



EPIC GUIDE

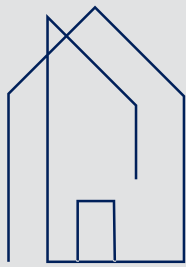


FOUNDATIONS

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HOW TO USE THE PLANNING GUIDE

GOSPEL VISION

Taking the hope of Christ to every student

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." ~ Matthew 28:19-20

YOUR MISSION

Your mission is directly from Jesus. He has called and equipped you to be a part of a family who serves as missionaries to your school and community.

STUDENT LEADER TEAMS

Assign Student Leaders to each team. Each Student Leader should work to help accomplish the responsibilities of their team.



PROMO

- Invitations
- Social Media
- Posters
- Announcements
- Communication



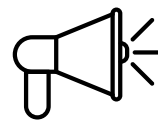
WELCOME

- Welcome
- Music
- Greeting
- Food
- New Faces



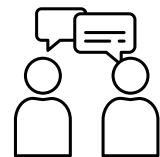
HOST

- Prayer
- Announcements
- Read Scripture
- Play videos
- Games



SPEAKER

- Prepare and teach content
- Mentor others to teach and speak



FOLLOW UP

- Be available
- Invite Friends
- Follow up with students who have questions

TEAM BUILDING AND LEADERSHIP RESOURCES

Having trouble keeping your team together? Here is a [link](#) and a QR code to an excellent reminder for Christian leaders! Remember, leadership is not about taking control. Leadership at First Priority is about guiding the students to Christ! And don't forget, let God be your guide!



PLANNING GUIDE



Promo



Welcome



Host



Speaker



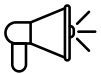
Follow Up

EQUIP WEEK











PREPARE WEEK









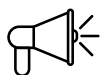


INVITE WEEK











CONNECT WEEK













OTHER RESOURCES

TIPS FOR PLANNING YOUR EPIC SCHEDULE

When planning your schedule for this year's EPIC guide, there are a few things we want to remind you about. First Priority Club is all about reaching students with the hope of Christ, and if you are familiar with the EPIC cycle, you know that INVITE week (the third week of every month) is the week we encourage students to invite as many friends as they can to Club! INVITE weeks are so important to spreading the Gospel which is why we encourage you to schedule your 9-month EPIC cycle to have as many INVITE weeks as possible! We know it can be tricky with school breaks/Holidays/etc, so you may want to sit down with your Club Coach to talk about how to best plan your year! Don't forget, INVITE weeks are also a good time to plan different parties or special events that may be happening!

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST PRIORITY PODCAST

Did you know First Priority releases a podcast every week about different leadership tips, club news, and more? If you want to get involved and hear more about First Priority in other areas, be sure to check out the Weekly Podcast! Click this [link](#) or scan the QR code to listen to the latest episode!



FIRST PRIORITY STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Does your club have any seniors who are looking for college or post high-school scholarships? First Priority offers scholarships to graduating seniors who model Christ and have shown outstanding leadership through their time with First Priority! The application deadline is in the spring (stay tuned for dates) so be sure to announce this awesome opportunity to all the club seniors! Click the [link](#) or scan the QR code to apply!





MY FAITH STORY



Keyword

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 Jesus. 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.

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

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 Jesus 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 Jesus!

TRAINING SHEET

Talking Points

Finding the power in your story will depend on how you learn to tell it. The first step to being able to tell a powerful story is to **WRITE IT DOWN**. It will give you the ability to edit the specifics and memorize. The second is to **PRACTICE OUT LOUD** with a close friend or parent so that they can give you useful feedback. The third is to **SPEND TIME IN PRAYER AND IN THE SCRIPTURE** to ask God to speak through you before you share your story publicly, because God can do more in others through you than you can do by yourself!

During this time today, we are going to walk you through the outline to help you get started. You will have the chance to pick your word, set up your background, talk about Jesus and how Jesus has made a difference today in who you are. Let's get started.

