



HOPE WEEKLY



THE CONVERSATION WITH OUTCASTS

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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 OUTCASTS”



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 have a conversation with Outcasts.”



Speaker



Help Tool: Invitation to FP

Practice the Help Tool before the club and **pass out the FP Invite 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 Outcast”



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

Leaders intentionally invite people to be a part of something bigger than themselves.



Gospel Discussion

"The Conversation with Outcasts"



Highlight Scripture

Mark 2:17

"And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."



Explain (Give context)

Can you remember a time when you felt like you didn't fit in? Maybe you changed schools or moved to a new neighborhood. It isn't easy being the "new kid." It isn't easy to feel like the "outsider" or even the "outcast." Now imagine if you lived with the feeling like no matter what you did, you were never going to be accepted or welcomed? For many people, that's the way they feel daily. They feel like unloved, unwanted, and unappreciated outcasts.

While Jesus was doing ministry, He experienced those who were considered respectable and admired people, while others were considered unclean and unwanted. But Jesus didn't avoid the outcasts. He offered Himself to them and gave them the opportunity to become part of His family.

In Mark chapter 2 verses 15 through 17, Jesus shows us how we should respond to outcasts. "And as he reclined at the table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

There are plenty of people we may enjoy spending time with, while there are plenty of others that, if we are honest, we might feel somewhat uncomfortable. Maybe we are afraid it will give us a bad reputation or maybe we aren't comfortable with the sights and smells that come with putting ourselves in certain company. But Jesus, the Son of God, didn't agree with the harsh hearts of the scribes of the Pharisees. He was willing to eat with the tax collectors and sinners. You see, tax collectors in Jesus' time were hated, untrustworthy people. It would have been socially acceptable and even applauded if Jesus avoided the outcasts, but that's not what Christ did. Jesus showed them love and invited them to be a part of His inner circle of friends.

So how do we start the conversation with the outcasts? It begins with an invite. Through prayer, building trust, and time, the door will be open for you to share the Gospel.



Apply

(See "FP Invitation" or create your own).

Our Help Tool for this week is to create an invitation to First Priority, a safe place where people feel welcome, not judged, and no one sits alone. Pray about who you will invite to your club next week.



Respond (get into groups of 3-5)

Now get into groups and make an invite list and address your FP invitations. Over the next week, ask God to give you the boldness to give out your invitations to First Priority and be ready to greet them at the door when they come. Better yet, meet them in the hallway and walk with them.



Bottom Line

All people matter to Jesus so all people should matter to us.



Disciple Tip

Spending time in Jesus' presence shapes our identity.



YOU ARE INVITED
JOIN ME AT FIRST PRIORITY



WHEN:

WHERE:



ALL ARE WELCOME

YOU ARE INVITED
JOIN ME AT FIRST PRIORITY



WHEN:

WHERE:



ALL ARE WELCOME

YOU ARE INVITED
JOIN ME AT FIRST PRIORITY



WHEN:

WHERE:



ALL ARE WELCOME

YOU ARE INVITED
JOIN ME AT FIRST PRIORITY



WHEN:

WHERE:



ALL ARE WELCOME

OVERCOME WEEK “THE CONVERSATION WITH OUTCASTS”



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 outcasts.



Speaker

Gospel Discussion

“Overcoming Fear of the Conversation with Outcasts”



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

What you say will only matter if it matches how you live.



Gospel Discussion

"Overcoming Fear of the Conversation with Outcasts"



Highlight Scripture

Luke 15:4

"What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it?"



Explain (Give context)

OUTCASTS – they don't feel like they fit in. We've all felt that way at one time or another. Every time someone told an inside joke we weren't a part of or talked about something they had in common with someone else that we didn't share. One thing is true – being an outcast gets old – QUICKLY. Some outcasts get angry. Some deal with depression. Some even resort to extremes. Jesus followers MUST change that story for them. In Christ, everyone is SOMEBODY!

Every person has value. Every person is unique and worthy of appreciation. Every person MATTERS. One thing that is very important for Christ followers to realize is that we must not worship the attitudes of our social groups so much that we neglect the outcast. WE MUST GO TO THEM.

