

TAKING THE HOPE OF CHRIST TO EVERY STUDENT

UNITING THE
CHURCH
TO INFLUENCE OUR
CAMPUS
FOR
CHRIST!



What you need to
know as a student
leader for First
Priority.



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



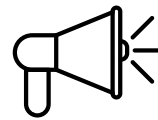
WELCOME

- Welcome
- Music
- Greeting
- Food
- New Faces



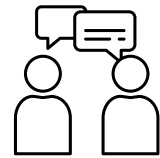
HOST

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



SPEAKER

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

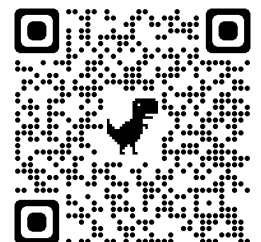


FOLLOW UP

- 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



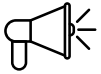
Follow Up

EQUIP WEEK











PREPARE WEEK









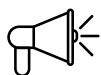


INVITE WEEK











CONNECT WEEK













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.

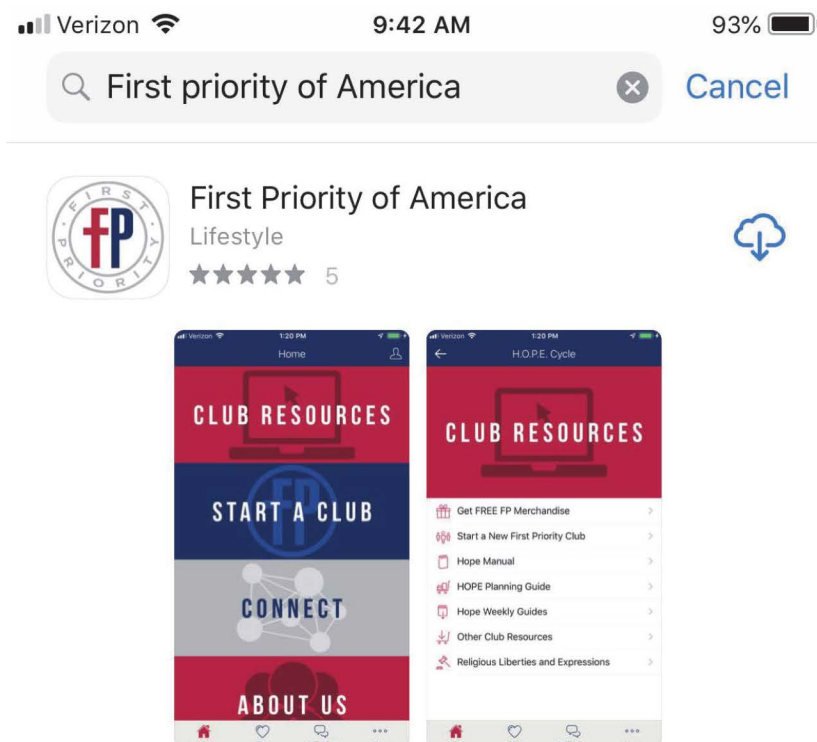
4. Share the impact this change has made on your life.

(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."*

TEN THINGS FOR STUDENT LEADERS TO REMEMBER:

1. Be a positive example at school and committed to a **CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE**.
2. Develop a **PASSION TO REACH YOUR FRIENDS** through your First Priority Club.
3. **PLAN** and carry out the First Priority monthly strategy. **FOLLOW EPIC CYCLE**.
4. Use your influence to keep the club **FOCUSED ON OUTREACH**.
5. If denominational/church issues come up, encourage **UNITY** and lead students to talk with local church leadership.
6. **ENCOURAGE** new believers to grow in their relationship with God by connecting them in a local Bible believing church.
7. Maintain an active and healthy relationship in a **LOCAL CHURCH**.
8. Make sure you have someone to greet the **GUEST SPEAKERS** at the office as they sign in.
9. Remember to **THANK** the speaker.
10. Every leader is a **GREETER**. Make sure everyone feels welcome to the club.

Online Resources



GOSPEL PRESENTATION GUIDE

APPENDIX

GOD'S LOVE: HIS PURPOSE

God wants to live in 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 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.

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 become right with God; and with his mouth he tells others of his faith, confirming his salvation” (Romans 10:9-10, NIV).

HOW TO FOLLOW THE WAY OF CHRIST:

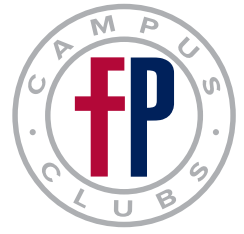
1. Admit your need (I am a sinner).
2. Be willing to turn (repent) from your sins and lifestyle to begin to understand that by living differently, your life will bring John 10:10 and Gal 5:22 to life for you.
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and rose from the grave before you began 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-time 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.

