



QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT: How we answer this question sets the course of our lives here on earth and for all eternity

SUPPLIES NEEDED: Would You Rather questions... see pdf file: WYR questions, Ice Breaker - Invite Week

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 16:15, Mark 8:9, Luke 9:20

START UP

WELCOME (4 mins)

SAY: Welcome to our First Priority club... I'm glad that you are here! Today we continue our discussion of how we can have healthy conversations with our friends about Jesus. We call this week in our First Priority club 'Equip Week' because we learn more about the Gospel and what we believe so that we can clearly share what it is to be a Christian with a friend or family member.

OPENING PRAYER

SAY: God, we thank you that we can meet this week in our First Priority club to talk about your love for us. And we thank you that we can meet as a club for encouragement and support from other club members. Help us today to better understand why we need to let others know about your love for them and how they can experience you in a relationship through Jesus. Amen.

GAME (8 mins) – Would You Rather

Would You Rather questions... see pdf file: WYR questions, Ice Breaker - Invite Week

TOOL TIME

DEVOTION

SAY:

Did you know that getting someone to answer a personal question is a great way to learn something about them? Why do you think that is? (Maybe give club members an opportunity to answer that question). Answers to good questions help us to learn what someone knows...what

they think...or how they feel. We are able to communicate real care and concern for a friend when we ask sincere questions and then listen closely for how they answer.

Did you know that Jesus asked a lot of questions while He lived on earth? The New Testament is full of them...here's just a few:

'Can all of your worries add a single moment to your life?' Matthew 6:27

'He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid"?' Matthew 8:26

'What do you want me to do for you?' Mark 10:18

'Do you want to get well?' John 5:6

But here's maybe the most important question Jesus asked of his disciples, and the one we must answer ourselves:

'Who do you say that I am?' Matthew 16:15, Mark 8:29 and Luke 9:20

How we answer that question about Jesus is the most important thing in life. Our answer reveals:

- Who we believe Jesus to be
- What we believe He has done for us
- Why we needed Him to do it
- How we are trying to live our lives

How we answer this question sets the course of our lives here on earth and for all eternity. It is ultimately the question we want to ask our friends after we tell them of God's love for us, why we are separated from what He desires for us, and what Jesus has done so that we can experience God's presence in our lives.

Tool Time continued

PRACTICE

SAY: The question mark icon of 'The Four' signifies the importance of how we answer the question Jesus asks, 'Who do you say that I am?' It also implies these next questions, 'What are you going to do in response to who Jesus says that he is...what will you do with Him?'

Let's spend a few minutes retelling the stories that go with the 3 previous icons of 'The 4':

- God Loves Me
- I Live Apart from God
- Jesus Gave Everything for Me

(Divide into small groups and discuss/define these points for a brief time)

SAY:

The theme for this last EPIC cycle of the year is 'Finish Strong'. There is a focus verse that goes along with this theme:

READ: *2 Timothy 4:7, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."*

SAY: That phrase, 'I have finished the race' is important as we consider our responsibility to help our friends come into relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Not only are we called to take the time, however long it may be, to share the Gospel with a friend but as if we were in a long distance race, our goal is to cross the finish line. And we should remember that our responsibility is not to get a person to become a Christian, it is the work of the Holy Spirit. Crossing the finish line for us is to simply explain how someone comes to Christ.

We are going to watch this video 'Will I choose to follow Jesus?' Let's take some notes of what is shared with regards to how we receive Christ through faith so that we can discuss them afterwards. We may have to watch it a couple of times to get it all...but that's okay.

<https://thefour.com/en/#4>

PRAYER TIME

(Take a couple of minutes to allow students to give different requests and pray for the needs of the students and the group and for their friends that don't know Christ.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(2 mins)*

This is the place for the club to make any announcements for the upcoming week and/or month. This is a great spot to add student leaders to your team and give responsibilities to them. It is also the place to check on the upcoming school schedule for days off or breaks (your faculty sponsor is a great resource for this).



