



HOPE WEEKLY



**THE CONVERSATION WITH
FAMILY**

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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:

 Host:

Choose game or video ready.

 Speaker:

 Follow-Up:

Prepare Week:

 Promo:

 Welcome:
Have Faith Story Sheets ready and pass out.

 Host:

 Student Speakers:

 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 FAMILY”



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 that 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 how to talk to your family about Jesus.”



Speaker



Help Tool: Candy Cane and Candy Cane Handout

Practice the Help Tool before the club and **pass out the Candy Cane and Candy Cane Handout** to everyone who 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 Family”



Host



Announcements

Next week is Overcome 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

Create an environment where everyone can belong.





Gospel Discussion

"The Conversation with Family"



Highlight Scripture

Luke 19:9

"For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."



Explain (Give context)

When was the last time you were excited to see someone? Have you seen someone famous up close? What did you have to do to see them? (Wait for a response).

Maybe you pushed through the crowd, climbed on top of something, or screamed their name. Guess what, people would do those exact same things to see Jesus. In Luke chapter 19 verses 3 through 5, we read about a tax collector who climbs a tree to see Jesus. "And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd, he could not, because he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today."

Did you catch that? Jesus invited Himself over! This week, the goal is to help you start the conversation with your family and there is no better way to do that than to invite Jesus over. Let's read the rest of

Zacchaeus' encounter with Jesus. "So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully....".

And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Jesus invites himself to dinner and the whole household gets saved! What if we took the challenge, climbed to the top of the tree, and decided that reaching our family starts with us. Do you take your relationship with Jesus home with you? Today we are going to use the Candy Cane Story as a help tool to share the Gospel with our family.



Apply

(See "Candy Cane" handout). Many of you have candy canes in your home during Christmas, so why not use them to share the Gospel with your family?

The **shape** of the candy cane reminds us of a "Shepherd's Staff". In John chapter 10 verse 14 it says, "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,".

The "**Red Stripe**" on the candy cane represents the blood that Jesus shed to forgive us of our sins.

"but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." We need forgiveness because in Romans chapter 3 verse 23, we are reminded that we ALL have sinned. "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,".

The "**White Candy**" represents the forgiveness of sins and clean heart. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." **1 John 1:19** When the candy cane is **turned upside down, it represents a "J" for Jesus!** To begin a relationship with Him, we must do what Romans chapter 10 verse 9 says, "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."



Respond (Groups of 3-5)

Take turns practicing how to share the Candy Cane Gospel with your group. Take one home and share it with your family.



Bottom Line

God will use you to bring Good News to your family.



Disciple Tip

Disciples are inviting everyone to be a part of God's family.



HELP TOOL - CANDY CANE GOSPEL
"THE CONVERSATION WITH FAMILY"

CANDY CANE GOSPEL

SHEPHERD'S STAFF
JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD
JOHN 10:14



→ **RED STRIPES**
REPRESENT THE BLOOD THAT JESUS SHED ON THE CROSS TO FORGIVE US OF OUR SINS
Romans 5:8

→ **WHITE CANDY**
REPRESENTS THE FORGIVENESS OF SIN AND JESUS GIVING US A CLEAN HEART
1 JOHN 1:9



"J" FOR JESUS

YOU CAN BEGIN A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS TODAY BY CONFESSING YOUR SIN AND BELIEVING IN HIM
Romans 10:9

CANDY CANE GOSPEL

SHEPHERD'S STAFF
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OVERCOME WEEK “THE CONVERSATION WITH FAMILY”



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 Family.



Speaker

Gospel Discussion

“Overcoming Fear of the Conversation with Family”



Host



Announcements

Next week is Prepare 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

Great leaders don't just tell you what to do, they show you how it is done.



Gospel Discussion

”Overcoming Fear of the Conversation with Family”



Highlight Scripture

Mark 3:21

“And when his (Jesus’) family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, ‘he is out of his mind.’”



Explain (give context)

Some of us have the blessing of living in a home where everyone is a follower of Jesus, but some do not. This can be a hard fact to deal with every day if your parents or siblings do not know Jesus Christ. Just as we are to share the Gospel with our classmates, we also have the responsibility to share the good news with our families if they do not know Jesus. Even though Jesus had the challenge of his own family not believing, he never let that distract him from the mission of sharing the good news. So we should follow the same example as Jesus; stay focused on the mission.



