



# NEW LIFE

**MAIN POINT:** The Resurrection brings new life!

**SUPPLIES NEEDED:** 2 plastic cups, white board, 2 dry-erase markers

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 24:6

## START UP

### WELCOME (4 mins)

**SAY:** Hello everyone and welcome to First Priority! Our mission at First Priority is to take the hope of Christ to every student at our school. If this is your first time to First Priority, we are so glad you are here! Today is Equip Week so we are going to play a game and have fun like usual, and we are also going to be equipped in our faith! Would anyone like to volunteer to start us off in prayer?

### OPENING PRAYER

*(If your student does not feel comfortable praying on their own, they can use this prayer)*

**SAY:** Dear God, we know that you are the Creator of the Universe. You created everything, and that includes everyone here at First Priority today. Thank you for your Son, Jesus, who died for us on the cross and rose again in three days. Please prepare our hearts for a time to learn more about you and your Holy Word, the Bible. In Jesus name, Amen.

### GAME (8 mins) – Flip Cup Tic-Tac-Toe

**Materials needed:** 2 plastic cups, white board, 2 dry-erase markers

*The goal of the game is to be the first team to successfully get three X's or three O's in a row on the tic-tac-toe board that is on the classroom white board. The students will be broken up into two teams that are an equal distance apart from the whiteboard. Both teams will form lines behind a desk that has a single plastic cup. The first player on each team will then try to flip the cup until it lands on the table facing downward. As soon as they get the cup to land downward*

*on the table, they run to the whiteboard and proceed to write an X or an O wherever they would like on the tic-tac-toe game board. They then run back to their line and tag the next person to attempt to flip the cup. The process continues until one team has gotten 3 in a row, like a standard game of tic-tac-toe.*

## TOOL TIME

### DEVOTION

**SAY:** Does anyone know what special holiday we celebrate this month? Easter! Easter is an amazing holiday because we get to celebrate something that is very significant for our faith! Now, I am not sure about you, but I love a great movie. The best movies have the best stories and they bring those stories to life--whether they are based on real events or completely made up.

One of my all-time favorite movies is called "Miracle" and it is about the 1980 USA Olympic hockey team. At the time that these Olympic games took place, the major hockey power of the day was the Russian National team. They were the heavy favorites to win the gold medal and no one was expected to come close to them--especially not the USA team.

What makes this story so crazy is that the odds were stacked against the USA team. As a matter of fact, the USA team was only allowed to have amateur players on their team. This means that they could not have any professional hockey players on their team. So, the USA hockey team was made up of a group of college hockey players from all across the country, and no one thought that they would have any success at the 1980 Olympic games.

Before the Olympic games began, the USA hockey team

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*Tool Time continued*

played some exhibition matches, which are basically practice games. Their final exhibition game was against the Russian National team, to which they lost by a score of 10 to 3. This loss was no surprise to anyone. But, what happened next surprised everyone.

When the two teams took the ice against each other at the actual Olympic games, the Russian team took an early lead. However, this early lead would not stand. With 10 minutes left in the game, the captain Mike Eruzione scored a goal and the USA team never looked back! The unlikely comeback happened!

I love comeback stories and that is one of my favorites, but there is one comeback story that beats all of them. The greatest comeback story of all time is Jesus coming back from the grave!

In Luke 24:6, some of Jesus's family members and closest friends were visiting his tomb and found that it was empty! They did not expect this at all, and they were greeted by some angels that told them *"He is not here, He has risen!"* The resurrection of Jesus came as a shock to everyone-- including those closest to Him. Their visit to His tomb was supposed to be filled with weeping and mourning, yet it turned into joy and celebration! Jesus was not dead, He was alive!

The resurrection of Jesus is the single greatest comeback in the history of the world because it has the power to change our eternal destiny. Because Jesus rose from the grave, He defeated sin and death. Now sin and death are powerless to Jesus, and Jesus didn't just die and rise again for Himself, He did it for our behalf too. So when we place our faith and trust in Jesus, sin and death no longer define us. Jesus took our place. All of the sin that we have ever done and the eternal death that we deserve, no longer have to define our stories. We can choose to place our faith in Jesus and live the abundant life that He offers us--an eternity with Him in heaven!

## PRACTICE

Let's spend some time practicing how we can share our faith with our friends. This month, our focus is on the Cross and the Resurrection.

