### PRAYER

Spend a few minutes asking God to bless our plans and help us to be courageous in inviting our friends.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS *(2 mins)*

This is the place for the club to make any upcoming announcements about events happening around the club.



## GOSPEL PRESENTATION

**MAIN POINT:** Gospel

**SUPPLIES NEEDED:** Pizza, and Guest Speaker / Student testimony

### START UP

#### WELCOME (4 mins)

**SAY:** Welcome to Invite Week! We are excited you're here. We have some great things planned today, plus, we are having some pizza (or whatever else you are having)!

#### PRAYER (Mentor have a student lead in prayer)

**SAY:** Lord, thank you for everyone here today. We know that everyone is here for a reason. No one is here by accident. I pray that today you would help us to understand your love for us and how we can have a relationship with you. Amen.

#### GAME (8 mins) – Giants, Wizards, and Elves (Think Rock, Paper, Scissors)

- **Giants.** Stand on your tippy toes, raise your arms like a giant, and make a menacing growling noise: "Rarr!"
- **Wizards.** Crouch slightly, as wizards are a bit shorter. Wave your fingers as though you're casting a magical spell, and make a magical noise: "Shaazaam!"
- **Elves.** Crouch down very low, cup your hands around your ears, and make a high pitched elf noise: "Eeeee!"

Giants beat elves, because giants are able to "squash" elves. Elves beat wizards because they outsmart them. Wizards beat giants because they are able to zap them with a magic spell. If both people show the same character, no one wins.

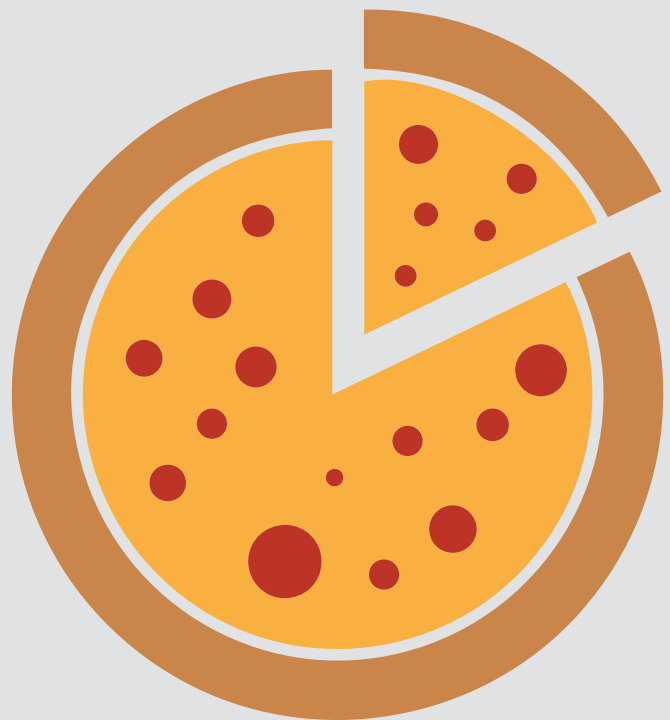
### TOOL TIME

Introduce Speaker to share the Gospel

### DIG IN

After the speaker has finished speaking and asked students to respond to the gospel, we want to make sure we connect with them. This is a great time to get their number so that you can text them during the week and also remind them about club next week. Also, if they don't have a Bible, this is a great time to get them one.

Pass out pizza or whatever food you are having for Invite Week.





# YOU CAN'T DO IT ALONE!

**MAIN POINT:** God has called us to live in community with one another

**SCRIPTURE:** Proverbs 27:17; Ecclesiastes 4:12

## START UP

### WELCOME (2 mins)

**SAY:** Welcome back to First Priority! We are glad you are here. Today is Connect Week.

### OPENING PRAYER

**SAY:** Lord, thank you for everyone who is here today. Help us to connect with one another, connect with a local church, and most of all, help us to connect with you. Amen.

### GAME (10 mins) – Screaming Vikings

In this game, one player, “the Caller” stands in the middle of the circle. “The Caller” will choose another player from the circle and point to them while shouting out one of 4 possible formations, which will be explained in a moment. That player becomes the “Formation Leader.” “The Formation Leader” and the players on their right and left will then work as a three-person team to form the correct formation before the “Caller” can count to ten. The “Caller” can choose any of the 4 formations to call. If the “Caller” counts to 10 and one or more members of the formation are not acting properly, then the last player to get in formation becomes the new “Caller” and comes to the center of the circle while the previous “Caller” trades places. The goal of the game is to not be in the center of the circle at the end of the game.

The 4 possible formations for the “Caller” to shout out are “Screaming Viking,” “Jump Rope,” “Jet Fighter,” and “Quarterback.” We’ll now go over the proper way to make the 4 formations. (You may want to call forward three youth to demonstrate each formation).

*First, “Screaming Vikings” – in this formation, the “Formation Leader” puts their index fingers to the sides of their head and points them upwards to form a viking helmet. Meanwhile, the players to their right and left begin rowing their arms, as though rowing a boat.*

*In “Jump Rope” – the “Formation Leader” hops in place while the players on the right and left swing their arms as though holding a jump rope.*

*In the “Jet Fighter” formation, the “Formation Leader” places their arms out in front of them as though holding the controls of a fighter jet while the players on the right and left form wings that tilt back and forth.*

*Finally, in “Quarterback”, the “Formation Leader” bends down as though they are about to snap a football while the players on the right and left move into a three-point stance like a football player, bending over and putting one hand on the ground.*

## TOOL TIME

**SAY:** Every month during Connect Week, we want to hear from a student about how God used them to connect someone to Christ, the club, or church.

*(Mentor: select a student to share a testimony from last month.)*

**SAY:** The Bible is clear that we are meant to live life in community with other people. In the Garden of Eden, God said it was not good for man to be alone, so God created woman.

*Tool Time continued*

## ASK:

- What are some reasons it is not good to do life alone?
- What is the benefit of living life in a community?

**READ:** *Proverbs 27:17, "As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend."*

## ASK:

- What do you think "friend sharpens a friend" means?
- Why would this be important?

**SAY:** Just as it was not good for man to live alone, it is not good for us to live our spiritual lives alone. When we are in community with other Christians, it helps us to grow stronger in our faith and to encourage one another.

**READ:** *Ecclesiastes 4:12, "A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple braided cord is not easily broken."*

## ASK:

- What does this verse say is the danger of standing alone?
- Why is being in community with others beneficial for us?

**SAY:** In First Priority, we want to help everyone find a community. First, we want everyone to live in relationship to Jesus. Maybe you came to Invite Week last week and made a decision to follow Jesus. We are so excited that you are back this week!

Second, we want everyone to feel welcome in First Priority. We want the club to be a place where you can find friends, learn how to share your faith, and encourage others to have a relationship with Jesus.

Third, we want to encourage you to get connected in a local church. Being a part of a church is a great way to grow in your understanding of following Jesus.

## DIG IN

**SAY:** If you have a church home, raise your hand and tell us what church you attend and when the student ministry meets. If you do not have a church you attend, listen carefully and ask one of these students to join them at church.

## PRAY

**SAY:** Heavenly Father, thank you for everyone that is here today. Help us to live our lives in community with others and learning about you. Help us to encourage our friends and to connect with you, our club, and a local church. Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS *(2 mins)*

This is the place to make any announcements about upcoming club meetings or events at your church.