1. What is your keyword?

Do not be afraid if something does not jump off the page for you. Wait, think, and listen as others share. You may even find that if you pick a word tonight, that another word rises up in your life and you change your word tomorrow or next week.

My word is _____. Anyone else willing to simply shout out your word?

2. Let's set up the background:

(EXAMPLE: *"my parents divorced when I was younger... I blamed myself and began to feel unworthy of relationships... so I become isolated and alone because I was afraid of being **rejected** for being unworthy..."*)

What is your story. AGAIN, do not be confused or worry if nothing comes to mind. This is deep stuff and can sometimes take months or years to remember all the stories you've gone through. Take some time and write a word that reminds you of your story. Later today, I would encourage you to write out the story in it's entirety. It will help you spiritually, emotionally, and intellectually by doing this. Writing brings clarity and understanding - even the clarity and understanding to why it hurts as bad as it does. That said, this takes courage. BOLD courage for some.

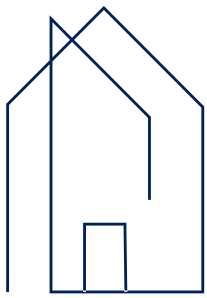
3. Talk about how/when/where Jesus entered your story.

(EXAMPLE: *"One summer I attended church camp with my youth group and we talked about new identity in Christ and being loved as God's children. God began to speak to my heart and to my issues of unworthiness and fear of rejection. One evening, I experienced the love of God and realized that Christ died for my sin, so that I could have a loving relationship with God. So I asked Him to save me and forgive me of my sin. The impact of that moment changed everything."*

Be sure to pick/find a Bible verse that helps turn your keyword into health, wellness, and wholeness.

4. Share the impact this change has made on your life.

(EXAMPLE: *"What changed after that was my view of myself. I began to trust that God really did love me and want me to be in relationship with Him. I had once been **unworthy**, but now I was given **worth**. I was once **isolated** and **alone**, but now I see myself as **wanted, loved, and together** with God and His **family**. I was once afraid of **rejection**, but now I know that I am fully **accepted** by Him, and He is daily giving me the faith and the strength to overcome those attitudes of the past."*



GOSPEL PRESENTATION GUIDE

INVITE WEEK

How to use this guide.

Use this guide as an outline for sharing your story and God's story during Invite Week(s). During Prepare weeks, we work on preparing and writing our stories to be able to share with our friends and peers. Invite week is one of those opportunities! Be creative, share your heart, and as always, if you need help, just ask!

DIG IN

(Start)



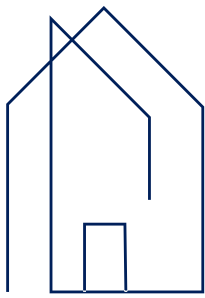
SPEAKER

GOD'S LOVE: HIS PURPOSE

God wants to live in a relationship with us eternally. God loves you, and He wants you to have an intimate, personal relationship with Him and to walk eternally with Him. His desire is for you to “have life, and have it to the full” (**John 10:10**), and to have love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (**Gal. 5: 22-23**). Since God created us for a relationship with Him and to have eternal life, why are many not enjoying this experience?

OUR PROBLEM: SIN AND SEPARATION

Everyone sins. Everyone does things that presumably makes them happy when in the end it is something that leaves them feeling empty. As the Scriptures say, “No one is righteous—not even one. No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one” (**Romans 3:10-12, 23 NIV**). Our sin separates us from God. The price (or consequence) of sin is death.



GOSPEL PRESENTATION GUIDE

INVITE WEEK



SPEAKER

GOD'S PROVISION: THE CROSS

Jesus Christ is the only answer to this problem of separation from God. He died on the cross and rose from the grave to pay the penalty for our sins, to completely bridge the gap between God and us. *"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* (**Romans 5:8 NIV**). God has provided the only way, and we must follow that way. Yes, all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious ideal; yet now God declares us not guilty of offending Him if we trust in Jesus Christ, who in His grace freely takes away our sins. *"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"* (**Romans 6:23**).