FINISH STRONG

MAIN POINT: Let's finish the year strong

SUPPLIES NEEDED: Prayer cards, Invite Cards, Invite Week planning guide, A

GAME!!!SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 4:7

START UP

WELCOME (4 mins)

SAY: Welcome to our First Priority club. We're glad that you are here! Our First Priority club has a cycle of meetings we call EPIC. This week the letter 'P' in EPIC is for Prepare Week. Our focus is on getting ready for what we believe God wants to do in and through us during the next days as we prepare for next week's special club meeting.

OPENING PRAYER

SAY: God, we thank you that we can meet this week in our First Priority club to talk about your plans for us. And we thank you that we can meet as a club for encouragement and support from other club members. Help us today as we are reminded how important the mission we've been called to fulfill and to share the good news of your love with our friends and the salvation they can find in Jesus Christ. Amen.

GAME (8 mins) – Rock Paper Scissors Level Up

Have everyone get into groups of three and have them decide which hand they're going to play. Have everyone play at once and eliminate the losing groups by having them sit down. Then bring the last group up and have them play against each other, or against the game.

TOOL TIME

DEVOTION

SAY:
You might remember that last week we talked a little about the middle phrase of our focus verse this month... I have finished the race. We just played a game where there were two sides opposing each other... and although each side wanted to win, no one thought of each other as en-

emies or were tempted to fight each other.

But did you know that each of us who call ourselves a Christian are really in a fight... that we do have an enemy not of flesh and blood? The Apostle Paul tells his young friend Timothy at the beginning of our focus verse that he has 'fought the good fight.' There's two points to think about here.

The first point is 'the good fight.' Think here, the right fight... fighting for the most important thing... the fight against evil... the fight for winning a friend to Jesus Christ. We can't get distracted with the little things that are of less importance... the things that don't matter for eternity's sake.

The second thing to consider is how the young apostle might have fought... what might he have used as tools, think weapons in battle. He used the Gospel as 'a sword of truth.' When we share the Gospel we tell the eternal truth of God's love and His plan for man's salvation. We trust that this truth will win over the false philosophies that are planted in the heart and mind of a friend or family member. But not only do we have the weapon of the Gospel, we also have another... and that is prayer. And the key here is that we believe that when we pray for someone to receive Jesus as their Savior, God can open their heart and mind to receive the truth of the Gospel. God does this work, of course, but He uses us sharing the Gospel by using a tool like 'The FOUR' and our sincere prayers to fulfill His plan.

That's why we are now going to move into a time of practicing how we can share the Gospel. We're going to plan when we're going to share it and we're going to pray for friends that they will receive it.

*Tool Time continued***PRACTICE****THE FOUR**

SAY: Last week we added the final element of “The Four” which is the...? Do you remember the points and verses for that part? Can we cover all four parts in the style of having a conversation? Here is a reminder of the four symbols of “The Four” and what they mean:



The Heart:
God loves me



Division:
I live apart from God



Cross:
Jesus gave everything for me



Question Mark: Will I choose to follow Jesus?

Now, let's have everyone pair up with a partner and practice talking through “The Four” with each other.

DIG IN**PLAN****Invite Meeting Leadership:**

“Leaders are always preparing others to lead”. First Priority is not just another block of the school day, it is an exciting and energetic club! First Priority is all about student leadership. Right now, give students the opportunity to lead in these ways so that next week can be an EPIC Invite Week:

1. Leader for social media post/Remind messages
2. Leader for playing music
3. Leader for games
4. Leader for door holding and seating engineers
5. Leader for greeting others as they walk in
6. Leader for holding signs and welcome team

Invite Cards/Social Media:

Have your mentor or teacher sponsor get out your club Invite cards. Now, have everyone in the club help write down the correct day, time, and meeting location for next week's INVITE WEEK on their invite cards.

SAY: Each student write down the name of a friend that you will invite to INVITE WEEK. Next, let's take a moment to invite everyone to our First Priority club through our social media accounts.

PRAY**Prayer Cards**

SAY: Now is the time for each student to take a prayer card and write the name of 3 friends from this campus that they know don't have a relationship with Jesus. By writing these names down, you are committing to pray for these friends by name and invite them to next week's INVITE WEEK! Spend some time breaking into small groups and praying over your friends by name.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (2 mins)

This is the place for the club to make any announcements for the upcoming week and/or month. This week it will be especially important to find a way to honor seniors and pass on leadership to underclassmen. Lastly, how will you stay connected over the summer? Make sure to allow students to gather contact information with each other to stay connected (phones, email, and social media).



