

# CHURCH LEADERS



COACHES ON THE SIDELINES



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# UNITING THE BODY OF CHRIST AROUND THE LOCAL SCHOOL

## WHAT IS FIRST PRIORITY?

We do not need to tell anyone that our nation is in a crisis. We have been deceived by the great deceiver who took something that was meant for good and twisted it to mean something else. Our founding fathers wrote in the Constitution about separation between Church and State to protect people from the government establishing a church. Our culture has used it to remove God from our public debate and have taken all references to God and the Ten Commandments out of our schools. Now, our culture has no moral foundation so we have a culture that is defined by Hollywood and the Supreme Court. We have babies having babies. We have kids killing each other. The list goes on and on. The hopelessness of students is shocking. These are eye-opening statistics that need to get the Church's attention:

### Every day in America:

- 5 children are killed by abuse or neglect
- 5 children or teens commit suicide
- 186 children are arrested for violent offenses
- 4,133 are arrested in total
- 386 are arrested for drug offenses
- 3,312 high school students drop out
- 18,493 public school students are suspended

*(Numbers are from the Children's Defense Fund website: [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org). Children are ages 5 - 17.)*

While the hopelessness of students is shocking, it is not surprising. The solution is spiritual! Lost people act lost



because they are lost! You cannot take a pig out of the mud unless the mud is taken out of the pig. It is the nature that has to be changed. Our schools and our communities do not need more programs to deal with the symptoms; we need to deal with the heart. The heart is changed through a relationship with Jesus. Our country, our communities, and our schools need to hear the good news of Jesus. He can change the heart. We keep trying to change people and clean them up, but that is the job of the Holy Spirit of God. Our job is to share the good news with them.

*For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace."*

Romans 10:13-15

First Priority wants to see the Hope of Christ in every student. We do that by uniting the local body of Christ with a plan of action to influence the school with the Gospel. First Priority gives Christian students a specific, manageable, and focused opportunity to put their faith and love to work where they live every day: at school. Students from different youth groups unite on the campus and form a FP club under the guidelines of Equal Access.

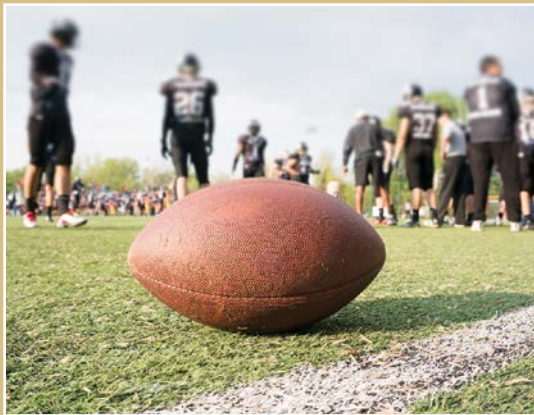
**For more information on Equal Access visit:**  
**[www.firstpriority.club/equal-access-act-information](http://www.firstpriority.club/equal-access-act-information)**

# THE GAME ANALOGY

## UNDERSTANDING THE ESSENTIAL NETWORKS

First Priority works if the local community takes the time to organize each component of the strategy. To explain this, we will compare life as a Christian in the U.S. to a football player playing his game. What if the coach asked the football player to come study the team playbook twice a week, but only planned to play him in one half of a game throughout the entire season? Maybe. That is if something else didn't get scheduled the same day. Would he ever show up to practice? Yet, that is what most local churches expect out of students in their youth ministry: to come twice a week to learn how to live for Christ; and once a year go and share Christ together on a mission trip... unless something else prevents you from going. First Priority is the game plan for the students in your community to come together at school and live the game of faith every day.

## UNDERSTANDING THE ESSENTIAL NETWORKS



### STUDENTS: PLAYERS ON THE FIELD

The students are on the greatest mission field in America: a school. Engaged in the middle of the "game," students are the players we are here to train, pray for, and support, just as we do for foreign missionaries. The Hope Manual gives the student missionaries the action steps and direction they need to reach out to their peers at school. Each month, it helps them focus on a group and share the message of Jesus Christ with unbelieving students.



### CHURCH LEADERS: COACHES ON THE SIDELINE

These are the youth ministers and pastors who are training and equipping the students in the game, a.k.a. the First Priority club.

