

HOPE MANUAL



AUGUST 2015

HOPE WEEKLY GUIDES



COACHES CORNER

August 2015
Sent on Mission

“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” John 20:21 ESV

INTRODUCTION

This month students are returning to school with high hopes and expectations. They have experienced life change through camps, mission trips and summer events. During your time of planning with Student Leaders keep those experiences in mind.

Using the HOPE Strategy weekly format, we have provided you with a very clear plan to help students take the words of John 20:21 and apply them to their campus. As their Campus Coach it is your job to walk the student leadership team through the month ahead and help them plan out each week.

Please print out a few copies of the entire August Guide to share with your leadership team during training.

(2-3 copies minimum, copies for all leadership team members welcome)

Schedule your planning meeting approximately one week before your Help week meeting for this month.

Finally, before meeting with the team, please take few minutes to familiarize yourself with this month's 4 week plan. Pray for wisdom and grace for both you and those you are serving. The theme, team members and expectations are very purposeful. Your ability to lead this discussion well will keep your monthly FP Leadership Meeting to 1 hour.

1 HOUR MEETING AGENDA (SUGGESTED)

- Welcome and Catch up (5 minutes)
- Time of Prayer (5 minutes)
- Help Week - Planning time (15 minutes)
**Introduction of the FAMILY Gospel presentation*
- Overcome Week - Planning time (10 minutes)
- Prepare Week - Planning time (10 minutes)
- Engage Week - Planning time (15 minutes)

HELPFUL REMINDERS

- Each Weekly Guide has a space to assign student leaders to serve, please use those spaces to plug them in to specific leadership roles.
- Help to ensure that along with the main speaking time each week that things like hospitality, food and team work are discussed as well.
- Though you will have made a great plan during this meeting. It is crucial that you communicate to your leadership team on a regular basis throughout the month. Encouraging them after a meeting, reminding them of their responsibilities coming and adjusting the plan due to opportunities at the school are key to a successful month.

REPORTING

Please use FPReport.com to communicate your schools club outcomes each week. These reports are used by local and national staff for future planning for communities across the U.S. Your feedback is crucial.

SENT ON MISSION

August 2015: Help Week Leader Guide

Help Week: Equips and empowers student leaders to share the love and message of Jesus to their friends who have questions about their faith.

Please fill out the report online at FPofAmerica.com/report. Be sure to include the following information:

Date:

Team Leader/Welcome

Club Reporter

Greeters

Opening Prayer

Reminders

Trainer Host

Trainer

Closing Prayer

INTRODUCTION

Beforehand Task:

Select one volunteer to share about the message of Jesus.

1 Welcome Students

- State: "Welcome to First Priority, a safe place to seek and share God. We seek to Help, Overcome, Prepare, and Engage each student in sharing the gospel ... otherwise known as HOPE. This week is our Help Week where we will work together in learning about how to share the gospel. This month we will learn what it means to be 'Sent on Mission.' "
- Pray.
- List off any reminders for the students as they begin First Priority.

2 Introduce Volunteer

- Signal volunteer to join the leaders.
- Encourage: "Today, my friend <insert name> is going to share what it means to be sent to share the message of Jesus."

GOSPEL CONTENT

3 Share the Gospel Content

- Context:
 - Read aloud John 20:21 emphasizing italicized words. "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." John 20:20 (ESV)
 - State: "The words in this verse are found in the book of John and quite possibly written by the Apostle John himself. Following Jesus' death and resurrection three days later, the disciples—known followers of Jesus—gathered together, hiding out in Jerusalem. As Jesus enters the room, He greets them in peace. He shows them His scars so they can be sure the Person before them is the same Jesus that was crucified three days prior."

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SENT ON A MISSION August 2015: Help Week Leader Guide (continued)

3 - Share the Gospel Content (continued)

• Breakdown:

➤ "Peace be with you ..."

* Explain: "Jesus reassures His disciples they are not hallucinating (dreaming). The disciples were already paranoid about what their association with Jesus might mean to them and to God's plan."