**ASK:** Would someone be able to share the importance of the Cross and the Resurrection with us?

- The significance of the Cross is that God took our place.
- The significance of the Resurrection is that Jesus defeated sin and death.
- Now, we can have new life in Christ.

**SAY:** When we think about that, it helps us to remember that we find New Life when we choose to trust in Jesus. He took our place. Last month, we focused on our separation from God, and this month, we know that the solution to this separation is Jesus's death on the cross and His resurrection from the grave!

**Partner Up:** Take some time to find a partner or a small group around you and share about the importance of the cross and the resurrection. Here are some questions for you to think about:

1. Why do we need the cross?
2. Why did Jesus choose to die on the cross?
3. What are some verses in the Bible that talk about Jesus' death and resurrection?

## DIG IN

### PRAYER TIME

**SAY:** Now is the time to pray for our lost friends. Today, let's write down the name of one friend at this school that does not have a relationship with Jesus. Take the time to pray for this friend of yours by name. Pray specifically for three things:

1. That God would reveal Himself to this friend of yours.
2. That this friend would come to First Priority with you next week.
3. That you would have the courage to share the gospel with this friend of yours.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS (2 mins)

*Now is the time to make any announcements that your students should know about. A few things to consider would be your next meeting, student leader responsibilities, and any holidays or disruptions to your upcoming meetings. (Your faculty sponsor is a great resource for this).*

Other than that, see you next week for *Prepare Week!*



## BEAUTIFUL FEET

**MAIN POINT:** Our feet should bring the good news!

**SUPPLIES NEEDED:** Prayer cards, Invite Cards, Invite planning guide

**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 10:15, 1 Peter 3:18

### START UP

#### WELCOME (4 mins)

**SAY:** Hello everyone and welcome to First Priority! If this is your first time to First Priority, we are so glad you are here! Today is Prepare Week so we are going to play a game and have fun like usual. We are also going to prepare for next week's Invite Week and grow in our confidence to share our faith with our friends! Would anyone like to volunteer to start us off in prayer?

#### OPENING PRAYER

*(Ask for a student to volunteer to lead in prayer)*

#### GAME (8 mins) – Rock Paper Scissors Level Up

*The goal of this game is to be the first person to win a rock-paper-scissors match-up when you are at Level 5. Playing this game is simple. To start, have every student raise one finger in the air signifying that they are on "Level 1". Begin the game and allow each student to play a match against a person near them. The winner will move up to Level 2 and place two fingers over their head. The loser will stay at Level 1 and find another person to play against. The game continues with all of the students leveling up and finding another student to play against that is at their level until you have 2 people at Level 5. Then, bring those 2 students to the front of the room to play one final match against each other with everyone cheering for them!*

### TOOL TIME

#### DEVOTION

**READ:** Three words changed all of history. He is Risen! These words sealed Jesus' victory over sin and death.

Last week, we talked about the reaction of the women that found the stone to be rolled away and the grave to be empty when they went to leave spices at the tomb of Jesus. Some angels greeted them in Luke 24:6 and said "He is not here, He has risen!" Immediately, a day that was expected to be defined by sadness, mourning, and weeping, was completely transformed into shock, joy, and celebration!

The response of these women is something we can learn from. Immediately, the women went to tell the disciples this news. They didn't wait, they had no hesitation, they went immediately and told the disciples that Jesus had risen! I don't know exactly how it went down, but I tend to picture the women in a frantic state. At the very least, I know that these women had urgency! This was news that could not wait! They had an extra pep in their step and a fresh fire in their spirits! You know what I am talking about because you have experienced this before in some type of way.

I remember several moments like this in my life when I got really GOOD NEWS. I was so excited and I couldn't contain my joy. I was talking faster than my own thoughts could keep up with, I had a boost in my step, and I was overwhelmed with excitement. I had to tell my family, closest friends, and I wanted to make a post on social media so that everyone could hear the good news!

*Tool Time continued*

I know that you have had moments like this--even if it was finally figuring out that math equation that was giving you so much trouble, or passing that level in a video game that you had been trying for days, or maybe it was mastering that trick move in basketball and finally executing it in a game!

No matter what it is, good news is something that we celebrate and share! This is what God made us to do. Did you know that the word gospel actually means "good news"? This is no accident. In the same way that we like to share good news that we experience, God made us to share the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection with a world that is in desperate need of it!