#### Coaches do two things:

1. They help schedule "games" (a.k.a. First Priority club in school). This includes building relationships with school administration, finding a teacher sponsor, setting club time and location, submitting the club charter/constitution, and more.
2. They hold practices (leadership meetings) to help students be prepared for the month ahead. We often call them Captain's Team meetings and they are held monthly between Engage Week of the previous month and Help Week of the next.

# UNDERSTANDING THE ESSENTIAL NETWORKS

Continued



## EDUCATORS: THE REFEREES IN THE GAME

These are the faculty volunteers that open their room and the doors of the school for the club to hold their meetings. At the school, they are the people who help the players stay in line with the rules of the local district and state. At the monthly leadership meeting, they are the ones guiding and showing wisdom to navigate the school as only someone on the “inside” can do. They do not participate in the game even though they are right in the middle of it.



## PARENTS: FANS IN THE STANDS

These are adults who are watching and cheering on the game. Up front, these parents are dedicated to praying and supporting the students as they work to minister to their school. Behind the scenes, these parents are waking their son/daughter up early for practice, rearranging schedules, encouraging when the “game” does not go well, and running the “booster club”. Putting fans in the stands is really an easy task when students are passionate about playing in the game.

## BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS: OWNERS

The business community is so important to the First Priority strategy. Like a professional team, coaches and players come and go, but the team lives on. Without business leaders involved in the FP strategy, the longevity of the ministry will diminish when students graduate or staff in our local churches move on. The business community has a vested interest in their community, and will be the ones that will be there through this entire generation. All the cities that have a successful First Priority team have a board of committed business leaders.



# HELPING STUDENTS BUILD A MINISTRY AT THE SCHOOL

## The HOPE of Christ in every student



### PRAY

Nothing happens apart from prayer. For any work of God to last at the school, prayer must be a primary part of it. We are led to believe that the educational institution WANTS the separation of church and state. However, we find that a lot of school administrators are accepting of the church because they have lost hope. Pray for God to give you favor with the school administration and for God to raise up some of your students to make a difference in the school. Then go help schedule the game.

### PARTICIPATE

As a coach, you need to participate in creating the right roles to put players in the right positions.

If you have a 6.5 foot, 230 pound football player, you would not give him the position of tail back but of an end or linebacker. The same goes with our students; you cannot put a kid with the gift of serving up in front of your group to share the gospel. All of your students are unique in spiritual gifts and personalities. Sometimes we burn out Christians by trying to make them serve in positions that they were never meant to be in.



## HOPE STRATEGY

The old adage of “failing to plan is planning to fail” is true. If we do not have a plan to reach the campus, we will not. If we, as the coach, do not promote our plan to our players, we will not have an efficient team. The HOPE cycle is a four-week cycle that guides students to lead through four distinctive club meetings. We call it a cycle because club meetings occur once a week and the cycle repeats every four weeks. The success of this plan is dependent on intentional planning and outreach oriented relationships. The following pages give you a brief description of the play book.

## PROMOTE

The people at your church cannot participate in a ministry they are unaware of. If you are not sharing stories of life change that are happening weekly through

First Priority, how are they going to pray, participate, and provide the needed resources? Get First Priority in the bulletin. Talk about it in the church newsletter. On a Sunday morning in September, commission the students in your youth group as missionaries to their school. Regularly communicate. The old adage “out of sight, out of mind” comes to play here.

## PROVIDE

Eighty-five percent of those that give their life to Christ do so before the age of eighteen (statistic from the Billy Graham Association.) That is the same percentage of non-believers we see at the local public schools these days. Why treat this mission field any different than Africa or Asia? Put the student missionaries in the church missions budget (not the youth budget) and give them time to share their success during church. Host a fundraising banquet to help students

have enough funds to buy pizza for the next month’s gospel presentation.

As the coach of the team, you play many roles and have lots of responsibility. But, like any great head coach, delegate some of the responsibility. Allow the students to play a great offense among their peers. Help the parents form a great defense in prayer groups around the schools. Get your church involved in supporting and encouraging the student missionaries as they labor for the kingdom. You definitely do not need more things to do. So work smarter, not harder. Use First Priority as your primary discipleship tool and outreach opportunity to see hundreds of new believers walking the halls of your church in the years to come.