* Continue: "John 20:19 states the disciples were 'gathered in a locked room for fear of the Jews.' This statement proves that to the disciples, the events of the past few days had gone terribly wrong. Without warning, Jesus appears—back from the dead, in a locked room—thus revealing that His death and resurrection was all a part of God's plan. He was there to tell them the next part of God's plan."

➤ "... as the Father has sent me ..."

* State: "Jesus considered God to be his Father, a claim that could only be made by one having a family-type relationship with God. He also claimed that the Father sent him for a purpose—to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to a world of sinful people into a relationship with God."

* Continue: "Without Jesus' teaching, ministry, His sacrifice on the cross, or His resurrection, no one would ever be able to enter into any relationship with the Father. The crucifixion, the burial, and the empty grave were fulfilling God's promise from long ago. God the Father was in the process of the largest adoption/rescue effort in history."

➤ "... even so, I am sending you."

* Explain: "Just like the Father sent Jesus to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to earth, God is sending those who are part of God's family to take the message of Jesus into our world. Our world is the people God has put us in relationship with—people in our schools, our families, and our friends."

* Ask: "How are we to take the message of Jesus to people? By what we say and how we live. When we become part of God's family, we become a

testimony (when someone tells about his experience or about something he has seen) about the message of God bringing salvation to our world through Jesus."

4 Transition to Small Groups

• State: "Thank you <insert name> for sharing. Let's break into small groups and use the Help Week Handout to spend a few minutes in discussion about what has just been shared."

• Small Groups Discussion Questions:

1. How would you define or describe Jesus' relationship to the Father?
2. How would you answer the question, "Why did God send Jesus?"
3. Jesus tells the disciples that He is sending them with His message. What message is Jesus referring to? Did He state where they should go?
4. Reflect and reread John 20:21. As a disciple (follower) of Jesus, why are His words significant for us today?

5 Conclude

• Review small group questions and open a discussion about group answers as time allows.

• Reread John 20:21.

• Enter into a time of prayer by leading the group through prompted questions.

➤ Pray for yourself.

* What does it mean to truly live out the text?

* How does it affect your family, friends, and peers?

➤ Pray for your school.

* How could your school be transformed by Jesus' message of love for them?

➤ Pray for another school.

* Is there a school in your community or another part of the world that needs your prayers this month?

• Guide students in a closing prayer.

Please fill out the club report online at fpreport.com.

SENT ON MISSION

August 2015: Help Week Student Handout

Help Week: Equips and empowers student leaders to share the love and message of Jesus to their friends who have questions about their faith.

SMALL GROUPS DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How would you define or describe Jesus' relationship to the Father?
2. How would you answer the question, "Why did God send Jesus?"
3. Jesus tells the disciples that He is sending them with His message? What message is Jesus referring to? Did He state where they should go?
4. Reflect and reread John 20:21. As a disciple (follower) of Jesus, why are His words significant for us today?

PRAY

- Reflect on John 20:21 upon entering into prayer time.
 - › Pray for yourself.
 - * What does it mean to truly live out today's text?
 - * How does it affect your family, friends, and peers?
 - › Pray for your school.
 - * How could your school be transformed if a group of Jesus follower were commissioned onto it with Jesus' message of the Father's love for your peers?
 - › Pray for another school.
 - * Is there a school in your community or another part of the world that needs your prayers this month?

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

Answer: The Father God adopting me.

FATHER GOD

God made all of creation. The first people in God's creation—Adam and Eve—had a perfect relationship with God. However, they sinned, turned away from God, and creation fell. That brokenness resulted in a separation from God and from a freedom that comes in fullness of life with the Father. God was deeply grieved over His creation.

"The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth ... and it grieved Him to His heart."

- Genesis 6:5-6 (ESV)

ADOPTING

God's heart was so hurt over His creations' choice that He sent His Son Jesus. God sent Jesus to pay the price (redemption) to restore our relationship back to the Father. Jesus' death on the cross in our place satisfied all sin, but Jesus' resurrection ended our separation from God and restored us to a full and free relationship with God. Only because of Jesus can we be adopted as sons and daughters of God—part of His family, along with the benefits of being His children.