Apply

To introduce a parent, sibling, aunt, uncle, cousin, or other family member to Christ, we need to do a few things. First, PRAY for their heart. Salvation is not impossible for anyone, no matter how far we may think they are from God. Asking God to soften their heart to the truth is one way we can watch the Lord do awesome things! Second, PRAY for the right time to speak and what to say. Sharing the Gospel with family can make us extremely nervous, but if we ask God for the right timing and words, we will be very surprised at how the conversation turns out! Finally, PRAY for God to draw them to himself. Nothing we do can compare to the power of God, so it’s better to let Him do His thing! The rest is simply obeying Jesus in the small things.



Respond (Groups of 3-5)

“Here is an example of how you could start a conversation with a family member:
(Dad, mom, brother, or sister): “I know you aren’t really into things like church and religion, but I’m learning so much in my journey with Jesus that I just wanted to share with you why I’ve changed so much recently. I have joy for the first time in my life and I’d really love to share the reason behind it if you are open to talk about it.”



Bottom Line

Jesus can save anyone, even your family.



Disciple Tip

The Gospel gives us a new view of who we are created to be and become.



PREPARE WEEK “THE CONVERSATION WITH FAMILY”



Prepare Week

Preparing your story of receiving the Gospel.

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



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

Elevator Testimonies

Say something like: Today, we are going to learn how to tell our story in the time it would take to give an "Elevator Pitch."

1. Grab a friend and time each other telling your story in 30 seconds.
2. Next, time each other telling your story in 1 minute.
3. Now, time each other telling your story in 2 minutes.
4. Finally, take turns giving your story in 30 seconds again.

The goal of this is to practice sharing your story quickly with someone else so you can figure out the main points of your story. Remember, sharing your story is about getting to know each other and sharing the Gospel.

Sample Questions:

What grade are you in and what things do you enjoy?

What is something funny about yourself?

What is your favorite food?

What are some of your goals in life?

What is something that is a major struggle for you?

Are you a follower of Jesus?

If so, when and how did you become a follower of Jesus?

What is the one thing you wish everyone knew about Jesus?



Announcements

Thank you everyone for being here today! 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.



Promo:

Remember to invite people.



Welcome:

Remember to create a welcoming environment.



Leader Tip

Try to include everyone without being awkward. This could be a chance to get to know someone.



ENGAGE WEEK “THE CONVERSATION WITH FAMILY”



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 that 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

“The Cross Equals Love”



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 that 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 to 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

The greatest leaders are servant leaders. Jesus modeled servant leadership for us.





Gospel Discussion

“The Cross Equals Love”

Who is Jesus?

The questions we like to ask about God are endless: “Is God real?” “Is what we know about Him really true?” and “What does He have to do with my life?” just to list a few.

The Bible may not answer every question about God and will often lead us to ask more, but one of the areas in which the Bible is quite definite, is the answer to the question: who is Jesus? C.S Lewis, a well-known Christian author wrote of Jesus, “Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

Jesus commends the Apostle Peter’s confession of Him as “the Messiah, the Son of the Living God” (Matthew 16:16), because Jesus knew that who He is – and could be to us – has the power to change our lives. Jesus is so unique because two worlds collide in him: Heaven and Earth, the Divine and the human.

Yes, His Name is the name above all names, and his star-breathing, storm-calming, miracle-working power is second to none. Yet, He is also the human Jesus, the personal friend who knows what we are going through and cares about us. That’s why the Bible also calls Him “Immanuel”, God with us.

Jesus Cares

So does Jesus care about you? Yes He does! How do we know this? Often we disqualify ourselves from God’s love because of our history, our failures and shortcomings. Sin has separated us from God and we can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. So how can we accept what we have not earned? The Bible says that nothing in all of creation can separate us from the Love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. And to accept God’s love is to trust His patient, forgiving and gracious stance towards us. Only He has the power to free us from guilt, shame and condemnation to give us a life of wholeness. All we have to do is turn to Him.

A New Beginning

To be made whole, or to be saved is to submit to God and His plan and purpose for our lives. It is a turning from our old ways and turning to Jesus, to ask Him for forgiveness from our sins and to give us new life in Him. Romans 10:9 says that “If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Salvation is God’s free gift to us and we become His children. It is an acceptance into the family of God and it is an empowerment to live life fully with the purpose of reflecting God to the rest of His creation.

Pray: God, I know that I have made mistakes and failed to be the person that I want to be and the person you created me to be. Now I realize that what Jesus did on the cross equals the love that You have for me. I am choosing to trust You and follow You now and forever because I now know You will love and accept me. In Jesus name, Amen.



Disciple Tip

Jesus taught us that everyone is family through the Gospel.



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.

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(please only check one):

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(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.				