GOSPEL PRESENTATION

MAIN POINT: Sharing the Gospel

SUPPLIES NEEDED: None

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) – *Sit Down If: ask the entire group to stand. Tell them to sit down when the statement characterizes them and remain seated. Encourage them to be honest. If you have trouble because most are not sitting down, give them general characteristics ("Sit down if you are under 15, if you have on white socks, if you are in love," etc.).*

Questions:

You haven't used deodorant in a week ... two days.

You have never worn the same socks two days in a row.

You sing in the shower.

You drive a Volkswagon.

Your belly button is an outie.

You haven't taken a shower in a week.

You didn't use mouthwash today.

You are a girl and you didn't shave your legs today.

You are a guy and you didn't shave your legs today.

Sit Down Mixer Number 2

Sit down if:

Your nose is crooked.

You believe each person should pay expenses on the first date.

You still suck your thumb.

Your socks don't match.

You are ticklish.

You wear baby doll pajamas.

You weigh less than 100 pounds.

You're dating someone, but wish you weren't.

You are good-looking but not conceited.

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: **Good Person Test:***



GOSPEL PRESENTATION

MAIN POINT: Sharing the Gospel

SUPPLIES NEEDED: None

SAY: Do you think you are a good person? (Yes or No)

Have you ever told a lie? (Yes or No) What does that make you? If someone told you a lie, what would you call them?

That makes you a liar. We might not like that word - we like to say we're 'just human', or that we 'stretched the truth'. But the truth is - if we've told a lie, we're a liar.

Have you ever taken something that didn't belong to you? (Yes or No)

That makes you a thief. It sounds harsh, but the truth is - if we've ever stolen anything, we're a thief.

Have you ever looked at another person with lust or desire?

Jesus said, that makes you an adulterer. Jesus said in Matthew 5 that to look at someone with lust is to have committed adultery with them.

Have you ever been angry with another person? (Yes or No)

Jesus said, that makes you a murderer. Jesus said in Matthew 5 that whoever is angry with his brother without cause is guilty of murder.

You may not realize this.....but those are just some of the Ten Commandments. By your own admission and the standard of God's law, the Ten Commandments, you are a lying, thieving, murderous, adulterer at heart. And you have to face God on Judgment Day!

If God were to judge you by His law, would you be innocent or guilty? Be honest with yourself and God.

Based on your guilty verdict, would you go to heaven or hell? The Bible says that all murderers, adulterers, thieves, and liars will have their place in the lake of fire. - Revelation 21:8.

The Bible offers hope.

II Peter 3:9 says that God is "not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

Imagine you are standing in front of a judge, GUILTY of serious crime. All the evidence has been presented and there is no doubt of your guilt. Your apologies and good works cannot erase your crimes; therefore you must be punished. The fine for our crime is \$250,000 and you have no money.

The judge is about to pass sentence when someone you don't even know rushes in and pays your fine for you! The court accepts the money and declares that you are free to go.

That is exactly what God did for you on the cross 2000 years ago.

Romans 5:8, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Jesus loved you so much that he paid the penalty for your sin, so you wouldn't have to!

What must you do? Repent of your sin and trust in Jesus Christ as your only Hope.

DIG IN

PRAYER TIME

SAY: Dear God, thank you for our time together today! Thank you for your son Jesus who was willing to take my sin and shame upon himself so we might have life everlasting. AMEN!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



CROSSING THE FINISH LINE

MAIN POINT: Why is 'keeping the faith' so important?

SUPPLIES NEEDED: A few blankets or sheets or something similar in size and flexibility

SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 4:7

START UP

WELCOME (2 mins)

SAY: Welcome to our First Priority club... it's awesome to have you all here for our last Connect Club meeting of the year. Yes, today is the last of our EPIC cycle club meetings and we'll discuss later how we want to finish the year... But first, we turn our focus to the importance of CONNECTION. So let's get things started with an opening prayer...