"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."

- Galatians 4:4-5 (ESV)

"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!' The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."

- Romans 8:14-16 (ESV)

ME

All people were born into sin, starting with me. Therefore, when we find something is not right with us, the world, or those around us, we discover we are missing out on God's desire for our life. Being without a relationship with God is a broken existence. The good news is that we can restore it by making the decision to follow Jesus and placing our trust in Him. Once this happens, we have a relationship with God and become part of His family. Being seen by God as a son or daughter of His creates a true belonging, quite possibly for the first time. You, too, have the opportunity to follow Him and place your trust in Him to receive a living relationship that lasts forever.

"Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God."

- John 1:12 (ESV)

SENT ON MISSION

August 2015: Overcome Week Leader Guide

Overcome Week: Allows student leaders to be encouraged by a peer or an adult leader that they are “Sent on Mission” on their campus. Leaders are to use testimonies, teaching points, and Biblical encouragement during the teaching time.

Please fill out the report online at FPofAmerica.com/report. Be sure to include the following information:

Date:

Team Leader/Welcome

Club Reporter

Greeters

Opening Prayer

Reminders

Trainer Host

Trainer

Closing Prayer

INTRODUCTION

Beforehand Task:

- Select 3 student leaders to prepare to share their testimony in the upcoming Prepare Week.
- Print “Appendix A - Your Faith Story” (1 per student).

1 Welcome Students

- Welcome the students and remind them of the theme “Sent on Mission.”
- Reread John 20:21 (ESV) “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”
- Use key points from the Gospel Content: Help Week to refresh the students on what it means to be “Sent on Mission.”
- State: “In today’s session, we will focus our attention on what it means to overcome (to succeed, to defeat, to overpower). As well, we will hear an example of how someone overcame some of the obstacles in his life.”

2 Opening Prayer

- Ensure each student has access to “Appendix A—Your Faith Story” (via printout or by visiting www.firstpriority.club/YourFaithStory on their smart phone or tablet).
- Signal the student leader host to introduce the speaker and pray.

GUEST CONTENT

Beforehand Task:

- Encourage the speaker to use the following information as a simple outline for the First Priority: Overcome Week.
- Inform the speaker that his purpose is to encourage and inspire students to be “on mission” on their campus by using Scripture and Personal Testimony in a 12-15 minute time frame.

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3 Teaching Time (12–15 minutes)

- Introduction
 - › Introduce who are, who invited you to speak, and simple points about your life.
 - › Ensure the students fully understand the purpose of what you are about to share.
- Appoint 2 volunteers to read aloud John 20:19–29. (Assign one student verses 12–23 and the other verses 24–29.)
- Share a Personal Testimony or Story
 - › Share a story either you have experienced or heard.
 - › Relate the story to this text.
- Application/Teaching:

1. Point 1: Forgiveness and the Holy Spirit

- State: “Jesus concludes the first set of verses with a statement about the forgiveness of sins (v.23). In the prior verse, we see He is not referring to the actual forgiveness of sins, but rather the empowerment of the Holy Spirit (to give authority or power) in our lives (v.22).”
- Apply: “What we choose to forgive through the Holy Spirit in us is forgiven. What we choose to control or ignore, remains unforgiven. The Holy Spirit enables us to do more than we could ever do on our own.”

2. Campus Point: Reality Check

- State: “One of the current realities teenagers face is that today’s campuses contain issues most adults did not face until adulthood. Larger than ‘sex, drugs, and rock and roll,’ today’s campuses faces a blitz of agendas that either do not align with or directly oppose the gospel.”
- Affirm: “In the face of overwhelming 24/7 Internet access and political agendas, there is a lack of Godly influence in campus hallways. Today’s campuses need Christians to be a constant reminder that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are a necessity for everyone.”

3. Point 2: “What Do You Believe?”

- State: “The second part of this text simply asks, ‘what do you believe?’ In verse 25, Thomas states ‘I can only believe in what I can see’ (paraphrase). That statement is still just as true today for many when facing the gospel of Jesus.”

