



HOPE WEEKLY



**THE
CONVERSATION**

WITH GOD



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Planning Guide

Help Week:

Promo:

Welcome:
Have Help Tool ready and pass out.

Host:

Speaker:

Follow-Up:

Overcome Week:

Promo:

Welcome:
Choose game or video.

Host:

Speaker:

Follow-Up:

Prepare Week:

Promo:

Welcome:
Have Faith Story sheets ready and pass out.

Host:

Student Stories Speaker:

Follow-Up:

Engage Week:

Promo:

Welcome:
Have response cards ready and hand out.

Host:
Have game or video ready.

Speaker:

Follow-Up:

NOTES

HELP WEEK “THE CONVERSATION WITH GOD”



Help Week

Helping each other believe and share the Gospel story.

Practice being with Jesus through Scripture, prayer, and a practical way to believe and share the Gospel in everyday life.



Promo:

Remember to invite people.



Welcome:

Remember to create a welcoming environment.



Host

”Welcome to First Priority, we are glad you are here! This week is Help Week and our goal is to use Scripture and a tool to help us share our faith. Let’s start things off with prayer.”



Pray

Introduce Speaker: We are glad you are here! Today my friend _____ is going to talk about Jesus being the only way to God and how you can use the Help Tool to share that with others.



Speaker



Help Tool: One Way Sticker (Avery 5498 1 ¼” stickers)

Look over the Help Tool before the club and pass out the “One Way Stickers” to everyone that comes in. The Gospel discussion and Help Tool are designed to give you a basic understanding to believe, live, and share the Gospel.



Gospel Discussion

“The Conversation with God”



Host



Announcements

Next week is Overcome Week! Start thinking now about 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

Make sure you understand the Help Tool and Gospel discussion ahead of time.





Highlight Scripture

John 14:6

"Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."



Explain (Give context)

When you are going on a trip, who is in charge of putting the destination in the GPS? Have you ever noticed there are different routes? The first route is the fastest, second is the shortest, and the third avoids the highway. Which way do you choose? Fastest, shortest, or avoiding highways? (Allow a couple of students to share their choice and why).

Another destination we get to choose is who we will follow now and forever. One of Jesus' followers, named John, wrote the Scripture we read earlier. He told us about a time that Jesus was talking with His disciples about where He was going after His death and resurrection. One of the disciples, Thomas, asked this question, "We have no idea where you are going. How can we know the way?" to which Jesus responded, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

If we don't know the way, it is our nature to follow someone that does. Our culture tells us that there are many ways to God; be a good person, do good things, go to church, and the list goes on. Jesus tells us that His way is not "one of many ways", but "the way" to a relationship with God now and forever. Unlike the GPS with many routes, there is only one way into a relationship with God forever – believing, trusting, and following Jesus. How do we begin a relationship with Jesus, both now and forever? It all begins with a conversation.

Acts 2:21 says, "And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Acts 4:12 says, "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven among men by which we must be saved."



Apply

Now that we know that Jesus is the only way to God, how do we use the "One Way" Help Tool to start a conversation with God and share the Good News? Place the sticker on your folder, binder, phone case, or item that is visible to others. When your classmates, teachers, or parents ask you what the sticker means, you can respond with excitement, "I am so glad you asked" and share about our key verse, John 14:6. Tell how Jesus is the "one way" to a relationship with God now and forever. Then, share your story of beginning a relationship with Jesus.



Respond (Groups of 3-5)

This is the first time some of you have been to First Priority and maybe even your first time hearing about how to begin a conversation with God. So, today we want to give you an opportunity to respond and ask questions. Break into groups and talk about what you heard today and practice starting the conversation with the ONE-WAY Help Tool.



Bottom Line

Jesus is the way to God.



Disciple Tip

Being with Jesus is the goal of being a disciple.



HELP WEEK TOOL "THE CONVERSATION WITH GOD"



OVERCOME WEEK “THE CONVERSATION WITH GOD”



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 God.