# HELP

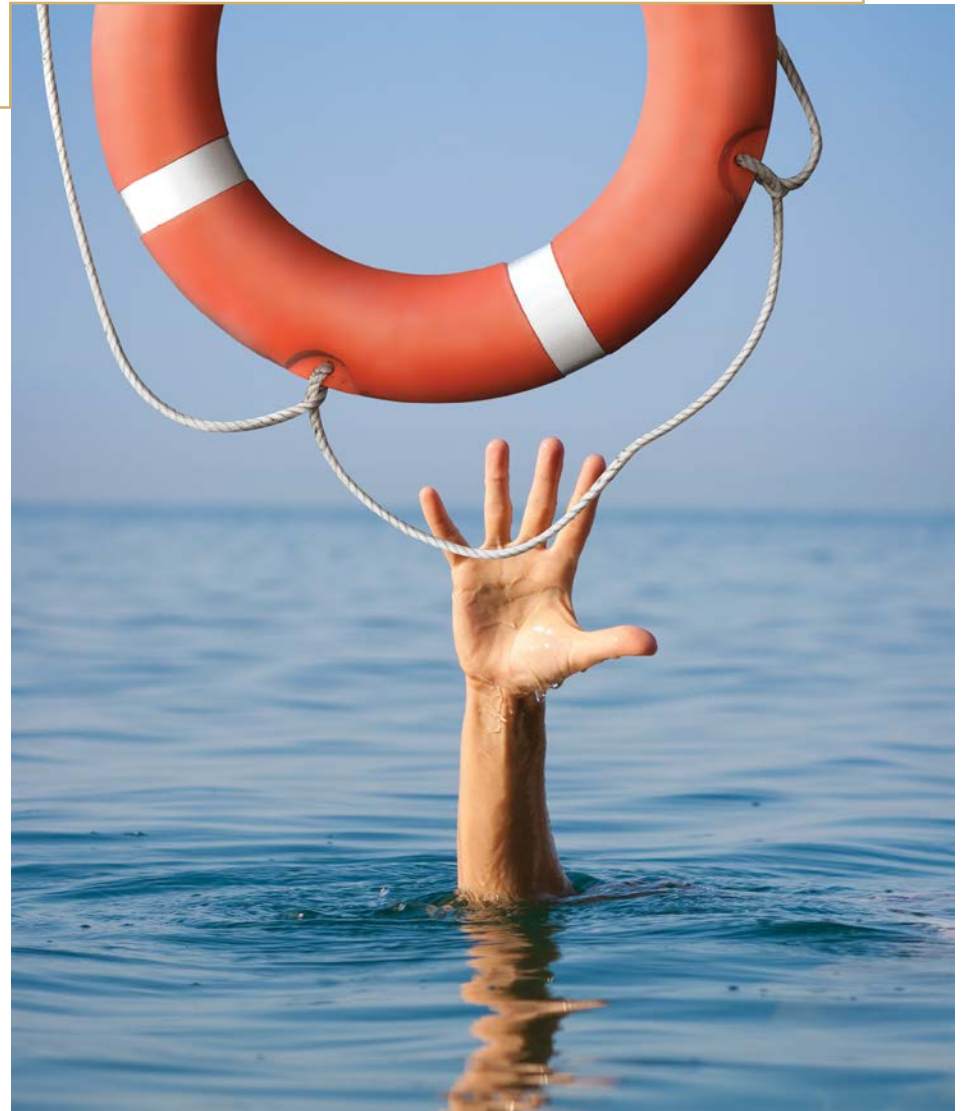
Definition: [verb] Make it easier for someone to do something by offering aid.

**The Goal: Equipping believers with a basic outline of the gospel, along with a tool, to help them articulate clearly in casual conversation.**

You can't expect a victory without taking the time to train. Help Week is essential if you want to see your club be successful. The purpose is to empower students with a basic outline of the gospel. This will help students have answers to questions their friends are asking about faith. If there were students that made a decision on Engage Week, it is also a great opportunity for them to learn the basics of their new life in Christ.