→ Resume: “Jesus acknowledges Thomas’ doubt by not only showing him His scars, but allows Thomas to physically touch them. However, Jesus does not allow Thomas or the other disciples to remain in a state of shock or awe. Instead Jesus finishes the text with a challenge, ‘Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed’ (ESV). By this statement, Jesus realizes there will be many who do not see His nail-scarred hands and yet still choose to believe in Him.”

4. Close

- Conclude: “The reality is that many of you came to faith in Jesus because you saw Jesus working in someone else’s life. Whether through word or deed, their lives affected you. While you may face some of the greatest difficulties on campus of any generation, with Jesus you will also face some of the greatest opportunities.”
- Charge: “Jesus says clearly that those who believe without seeing Him are blessed. The opportunity for you lies in your willingness to see your situation as a way to spread the gospel.”
- Ask: “How do you see your situation? What will your role be in spreading the gospel?”

5. Prayer

- Close the teaching time in prayer. Include a blessing over the students as they share the gospel and a request for protection and provision in their lives.

4 Conclude

- Follow up the teaching time by thanking the guest speaker. Remind the students of next weeks meeting, Prepare Week.
- Dismiss with a closing prayer, reminding the students of the prayer points from last week (pray for yourself, your school, and another school) as well as the prayer points below.
 - › Pray for yourself, family, and peers.
 - › Pray for your school, wisdom, protection, and for open hearts to receive the gospel.

Please fill out the club report online at fpreport.com.

SENT ON MISSION

August 2015: Prepare Week Leader Guide

Prepare Week: Allows Student leaders to share their story of what their life was like without Christ as opposed to the fullness of their new life with Christ.

Please fill out the report online at FPofAmerica.com/report. Be sure to include the following information:

Date:

Team Leader/Welcome

Club Reporter

Greeters

Opening Prayer

Reminders

Trainer Host

Trainer

Closing Prayer

INTRODUCTION

Beforehand Task:

- Ensure selected 3 student leaders are prepared to share their testimony.
- Print "Appendix A— Your Faith Story" (1 per student).

1 Welcome Students and Pray

- Welcome the students and remind them of the theme "Sent on Mission."
- Pray.

TESTIMONY TIME

2 Share Testimonies

- Continue: "Today we are going to hear the Faith Stories from some of our peers. As each one finishes, feel free to ask questions about their story or to encourage them in what God has done in their lives. Please welcome <insert name>, our first person to give his testimony."
- Student 1 Testimony = _____
- Student 2 Testimony = _____
- Student 3 Testimony = _____

- Ensure each student has access to "Appendix A — Your Faith Story."
- Draw attention to the sample student testimonies.
 - Example 1: I was really lost, without hope, and using all sorts of substances to try fill that gap. Until someone told me about Jesus and I made a choice to put my trust in Him. With Jesus, my life is different. I have a family, I have new friends, and I have a hope that cannot be taken away.
 - Example 2: I was raised in the church. Seems like any time the church doors were open, my family was there. Then I got involved in First Priority at school. This month, I learned about what it meant to be "Sent on Mission" for Jesus. Finally, my parents' faith became my own. I cannot wait to see what God is going to do in my school this year and how I can be a part!

3 Conclude

- Dismiss with a closing prayer.
- Inform students of the upcoming Engage Week and any other First Priority reminders.

Please fill out the club report online at fpreport.com.

SENT ON MISSION

August 2015: Engage Week Leader Guide

Engage Week: Trains student leaders choosing to impact their classmates with the gospel of Jesus.

Please fill out the report online at FPofAmerica.com/report. Be sure to include the following information:

Date:

Team Leader/Welcome

Club Reporter

Greeters

Opening Prayer

Reminders

Trainer Host

Trainer

Closing Prayer

INTRODUCTION

Beforehand Task:

- Gather mailing labels, markers/pens, and index cards (1 per student).

1 Welcome Students

- State: "Welcome to First Priority! Today we are going to start with a game to get to know one another. There is food for everyone here, so please feel free to grab a bite to eat while we get started."
- Allow students to fellowship as student leaders prepare the gathering activity.