In Romans 10:15, Paul quotes the prophet Isaiah and says this: *"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news."* Many people that brought good news in Paul's day had to travel a long way to bring the good news, so it is no surprise that Paul specifically mentions the feet of the messengers. Today, we don't have to travel anywhere to share the good news. Yet, we still have the responsibility to carry the good news, just like the people that Paul was talking about. We can share the good news of the gospel with our friends at school, and we can even do so by posting a video on social media sharing the good news of what Jesus has done for us! Today, I challenge you to be a person that excitedly shares the good news of Jesus no matter where you are and no matter who you are with!

## PRACTICE

Remember,

- The significance of the Cross is that God took our place.
- The significance of the Resurrection is that Jesus defeated sin and death.
- Now, we can have new life in Christ.

Let's spend some time having some volunteers share the good news gospel story with the group. Remember, this is

good news that we are excited about and eager to share!

## DIG IN

### PRAYER TIME

**SAY:** Next week will be an Invite Week at our First Priority club. The goal is for us to invite our friends to hear the gospel shared! Today, let's pray for three friends at this school that do not have a relationship with Jesus. Take a few moments to ponder who God is placing on your heart to invite to be at club next week, write down their names, and pray for those people with the person next to you.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS (2 mins)

*Now is the time to make any announcements that your students should know about. A few things to consider would be your next meeting, student leader responsibilities, and any holidays or disruptions to your upcoming meetings. (Your faculty sponsor is a great resource for this).*

Remember, next week is INVITE WEEK, so let's be inviting our friends to join us at our First Priority club so that they can hear the Good News gospel story!



# GOSPEL PRESENTATION

**MAIN POINT:** Sharing the Gospel

**SUPPLIES NEEDED:**

## START UP

### WELCOME (4 mins)

**SAY:** What's up everyone? How are we today? Glad that each of you are here today! It's a special day, as today is our Invite Week here at First Priority! Hopefully someone invited you to be here today, if not, we are extremely glad you are here as well.

Today, we are going to open our meeting with a word of Prayer.

### OPENING PRAYER

**SAY:** Dear God, thank you for giving us the opportunity to come and meet together and to talk about you and your love for us. I pray that the Gospel is presented clearly today and that people would listen and their lives would be changed forever because of it. In Jesus name, Amen.

**GAME (8 mins) – TIME FRAME:** Divide the group into two teams. Teams send up one contestant at a time to compete. Contestants will hear a famous event or occurrence in history. They have to write down the year in which they think the event occurred. The team who is the closest to the correct answer wins a point for their team. Give a bonus point if they guess the year exactly. The team with the most points at the end of the game wins.

#### Questions:

1. What year did the Pilgrims land on Plymouth Rock? (1620)

2. What year did Neil Armstrong land on the moon? (1969)

3. What year did Michelangelo finish painting the Sistine Chapel? (1512)

4. In what year was President Barack Obama born? (1961)

5. In what year did the Buffalo Bills lose their first Super Bowl

to the New York Giants? (1991)

6. In what year was the movie "The Lion King" released in movie theaters? (1994)

7. What year did Johannes Gutenberg first use a printing press? (1439)

8. What year did the Civil War begin? (1861)

9. In what year did California become a state? (1850)

10. In what year was the Statue of Liberty completed? (1886)

11. In what year was the first World Series of baseball played? (1903)

## TOOL TIME

### DEVOTION

*Introduce the speaker to share the Gospel. (If you don't have a guest speaker, you can use this presentation.)*

*Gospel presentation: **Do vs Done***

**SAY:** "Religion is spelled "D-O because it consists of the things people do to try to somehow gain God's forgiveness and favor. But the problem is that you never know when you've done enough. It's like being a salesman who knows he must meet a quota but never being told what it is. You can never be sure when you've actually done enough. Worse yet, the Bible tell us in Romans 3:23 that we never can do enough. We'll always fall short of God's perfect standard.

*But thankfully, Christianity is spelled differently. It's spelled 'D-O-N-E,' which means that what we could never do for ourselves, Christ has already done for us. He lived the perfect life we could never live, and He willingly died on the cross to pay the penalty we owed for the wrongs we've done.*



# GOSPEL PRESENTATION

**MAIN POINT:** Sharing the Gospel

**SUPPLIES NEEDED:** None

To become a real Christian is to humbly receive God's gift of forgiveness and to commit to following His leadership. When we do that, He adopts us into His family, and begins to change us from the inside out."