OUR RESPONSE: RECEIVE CHRIST

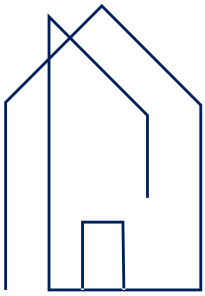
We can receive Jesus Christ when we believe in who He is and what He has done and trust in Him alone to save us. *"For if you tell others with your own mouth that Jesus Christ is your Lord, and believe in your own heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in his heart that a man becomes right with God; and with his mouth he tells others of his faith, confirming his salvation."*(**Romans 10:9-10, NIV**).

UP NEXT... TOOL TIME



TIP

This next section is meant to be interactive. Just as we do each week, the Tool Time is the chance to put everything we have learned to action. Try to make this a time for discussion, interaction, or application. (Don't feel like you have to, but as always, be creative!)



GOSPEL PRESENTATION GUIDE

INVITE WEEK

TOOL TIME



SPEAKER

HOW TO FOLLOW THE WAY OF CHRIST:

1. Admit your need (I am a sinner).
2. Be willing to turn (repent) from your sins and lifestyle to begin to understand that by living differently your life will bring **John 10:10** (live to its fullest) and **Galatians 5:22** (Fruit of the Spirit) to life for you.
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and rose from the grave before you begin to understand it; **it is not what you do but what He has done.**
4. Through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to come in and control your life through the Holy Spirit (receive Him as your Savior). This isn't a one and done thing; it is a daily process to work out your salvation with fear and trembling (**Philippians 2:12**).

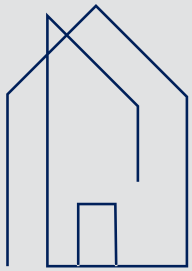
WHAT TO PRAY:

Dear Lord Jesus,
I know that I am a sinner and I need Your forgiveness. I believe You died to pay the penalty for my sin. I want to turn from my false belief about who I am (sinful nature) and fill my life with You instead. My way of living has left me empty. I invite You to come into my heart and live.
In Jesus' name, Amen.



Music

During the response time, you may want to play a song for the students to listen to as they are filling out the response cards and leaving club.



LOOKING AHEAD

EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

SEPTEMBER

SEPT 27, 2023 - SEE YOU AT THE POLE

For more information visit:

<https://syatp.com/>



NOVEMBER

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD PACKING PARTY
(ANYTIME BEFORE NOV. 13TH 2023)

• See the following pages for more information.

THANKSGIVING PARTY (DURING INVITE WEEK)

DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS PARTY (DURING INVITE WEEK)

MARCH

INVITE WEEK PUSH FOR EASTER - MARCH 31ST 2024

MAY

MAY 2, 2024 - NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

For more information visit:

<https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org>





LOOKING AHEAD

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



WHAT IS IT?

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an International Relief Organization. Our mission is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items and school supplies as a means of reaching children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. We [Samaritans Purse] ship these simple gifts outside the United States to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease; and to children living on Native American reservations in the United States.

HOW CAN MY CLUB GET INVOLVED?

Your club can participate in this ministry by having a one-time packing party! All the information you need to host a packing party will be included in the QR codes and links below.



[Host a packing party plan.](#)

Scroll to the bottom for downloadable resources and materials



[OCC info and Resources](#)

Find out more about OCC and find top resources for your club packing party!



[FAQ](#)

Have any questions or concerns? Learn more here.



[Student outreach event guide](#)

Here is a guide to successfully plan your event.



TIP

This event can be done during an Invite Week (because a packing party includes sharing the Gospel) or as a separate outreach event outside of Club time. Shoe-box drop off is November 13-17, 2023, so please plan accordingly!