Speaker

Gospel Discussion

“Overcoming Fear of the Conversation with God”



Host



Announcements

Next week is Prepare Week! Start thinking now about 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

Take time to read the Gospel discussion and see how you can relate.



Gospel Discussion

“Overcoming Fear of the Conversation with God”

We are really excited about what God is going to do at our school this year, and we are also excited that you are coming along for the journey! Since this year's theme is "The Conversation", we thought it would be best to start by talking about the most important conversation we could possibly have in our lifetime. That conversation is with the Creator of the universe and it will completely change your life.



Highlight Scripture

Romans 10:9-10

"Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."



Explain (Give context)

Do you realize that God created you to have a relationship with Him now and forever? Although, something has created a separation between all of us and God. That something is called sin. Sin has broken the peaceful relationship that we had with God. This broken relationship is called being dead in sin and separated from God forever (Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"). Because of that, we all need a savior - someone to rescue us and bring us back into a right relationship with God. There is Good News! This is the whole reason Jesus sacrificed Himself on a cross designed by the Romans, so that He would defeat death by taking the punishment for our sin and offer us the gift of eternal life - now and forever (Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. "). To receive this gift, we must have a very important conversation with God. This conversation doesn't need to be fancy or impressive - it just needs to be honest and specific. We need to be HONEST by admitting that we aren't perfect and are lost. We need to be SPECIFIC by asking for forgiveness, committing to follow Jesus, and asking Him to be the Lord of our lives. You can also be specific by thanking God for the cross and asking Him for eternal life.



Apply

All year long we are going to talk about intentional conversations, and we don't want to take for granted that everyone here has talked to God about this. Going to church, growing up in a family of Christians, or doing Christian things does not make any of us followers of Christ. We must realize that we have an invitation to follow Him, and we must choose to personally accept or reject that invitation.



Respond (Groups of 3-5)

Right now, let's break into groups. Each of you can take turns praying honestly and specifically like I described, and if you have never asked God to save you, this would be a great opportunity to do that. You can also ask the person praying with you if you need help.



Bottom Line

Jesus is inviting you to have a conversation with Him today.



Disciple Tip

Becoming like Jesus is the goal of being a disciple of Jesus.



PREPARE WEEK "THE CONVERSATION WITH GOD"



Prepare Week

Preparing your story of receiving the Gospel.

Understand the value of your faith story and **practice** sharing it.



Promo:

Remember to invite people.



Welcome:

Remember to create a welcoming environment.



Host

"Welcome to First Priority, we are glad you are here! This week is Prepare Week, so our goal is to hear faith stories about how others came to know Christ and get insight about how we tell our own story. Let's kick things off in prayer."



Pray

Say something like: "Today, my friend, _____, is going to share about how they came to know Christ. It takes a lot of courage to stand up front and talk about Jesus, so please be respectful and listen as they share."

Student Faith Stories

Student Story #1 _____

Student Story #2 _____

Say something like: "Thank you for sharing, _____. Now let's take a minute to share some positive feedback about how they did. Also, feel free to ask them questions about their story."

Hand Out Faith Story Sheets

Today we are going to pass out a worksheet called "Your Faith Story". We are going to read aloud each step, explain, and give examples about how to create each part of your story. Please write down each part of your story and turn it in to a Student Leader. Please let a Student Leader know if you would like to share your story this year.

Create space to hand out "Your Faith Story" sheet and provide time to work on it.



Announcements

We are thankful for our speakers sharing today and really happy that you are here! Next week is Engage Week so invite as many people as you can to come and hear the Good News of Jesus.



Pray



Follow-Up

Be available to talk or pray with people.
Ask how you can walk with them on their Jesus journey.



Leader Tip

Take time to help the person sharing their faith story prepare and practice well.



YOUR FAITH STORY

Your story is one of the most important tools you have been given by God to share the Gospel with the world around you! The most powerful part of a testimony is explaining the "WHY" behind your decision to follow Christ. Before sharing your story for the first time, make sure to write it down, practice out loud, and pray that God would use your story as you share it!