## DIG IN

### PRAYER TIME

**SAY:** Dear God, thank you for such a great day! Thank you for sending your son Jesus to pay the penalty that we deserved. Thank you for your incredible love for us! May any decisions that were made today be for your glory. In Jesus Name we pray, AMEN!

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*This is a time for you to give any important announcements about club meetings or school.*



## STAYING CONNECTED

**MAIN POINT:** Our relationship with Christ isn't a one-time decision!

**SUPPLIES NEEDED:** 16+ plastic cups

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 9:23

### START UP

#### WELCOME (2 mins)

**SAY:** Hello everyone and welcome to First Priority! If this is your first time to First Priority, we are so glad you are here! Today is Connect Week so we are going to play a game and have fun like usual, and we are also going to talk about ways that we can connect to Christ, the club, and the church! Would anyone like to volunteer to start us off in prayer?

#### OPENING PRAYER

*(If your student does not feel comfortable praying on their own, they can use this prayer)*

**SAY:** Dear God, you are amazing. Thank you for loving us and sending your Son to die for us! We are so grateful for your presence in our lives. Help us to grow in our courage and boldness to share the gospel with our friends. In Jesus name, Amen.

#### GAME (10 mins) – Cup Stack Relay

**Materials needed:** 16+ plastic cups

*How to play:* Divide all of the students into two teams and create two lines behind a desk or a table. Set up a pyramid of cups on the desk/table in front of both lines. The first student will take down the pyramid and put the cups into a single stack and the following student will turn the stack into a pyramid. This process continues until each student in the line has completed one of the two tasks in consecutive order. The goal is to be the first team to finish the relay!

**Note:** you can add variations to this game to make it more interesting! For example, you can make the teams run across the room, or make the students use only one hand while stacking, etc.

### TOOL TIME

#### DEVOTION

**SAY:** We cannot forget the truth about the cross that we have learned this month. 1 Peter 3:18 reads: "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit." This verse reminds us that Jesus Christ suffered on our behalf. That means that because of sin in your life and mine, we actually deserved to be the ones that died. Just as we have sinned, so has everyone else in the history of the world besides Jesus!

Did you know that there are over 7 billion people that exist in the world today? That is so many people, our minds can barely fathom it! Do you know who can? Jesus, because He died for every single one of them. Remember that verse we just read? It says that Christ died for the unrighteous. Let me make this simple for you: if Christ is not in your life, then you are not righteous.

There is nothing that you and I can do on our own to create righteousness in our lives. The Bible teaches us that all of us have sinned and because of this, we have a broken relationship with God (Romans 3:23). Yet, this verse that we are focusing on today reminds us that God chose us at our worst, because He loves us that much! Listen to what Paul wrote in Romans 5:8. It says this, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (NIV).

There are a lot of things in life that we want to finish quick to get them done. We are often eager to complete things that we don't enjoy quickly. Don't tell your teacher sponsor, but I'm sure some of you rush through your homework for the same reason!

*Tool Time continued*

Jesus' death on the cross isn't something that we can rush through. The eternal destinies of every person on this planet were dependent upon this moment. We can't rush through the cross because of the heavy weight and significance that it carries.

Our relationship with God isn't just a one time decision, it's a lifestyle! That is why we identify as Christ-followers, or Christians. We are embracing a whole new lifestyle of following Jesus, obeying His Word, and growing in relationship with Him.

That is why at First Priority, we always talk about the importance of being connected to Christ, the club, and the church. God didn't make you to go through this life on your own. Primarily, He made you to be in a relationship with Him. Secondly, He made you to be in relationships with people around you. Specifically, God wants you to be a part of a local church family where you can grow in your faith and build Godly friendships. Don't let your relationship with God be like a book on a shelf collecting dust. Choose to follow Jesus with everything you have today and the rest of your life!

### PRACTICE

**SAY:** This month, our focus is on the new life that God provides to us through Jesus' shed blood on the cross. Remember:

- The significance of the Cross is that God took our place.
- The significance of the Resurrection is that Jesus defeated sin and death.

Now, we can have new life in Christ.

Thinking about these things, let's practice sharing about what the cross means to us with each other. Then let's get the group together and have a volunteer share The Four with everyone!

### DIG IN

### PRAYER TIME

Provide the opportunity for students to share any prayer requests they have, specifically any next steps they need to take in their faith journey.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS *(2 mins)*

*Please take the time to allow students, sponsors, and mentors to share about their local churches and the time of their youth group's services. Allow everyone to share about any upcoming events happening at their local church.*