CLUB CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS



ARTICLE I - NAME OF THE CLUB

The First Priority Club of _____ School.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE OF THE CLUB

1. To encourage friends to understand the importance of living in relationship with God, serve as a resource to help students enhance their spiritual lives and provide an opportunity to integrate beliefs into daily living.
2. To provide members the occasion to grow in their faith and for them to develop into dynamic leaders on the campus and in the community.
3. To increase the self-esteem and moral foundation of peers while discouraging premarital sex, substance abuse, bullying, violence, suicide, etc.; that each member will develop a greater respect for the authority placed over them and pursue a lifestyle consistent to that outlined in the Bible.

ARTICLE III - QUALIFICATIONS OF THE MEMBERS

Club membership is open to any student in this school that agrees with and is able to comply with the stated guidelines in this constitution/by-laws, provided there is no attempt by them to disrupt the meeting. Membership is equated to consistent attendance and participation in the club.

ARTICLE IV - STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Our club may or may not have individuals holding positions of office depending on our school's requirements; our team of officers/student leaders carry out the following duties including, but not limited to: greeters and promotion, club leader for a specific week, speaking publicly, teaching as able, securing guest speakers, leading or co-leading small groups, skits and mixers, announcements, and refreshments. Any candidate for leadership must avoid disqualifying behavior that Scripture forbids (Galatians 5:19-21, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10), and set a positive biblical example "in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12, c.f. Galatians 5:22-25).

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

1. Our meetings are student led in accordance with the Equal Access Act (20 U.S.C. 4071-74), passed by Congress in 1984.
2. Our meetings occur weekly and are coordinated with our faculty sponsor: _____.
3. Our meetings provide students the opportunity to discover and develop leadership skills they will use the rest of their lives.
4. Our "HOPE" strategy of meetings provides students with the opportunity to grow and apply their personal faith and enhance their relationships with friends and family.
5. Our meetings encourage students to invite their peers to be a part of an exciting club that assembles in a respectful and friendly atmosphere.

ARTICLE VI – AFFILIATION

1. Our club is affiliated with First Priority, a not for profit ministry that resources clubs to succeed in their stated purpose.
2. First Priority connects a community volunteer (typically an area Youth Worker) to attend club meetings as an invited guest to help student leaders in fulfilling their assigned tasks.

ARTICLE VI - AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution/By-Laws may be proposed by any member. Amendments shall become effective if approved by the two-thirds of the members and faculty sponsor.

This Constitution/By-Laws agreed to at _____ School
this day _____ of _____, 20_____

By the following students: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
4. _____ 5. _____

Principal's Signature: _____



INVITE WEEK SPEAKER GUIDELINES

The First Priority Club at _____ School would like to extend our sincere appreciation for accepting the invitation to be the Guest Speaker for our *Invite Week* meeting. We want to provide you with information you'll need to make this a positive and exciting experience for you and our club.

DATE/TIME _____ LOCATION _____

Be sure to bring your driver's license to sign in and obtain a visitor's pass from the school office. Please read the guidelines listed below as they will help you understand the purpose of this club week.

What is 'INVITE WEEK' at a First Priority Club?

Invite Week is WHEN we share the Gospel! The setting is relaxed where food, upbeat Christian music, games, drama, etc. are tools we use to create a fun environment that welcomes visitors. For several weeks, students have been praying for their friends who don't have a relationship with Christ and have invited them to check out the club. Students are praying that their friends will respond to a simple and clear presentation of who Jesus Christ is and what He accomplished on the cross.

What we need from you, the speaker at our 'INVITE WEEK' club meeting!

1. Clearly explain the plan of salvation using Scripture! Feel free to use your favorite evangelism tool (The Four/4 Spiritual Laws, Romans Road, Evangelism Explosion, FAITH, etc.).
2. Provide an opportunity for students to respond to the Gospel by means of confession and commitment. The Campus Coach/Club Mentor can extend the invitation if you prefer.
3. Allow time at the end of the meeting (at least 5 min.) for new believers to fill out a decision-card and get a free Bible. This element of the meeting will be guided by student leaders.
4. Agreement with our Statement of Faith (provided below).

Please contact our Campus Coach if you have any questions regarding your visit:

Campus Coach/Club Mentor _____ Contact # _____

First Priority Statement of Faith

*We believe God loves mankind so much that He gave:
His Word, to be the written source of absolute truth;
His Son, Jesus, to restore our relationship with God;
His Spirit, to empower believers to live holy lives;
His Commission, to proclaim Christ's sinless life, death, and resurrection to all;
His Church, to equip believers to reach the world.*

TO TAKE THE HOPE OF CHRIST TO EVERY STUDENT