1. START WITH A KEYWORD

The first step in writing down your faith story is choosing what keywords describe your life before Christ. Below is a list of emotions. Circle two or three that adequately describe how you felt as a result of a problem you faced without Christ in your life. You are not limited to this list, so feel free to choose a keyword of your own! This part helps keep your story compelling and on track.

alienated	depressed	hopeless	uncertain
alone	distrusting	hurt	unforgiving
angry	doubtful	insecure	unloved
apathetic	fearful	lonely	worthless
ashamed	frustrated	lost	
bitter	guilty	prideful	
confused	heartbroken	rejected	

2. SET UP THE BACKGROUND

Now describe the situation in which you came to face this problem and why your keyword describes the way you felt. It is more important to be honest than dramatic. This helps people to relate with your story personally and understand why we need God in our lives. If you need more space, continue on the back.

3. SHARE HOW JESUS ENTERED YOUR STORY

Now describe how you came to know Jesus. Be sure to describe that moment (or that process) if you can with adjectives that show how meaningful and impactful it was for you. Try to describe how Jesus touched your heart, and how you responded (such as asking Him to be your Lord and Savior). This part challenges people's idea of what God is like.

4. STATE THE IMPACT OF CHRIST ON YOUR LIFE

Now describe how Christ impacted your problem and your life. Use the emotion opposite of your keyword and share how Christ either reversed your problem or is continually giving you the power to overcome. This is the part that inspires your hearers to place their hope in Christ.



Disciple Tip

You are a living witness that Jesus is alive.

ENGAGE WEEK “THE CONVERSATION WITH GOD”



Engage Week

Engage your school with the Gospel story.

Do what Jesus did by sharing the Gospel story with your friends through words and actions.



Promo:

Remember to invite people.



Welcome:

Remember to create a welcoming environment.



Host

"Welcome to First Priority, we are glad you joined us! Today we are going to start off with a game to get to know each other better.



Game

Choose a game or funny video to play for 3-5 minutes to get people laughing and talking.

Say something like: "Today, my friend, _____, is going to share something that is very important to them. Please listen respectfully as it takes a lot of courage to speak in front of others. You all were given a "student response card" that looks like this (hold up a sample card) when you came in. Hold on to it and we will explain what it is for later."



Speaker



Gospel Discussion

“Good News”



Host

Invitation Options

1. Response Cards: If everyone would take a minute and think about what was shared today. If you decided to begin a relationship with Jesus today, then on your response card, simply check that box. Let us know so we can connect with you and answer any questions you may have. 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 connect with you.

2. Talk/Pray with Someone: If you would like to talk with a Student Leader or have them pray with you, they would be glad to! Just catch one of them before you leave and let them know what impacted you today and how they can pray for you.



Announcements

Next week is Help 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

Prepare and lead Engage Week remembering that this is someone's first impression of FP and the Gospel.



Today, I am sharing with you some good news. No matter what you have done or what you have been through, there is HOPE. Let me tell you about it.

1. God created our world to be a place of beauty and meaning.

He created each of us with purpose and identity. Every person you see in this room has been designed by God. Maybe you have a hard time seeing that. It's obvious - our world isn't perfect. We have wars and disease and natural disasters. You might also struggle to see the beauty or worth in yourself or in another person who has hurt you.

2. God's good plan was broken when sin entered the world.

Sin is anything - thought, word, action, or attitude - that breaks the peace, beauty, and meaning that God designed for us. All of us, at some point in our lives have made the decision to live independent of God's beautiful design. This has caused our relationship with God, others, and even our own lives to be broken.

3. Here's where the HOPE comes in.

God loves us and wants us to live in a relationship with Him. A relationship full of beauty and meaning. John 3:16 tells us what God did to bridge the gap and heal what sin has broken in our lives.