OPENING PRAYER

SAY: God, we thank you that we can meet this week in our First Priority club for this, our final Connect Week of the year. We ask that you'll be with us as we talk about how important it is to continue being connected with you each day of our lives. We thank you that you give us good churches and this First Priority club that helps us remain connected to you. Thank you for our faculty sponsor. Thank you that we have a space to meet here on campus. Thank you God for your love. In Jesus name, Amen.

GAME (10 mins) – *Turning over a new leaf!*

You'll need a few blankets or sheets or something similar in size and flexibility. Number people off into groups of four or five. Lay the blankets flat and have each team stand on top of their blanket like it's a tiny island. The goal of this exercise is to figure out how to flip the blanket over without letting anyone on the team touch the floor (pretend the floor is lava). If one person falls off the island, the whole team must restart. The first team to flip their blanket over wins. It's a great problem-solving exercise that typically involves a lot of laughter and rolling around.

TOOL TIME

CONNECTED TO GOD, CHURCH AND FIRST PRIORITY CLUB

(Mentor: recruit a student and help them to share their story of how they either got connected to God through Salvation in Jesus, how a student may have gotten a friend connected to their church or why it's important to be connected to this First Priority club.)

SAY: Each Connect Week, we plan to have a student from our club tell their story of how they got connected to God, or how He used them to help connect a friend to God, their church or this club.

DEVOTION

SAY:

Our theme for these last few weeks has been 'finish strong'. Our focus verse (*read the verse at the top of this guide*) refers to finishing the race... but there is a condition to crossing the finish line... 'keeping the faith'. Think about a relay race. There are four runners that run four separate legs of a race in a sequence of four shorter races. But here's the catch: a relay team may have the fastest four runners on the field, but if they don't cross the finish line without having passed the baton off to each other and the final runner having it in their hand, they don't win! That's crazy! They could win in speed but lose the race! Paul here tells us that he has finished the race, but with something... 'having kept the faith'.

What does the Apostle Paul mean by this? Is he suggesting that he kept his salvation? That it might have been something that he could have dropped, or lost? Let's not look at it that way... let's rather consider this perspective that comes from John 15:

READ: *John 15:5-8 "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit."*

Tool Time continued

For apart from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father."

SAY: There is a phrase repeated several times here and throughout all of this chapter and it is this, 'remain in me'. Another way of saying it would be, 'stay connected to me'... have a personal, ongoing, life-giving and fulfilling relationship with 'me'... Jesus. That's what it means to keep the faith... keep holding on to Jesus and let Him keep holding on to you as you both cross the finish line together.

Now, real quick, here are two more verses for us to think about as we move into our discussion time and we consider how important it is to be connected:

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."*

READ: *Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them."*

PRACTICE

(The leader of this meeting may break the club into small groups for discussions, or make it a large group discussion activity)

Let's discuss these questions:

- Have you experience in your life a time when you felt you were seriously connected to God and other times less so? If so, how did you feel in that isolation from Him? What led you to move back towards Him? How did you feel after coming back to Him?
- What are some things that God has given us as ways to stay connected to Him?
- How has being connected to your church helped you to stay connected to God?
- How has being connected to this First Priority club helped you stay connected to God?
- Do you know anyone who needs to get connected or is struggling to remain connected to God? If so, what do you think God would have you do to help them?

DIG IN

PRAYER TIME

Since this is the last official EPIC club meeting, spend some time letting students share prayer requests. Invite them to share concerns about exams or projects that are due. Ask if there are any concerns about what the summer holds for them or their family. Be sure to list these requests on the board. Maybe have someone assigned to prayer specifically for each request.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (2 mins)

This is the place for the club to make any announcements about 'End of Year' club party plans. This is a great opportunity to have student leaders for next year's club fulfill roles and responsibilities. This week it will be especially important to find a way to honor seniors. Lastly, how will you stay connected over the summer? Make sure to allow students to gather contact information with each other to stay connected (phones, email, and social media). And make sure all returning club members are ready to be a part of NEXT LEVEL LEADERSHIP over the summer!