## **EQUIPMENT:**

A list of monthly recommended resources is on the following page. You can find a detailed sheet on how to use each of the resources at [www.firstpriority.club/help](http://www.firstpriority.club/help). The student leader(s) of this week needs to learn, study, and memorize their chosen gospel presentation. Through their teaching, the small group discussion with other students, and with time, all FP students will gain an ability to understand and better express why they believe what they believe. Each month



will focus on a different angle and/or method for sharing the truth of Jesus Christ. By the end of the year, the goal is to have students ready to give a reason for the hope that is in them (1 Peter 3:15).

## **STUDENT LEADER TIPS:**

- Leadership should be familiar with the training resource in advance and have printed copies available.
- Do not allow discussion to become divisive.

- Be sensitive to new believers and aim to help them grow in their new relationship with God.
- Be sure to emphasize spiritual growth of every believer as they talk about the gospel. This specific challenge to grow in your own personal relationship with God is important as you reach out at your school.
- Every month: Complete the Follow Up Process... New believers are what this club is all about!



# OVERCOME

**Definition:** [verb] Succeed in dealing with (a problem or difficulty).defeat (an opponent); prevail: “they overcame the guards”; “we shall overcome”)

Overcome is the second week’s meeting of the HOPE cycle. Overcome Week gives the motivation and inspiration to overcome our fear, worry, and doubts that we have about sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. This is the perfect opportunity to have a guest or inspirational speaker come to the club to share success stories of how God has used him/her or to teach Scripture. The speakers could include ministers, athletes, parents, business people, school faculty, or a gifted student. The speaker should not discuss denominational issues. Communicating this important message to the guest speaker is the responsibility of the campus coach and student leader in charge of the Overcome Week.

Make sure the guest speaker has a student leadership host that will meet him/her at the front door of school, get him/her to the meeting room, and send a thank-you card once the meeting is over. The host should call the guest speaker the day before the club meeting as a reminder, ask if he/she intends to share the gospel, and if they do, leave five minutes at the end of the club meeting to complete Response Cards.



Overcome Week is a great chance to get creative, so think about what would appeal to and encourage the students in your club.

## WHAT INSPIRES YOU TO GROWTH?

*For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.*

1 John 5:4-5

## COACHING TIPS:

- Quality speakers need advance notice.
- Clearly explain the purpose of OVER-COME week to the speaker; provide a copy of the guidelines.
- Assign a student to meet the invited guest in the school office.

# PREPARE

**Definition:** [verb] Make (something) ready for use or consideration. to put things or oneself in readiness



**Life is made of choices.  
The one you choose,  
you have to live with.**

The third meeting of HOPE strategy is intended to help students recognize the significance of their personal story of faith and learn to tell it well.

When we understand that our story of faith is more about what God has done than our mistakes and poor decisions, we will recognize that every believer has a valuable story.

Each student should complete a Faith Story form (see the appendix) before sharing their story with the club. Many students have never done something like this before. Using the Faith Story form and writing out your story will help you bring clarity to what God has done in your life. If you have never shared your story before, be sure to make an appointment with the campus coach to assist you. The coach will help you have

confidence in making a presentation, writing, content, and answer other questions/ concerns that you have. Be sure to turn in a copy of your Faith Story in to the student leaders so they can follow along and be ready to transition to the next part of the FP club meeting.

## **THE TESTIMONY GUIDE SERVES TWO PURPOSES:**

1. To help the students outline their thoughts and what they want to communicate.
2. To help the students stay focused on what they intend to say.

The Faith Story form in the Appendix brings clarity to what the students want to communicate and gives them confidence. A copy of the **Faith Story** form should be returned to the students so they can follow it while they are sharing. This also

helps the students know when to end. The Campus Coach and Student Leaders should determine who and how many students share during the club meeting each month depending on the length of each faith story and the amount of club time that month.

## **PRAY**

When the stories of faith are completed, encourage the students to gather into groups and pray out loud for the friend(s) they will invite to the Engage meeting the next week. Direct them to pray that God would give them an opportunity to invite their friend to the meeting and Engage Jesus Christ as their Lord and Creator. Thank God in advance for what He is going to do.

*Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.*

1 Peter 3:13-16

# ENGAGE

**Definition:** [verb] Occupy, attract, or involve (someone's interest or attention). Cause someone to become involved in (a conversation or discussion)

The fourth meeting of the HOPE Strategy is to Engage your non-believing students with the life changing message of the gospel. Gospel means "good news". The good news is that God loves us and sent His son to die for our sins. We can be restored to a relationship with Him through forgiveness that is offered through Jesus Christ. This is an opportunity for the Christian students to bring non-Christian friends to a non-threatening environment. At this club meeting, they will hear a clear presentation of the gospel and have an opportunity to respond in faith. Engage Week never changes. Make sure the gospel is shared, even if the student leaders think everyone in the room is a Christian. Have them make a clear presentation of the gospel. A Christian student should share the gospel message. Even if a student stands and reads the gospel presentation from the Appendix, it is the most powerful message in the world. It is the HOPE of Christ to a world that is hopeless.

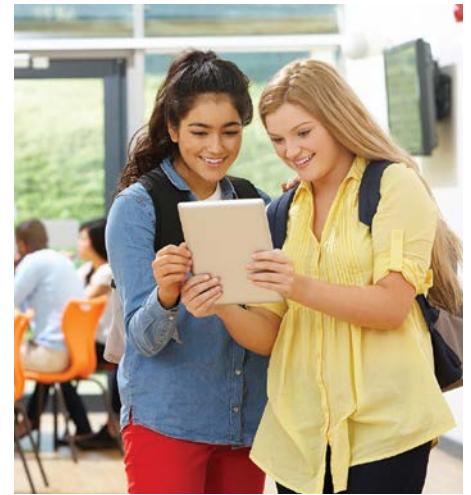
Make sure the students know not to open in prayer or worship. Just play popular music, eat, and hang out until it is time for the gospel presentation.

Why? Because you do not want to do anything that would cause a non-believer to disconnect because they feel left out, uninformed or different. If this seems unusual to you, remember that this meeting is for those who have not yet placed their faith in Jesus Christ. The mixer type atmosphere disarms people and establishes a casual atmosphere, which makes relationships and communication more effective.

Promote the Engage meeting based on relationships. If every participating student is committed to bringing one friend to this club meeting, there will be plenty of students to share the gospel with. Leave time for everyone to fill out a response card at the end of the club meeting! This helps the guests to not feel singled out and helps you keep track of who attended that day.

## CLOSING PRAYER

The student who dismisses the club in prayer should thank God for those who just committed their lives to Jesus Christ. The prayer could be something as simple as "God, thank you for those who have just invited you into their lives and have become part of your



family. We know that all of heaven is celebrating because of their salvation." Applaud as soon as the prayer ends, celebrating what God has done. This sends a message to those who have just committed their lives to Jesus Christ that what they have done is very important.

The students who prayed to commit their lives to Christ may be contemplating whether to fill out the response card and turn it in. The prayer and applause will affirm the value of their decision and encourage them. If heaven gets excited about people coming to know Jesus, then we should too!

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Matthew 28:18-20

# STUDENT FOLLOW-UP GUIDE

## 1. COLLECT DECISION CARDS

While in the classroom, sort the cards into piles based on the box that was checked by the student.

## 2. BEGIN TO FOLLOW UP WITH EACH STUDENT MAKING ANY TYPE OF DECISION

For those students who committed or recommitted their life to Christ, talk to the friends that they were brought by. Ask those students to call or text them.

- It is a time for encouragement and reinforcement of the decision made in club.
- Listen more than talk, but be willing to share the summary gospel outline again in 30 seconds.
- Find out if they have a church home. If so, where? If not, invite them to yours.
- Set up a time for you to meet with them and your (or their) student pastor for coffee to talk about the decision.
- End the conversation by asking what you can do to help them walk with Jesus. Offer to read the Bible together once a week over lunch at school.

For those students who committed or recommitted their life to Christ, but didn't list a friend on the card, divide them up among the student leadership team and follow up within 24 hours.

- The moment of salvation is a BIG DEAL! There will be a lot on their mind as they hit the pillow that very night. Make sure someone touches base that day after school or during the next school day.

Do NOT pass a copy of any response cards on to an adult other than your teacher.

- Most school privacy laws prevent any adult walking off school grounds with student information. We want to protect the school from work by honoring this law.

Pray for them.

## 3. STUDENTS WITHOUT A CHURCH HOME

1. Invite them to your church.
2. Offer to read the Bible with them. Start in the Gospel of John.
3. Help them get to know other believers at school and in the community.

*Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.* 1 Timothy 4:12

*And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.* 2 Timothy 2:2

**You have an awesome opportunity to help students grow in their faith; do not miss it!**

# STUDENT RESPONSE CARD



My response to the gospel message today (please only check one):

- Today, I prayed to receive Christ
- I would like more information about the Gospel
- I have already prayed to receive Christ before today
- I am not interested

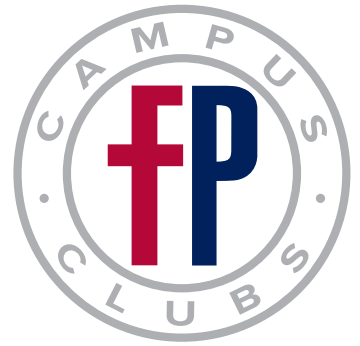
My name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

What church (if any) do you attend? \_\_\_\_\_

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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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.

# QUALITY CONTROL MATRIX: CLUB EVALUATION

## HOW TO USE THIS MATRIX

At each month's leadership meeting, rate each line on a scale of 1 to 5	
1 = Poor	
3 = Average	
5 = Great	
Add up each section and review in your area of responsibility	
Add up section totals to review the month	

### 1. STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Displays enthusiasm, has a passion to reach friends and embrace mission	
Accepts responsibility and carries out tasks with little supervision	
Works and communicates well with Coach, Sponsor and peers	
Actively involved in planning (volunteers)	
Good role model (servant leader)	

score

### 2. CAMPUS COACH

Enthusiastic -- encourages and casts vision for students	
Attends club meetings as needed to be an effective coach, but not regularly	
Assists students with leadership planning	
Maintain supplies -- runs off printed resources for students from website/disc	
Attends and contributes at Network meetings	

score

### 3. FACULTY SPONSOR

Enthusiastic -- assists with creating a "fun" atmosphere	
Attends all meetings (including planning) and arranges alternate for absences	
Prepares the room for meeting -- makes sure door is open	
Helps to promote First Priority meetings at school	
Maintains an attendance log for the school's knowledge of what is going on in their non-curricular club	

score

### 4. MONTHLY PLANNING MEETING

Participation of students, teacher, and coach	
4 weekly club meeting outlines printed and distributed	
HOPE Manual was used	
Follow up was discussed and implementation begun	
This month's club happenings reported to FPOA	

score

## 5. HELP WEEK

Student leaders prepared to lead discussion	
Strategic use of Help Week tools	
Small group participation (practice)	
Content comprehension (demonstration of understanding by students)	
Prayer for unsaved friends emphasized	

score

## 6. OVERCOME WEEK

Speaker present and prepared (if applicable)	
Prayer for unsaved friends emphasized	
Prayer cards and response cards utilized	
Students review Engage Week assignments	
Student leaders review responsibilities for follow up from last month	

score

## 7. PREPARE WEEK

Faith Story page printed and utilized (HOPE Manual)	
Student led	
Opportunity for follow up with new believers in response to the testimonies	
Strategic use of Prepare Week tools	
Resources (Bibles and response cards) available	

score

## 8. ENGAGE WEEK

Speaker present and prepared	
Student leaders fulfilled roles and responsibilities	
Positive club atmosphere (music, icebreaker, greeters)	
Guests invited and attend	
Resources available (Response Cards, Bibles, new books, paper goods, food and drink)	

score

## 9. GOSPEL PRESENTATION

Speaker received Engage Week Guidelines in advance of meeting	
Clear presentation – the basic doctrine of salvation was explained	
Timely presentation	
Invitation to respond – students given a chance to respond to the message	
Adequate time left for follow up	

score

### TOTAL SCORE

Score Average attendance of club meetings	
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# of new Christians this month	
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God Story:
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# EVERY CAMPUS COACH NEEDS TO REMEMBER:

## Steps To Become A Campus Coach

- Complete FP Campus Coach Application on [www.firstpriority.club](http://www.firstpriority.club)
- Complete Background Check (Every 3 Years) via the link below the online application
- Submit Letter of Reference From Your Pastor
- Once vetted, be trained by First Priority

## Once on the school Campus

- Know the local school non-curricular policies and follow them
- Know FPOA's campus coach policies and follow them