Have you ever been on a boat? Maybe even a cruise? Every sea vessel has life-saving equipment on board. In the event that someone goes overboard, it is important to respond quickly by throwing them a little ring called a "life-saver". We even have a candy named after it. If you are having an emergency, you COULD stand by and wait for someone else to do something, but what is preventing YOU from doing the right thing? Why don't YOU jump in to action?

Are you taking a risk by leaving your social circle? Maybe. Are you going to be "cast out" yourself? Perhaps. Have you considered this, though - What would Jesus do? Would HE leave the ninety-nine? ABSOLUTELY.

So, don't fear the consequences of reaching out to the lonely. Be a life-saver, not a by-stander. Be ready and willing to share the hope of Christ at any moment. In fact, do it today.



Apply

What does it take to reach out to the outcast? It takes a kind and brave heart willing to say hello and ask how their day is going. Honestly, it doesn't take much more than that. We are all outcasts before we come to know Jesus. Perhaps that is why he loves them so much. I challenge you to reach out to someone today.



Respond (Groups of 3-5)

"Here is an example of how you could start a conversation with an outcast:

"Hi! What's your name? I've seen you around school but I couldn't tell if you had many friends here. My name is _____. I wanted to invite you to come hang out with me at First Priority club and maybe introduce you to some of my friends. We mostly just talk about what's most important in life and how we can help others at our school. Do you want to come?"



Bottom Line

Jesus' love for the outcasts should cause us to reach out with love.



Disciple Tip

What we believe about the Gospel will shape the way we think, act, and live.



PREPARE WEEK “THE CONVERSATION WITH WITH OUTCASTS”



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 that 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

Twitter Testimonies // Instagram Stories // Snapchat Streaks

Hand everyone a note card at club and announce that everyone will be writing down your testimony in 280 characters or less. Include only the most important, most specific, and most impactful details and compose a “tweet” of your story. You can post on your own social media if you like. After everyone is finished, go around the room and have everyone read their “tweet” aloud. You can use Instagram or Snapchat instead of Twitter if you would like.



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.



Leader Tip

Practice using your social media as a tool and not a weapon.



ENGAGE WEEK “THE CONVERSATION WITH OUTCASTS”



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

“Honor Restored”



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

Be intentional about having an environment where outcasts feel safe, loved, and welcomed.





Gospel Discussion

"Honor Restored"

In the beginning God created a good world and gave humans great dignity. The world reflected God's love and greatness.

Genesis 1:1

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

Genesis 1:27

"So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

Genesis 1:31a

"And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good." Under God's care, people honored Him as their Father and lived in a perfect relationship with Him.

The problem - humans rebelled against the Creator, their Father. Through this, we dishonored our relationship with Him. This causes us to feel shame because our relationship is broken. This leads to guilt, fear, and regret because we are not living in the relationship of love that we were created for.

The solution - God loves humanity so much that He came to rescue us and restore our relationship with Him through His Son Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life that shows us exactly what God is like. The humans that He created rejected, abandoned, and murdered Him. He suffered an unjust and shameful death on a cross. It was through His death that He took our guilt, fear, and shame so that our broken relationship could be restored. Jesus was raised to life by the power of God. He is seated in a place of honor and has the right to restore our relationship with God now and forever.

You have a choice - to bear your own shame and remain in a broken relationship outside of God's family. Or, you can trust Jesus to bear your shame and realize that you are accepted, loved, and forgiven because of who He is and what He has done for you.

The result - you can leave guilt, fear, and shame behind to share in the honor Jesus has been given and have a new life in God's family both now and forever.

Placing your trust in Jesus changes your story! It changes from guilt, shame, and fear to being restored, included, and honored by God.

Pray - God, you know the guilt, shame, and fear that I have in my life. I now realize that it is because of my broken relationship with you, my Creator and Father. I believe and trust in what Jesus has done for me to be restored, included, and honored in the family of God. In Jesus name, Amen.



Disciple Tip

Doing what Jesus did means loving the broken and outcasts.

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

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(please only check one):

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- I have **questions** about following Jesus.
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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. |
|--------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
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