2 Gathering Activity

- Distribute mailing labels and markers (1 label per student).
- Guide: "Write a movie character on your label."
- Encourage students toward characters that are school/First Priority appropriate.
- Direct the students to find a new friend. Secretly place your label on their back. Now prompt everyone to mingle about, introducing themselves to each

other and asking questions about the character on the label on their back.

- Question Examples:
 - › Am I a human?
 - › Am I funny?
 - › Do I have a lot of hair on my head?
 - › Was I in Star Wars?
- Congratulate each student as he successfully guesses the character on his label. Invite the student to continue by helping the rest of the students figure out their characters.
- State: "I hope you enjoyed getting to know one another. As a family here at First Priority, it's important that we know one another."
- Select volunteers to pass out cards and welcome the prepared student leader to share in Testimony Time.

TESTIMONY TIME

- Follow the testimony format below as you share your story.
 - › Introduce yourself, tell about your background, your family, and your connection to the First Priority family.

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- › Share with your peers about a time in your life when you were not living the way God wanted you to live. Whether you were living in sin or experiencing brokenness for a time, share what life was like without a clear understanding of the freedom you now have in Jesus.

Key Verse: *Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were afar off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.* Ephesians 2:12-13 (ESV)

- Share a Scripture and an application.

"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons." - Galatians 4:4-5 (ESV)

* Read aloud the verse.

* Apply.

- › Provide details of how you heard about Jesus—through others or some other experience.
- › Fact: Jesus chose to come to earth to live and to die. He did all that for you—so you could be restored to a relationship with the Father. Share how your encounter allowed you to begin to understand what Jesus did for you.

"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God."
- John 1:12

* Read aloud the verse.

* Apply.

- › Tell about the moment that you chose to verbally confess with your mouth and believe in your heart (accepting) that Jesus was Lord. (Romans 10:9-10)
- › Consider the questions:
 - › Who shared the gospel with you?
 - › What did it mean for you to know that because of Jesus, the Father saw you as an adopted son or daughter?
 - › Where did it happen in? (a home, an event, your church, etc.)
 - › How did you feel?

- Ask rhetorically: "What is God doing in your life now?"
- Allow a time of reflection.
- Break the silence by providing examples of what it means to live everyday with a sense of belonging to the Family of God.

4 Wrap Up Time

- State: "Thanks <insert name> for being willing to share your God Story with us."
- Follow up: "The relationship with Jesus <insert name> discussed is available to everyone. If you are here today and want to make a decision to put your trust in Jesus, we want to give you that opportunity right now."

5 Prayer and Close

- State: "Let's take a moment to pray. If you have never made the decision to make Jesus your Lord by confessing your sins, admitting your need for Jesus, and believing what Jesus did for you, we are going to give you that chance now."
- Pray aloud, either using the Example Prayer below or another form of Prayer for Salvation.
- › Example Prayer: Jesus, all of us have sinned, which separates us from You. However, You came to Earth—to live and die for us, and to then be raised again to new life. You defeated death so that we may live forever. You have changed our lives by adopting us into your family. If there is anyone here today that needs to make the decision to put their trust in You, I pray that they do that right now. Help them find their place to belong with You for eternity. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.
- Conclude: "I am so thankful all of you were here today. Please finish filling out the card (step 2) and turn them in as you leave."
- Continue: "We, at First Priority club, want you to know that we are here to further discuss with you the plan of salvation or anything else you may have questions about. Please know, you are always welcome here each week to be part of this family."

6 Conclude

- Collect cards from everyone as they leave, be sure to invite everyone back for First Priority club next week!

Please fill out the club report online at fpreport.com.

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! 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 publically, because God can do more in others through you than you can do by yourself!

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 chose a keyword of your own! This part helps keep your story compelling and on track.

KEYWORDS

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

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. (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...")

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. (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.")

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! (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.")

We believe in the impossible,
THE HOPE OF CHRIST
IN EVERY STUDENT
at your school.



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