"For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son so that anyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

4. Jesus took the consequences for all of the things you have ever done or will do that have broken His beautiful and meaningful design.

He took the consequences of sin through death by crucifixion even though he was completely innocent. That is not the end of the story though! He didn't stay dead. He was raised to life by the power of God after three days. His resurrection was proof that He was exactly who He claimed to be. God in the flesh who came to save us from our sins. Because of the resurrection of Jesus, we can have a relationship with God now and forever!

5. God wants a relationship with you.

Jesus overcame what sin has broken. He wants to restore you to a life designed with beauty and meaning. Jesus is inviting each of us to trust in Him because of the sacrifice He made for us on the cross. By trusting in the sacrifice Jesus made and confessing your faith in Him, you can begin a relationship with God now and forever. Making Jesus the authority of your life is the beginning of a life filled with beauty and meaning - the life God designed.

Here is a prayer you can use: God, I thank You for Your plan. I know that I have lived independent of your design for my life. I thank You for making a way for me to have a relationship with You. I accept the sacrifice of Jesus on my behalf and choose to follow Him now and forever.



Disciple Tip

Do what Jesus did by inviting others to your table.

STUDENT RESPONSE CARD

My response to the gospel message today
(please only check one):

- I want to start following Jesus **today**.
- I have **questions** about following Jesus.
- I am **already** a follower of Jesus.
- I would like to get connected to a youth group.

My Name _____

Cell # _____

Do you attend a church? _____

Who invited you to First Priority 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 message today
(please only check one):

- I want to start following Jesus **today**.
- I have **questions** about following Jesus.
- I am **already** a follower of Jesus.
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- I am **already** a follower of Jesus.
- I would like to get connected to a youth group.

My Name _____

Cell # _____

Do you attend a church? _____

Who invited you to First Priority 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 message today
(please only check one):

- I want to start following Jesus **today**.
- I have **questions** about following Jesus.
- I am **already** a follower of Jesus.
- I would like to get connected to a youth group.

My Name _____

Cell # _____

Do you attend a church? _____

Who invited you to First Priority 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.

FOLLOW-UP GUIDE

Following up with those who just committed their lives to Jesus or have questions is equally as important as sharing the Gospel! This guide will give you a few pointers on how to follow-up correctly.

SIX THINGS TO DO WHEN FOLLOWING UP

1. Determine how many and what kind of follow-up has been requested.

As soon as possible, read through the response cards after you have collected them and let your Coach know how many people committed their lives to Christ and how many students have questions or want someone to follow-up with them.

2. Organize the response card information.

Write down on the follow-up chart the names, response, and contact info of everyone who made decisions and requested to talk with someone.

3. Make contact within 24 hours with everyone who responded to the Gospel on Engage Week. This can be done by text message, personal conversation at school or social media, just remember to check with your parents for permission before contacting someone you do not know. The initial message should be something like this:

"Hello ____! My name is _____ and I saw that you came to First Priority club this week! We are really excited you came, and we hope you'll come back next week. I also noticed that you marked on your response card that you [prayed to begin a relationship with Christ] -or- [wanted to talk with someone about the Gospel] so I wanted to ask how I could help you. If you have questions about their responses, you can contact your Campus Coach for guidance."

4. Invite them to church! If they were invited by a friend to First Priority...

Ask that friend to invite them to youth group this week, since they are more likely to attend church with someone they know. If they plan to go to church for the first time, you can also ask your Coach to notify the Student Pastor that they will be having a new guest this week! Make sure to discard any response cards that you will not be needing for follow-up.

5. Offer a free Bible to those who prayed to receive Christ if Bibles are available through your First Priority club or church.

Make sure one is available before you offer and make sure they receive it if they ask for one.

6. Share Stories

Share any cool new salvation stories and new local youth group members with your Coach! He or she will want to celebrate with you about what God is doing through your club!

Student Name	Started following Jesus today.	Questions about following Jesus.	Wants to connect to youth group.	Follow-up dates and notes.
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				