## Every Camus Coach needs to remember

1. That we are on campus to help students share the simple message of the Gospel with their friends. If questions come up about denominational differences or cultural topics, please refrain from answering. Our focus in a First Priority club is to show and share the love of Christ, not get into a Bible study or theological debate. If a more in-depth conversation is needed, please direct the student(s) to talk with a church leader at a local church and NOT on school grounds. This applies to conversations with school faculty as well.
2. Do not take pictures or videos of students while on campus. Please do not post pictures or names of students on any social media without a signed parent release form.
3. If a student should reveal to an adult leader that they are currently hurting themselves, thinking of hurting themselves or being hurt by someone else, the adult leader must inform school leadership and the First Priority Executive Director. The leader may also contact your state's child services department to report incident. No matter how insignificant the comment may seem, it must be reported.
4. The campus coach/adult leaders should not give out their cell phone number nor take student cell numbers.
5. If a student is bullying another student in a club, it is ok for the adult leader to gently redirect the student. Leaders should not yell at or remove a student from a meeting. If a student is being disruptive, disrespectful or acting inappropriately, please speak to a teacher (preferably the faculty sponsor) or guidance counselor immediately.
6. Adult leaders should not be in a room with a student alone. There must be another adult leader or teacher with you.
7. If the club leadership encounters any kind of conflict that cannot be resolved between the two parties, contact the First Priority office for third party assistance. Even if neither party is in sin, we would like to be the third party as described in Matthew 18:16 to help resolve the situation.
8. Please do not send a student on an errand alone. If you need help unloading or loading a vehicle in a parking lot, please send an adult leader (on middle school campuses) or at least two students together (high school campuses). Passes may be required.
9. Campus coaches should not write student passes. If a student requires a pass, please have it pre-approved or have the student obtain a pass from the faculty sponsor.
10. Make certain you have filled out the proper paperwork required for you to register with the school as a volunteer.
11. Attend a Campus Coach training session, and fill out a background check and fulfill the child protection training before going on campus.
12. Do not circumvent the sign-in process; sign in at the front once every time you visit a club.
13. Participate monthly/quarterly in First Priority youth pastor networking meetings.
14. Stick to the First Priority plan; this will establish confidence that our clubs are strategically synchronized and will help to keep clubs from taking a non-legal path.
14. Try to meet the principal and express appreciation for allowing the First Priority club on campus.
15. Remember to say "thank you for inviting me to your club" whenever you attend a meeting; and if you're scheduled to speak, be sure to acknowledge the invitation.
16. Do not participate in a mass distribution of fliers or any other printed material on school grounds.
17. When going to a school, be careful how you dress; collared shirt, long pants and closed toe shoes will create a more professional appearance. Remember that ministry starts not when we walk into the room, but when we walk onto the school campus.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



# UNDERSTANDING THE EQUAL ACCESS ACT CONCERNING STUDENT-LED MEETINGS

The Equal Access Act became law in 1984 and was upheld by the Supreme Court in 1990. There are three major components of the law:

- 1) Nondiscrimination: if a public secondary school allows non-curriculum, student-led meetings then the school must treat all meetings equally.
- 2) Student-initiated, student-led meetings: In order for the meetings to be deemed lawful on a public secondary campus, meetings must be student-initiated and student-led.
- 3) Local control: the act does not limit authority of the school leadership to maintain control.

## **Equal Access Act**

The Equal Access Act is a United States federal law passed in 1984 to compel federally funded secondary schools to provide equal access to extracurricular clubs. It shall be unlawful for any public secondary school which receives Federal financial assistance and which has a limited open forum to deny equal access or a fair opportunity to, or discriminate against, any students who wish to conduct a meeting within that limited open forum on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings.

## **(b) "Limited open forum" defined**

A public secondary school has a limited open forum whenever such school grants an offering to or opportunity for one or more non-curriculum related student groups to meet on school premises during non-instructional time.

## **Access Defined**

"Access" refers not only to physical meeting spaces on school premises, but also to recognition and privileges afforded to other groups at the school, including, for example, the right to announce club meetings in the school newspaper, on bulletin boards, or over the public-address system. Non-instructional time is "time set aside by the school before actual classroom instruction begins or after actual instruction ends," and covers student meetings that take place before or after school as well as those occurring during lunch, "activity periods," and other non-instructional periods during the school day.

*See Donovan v. Punxsutawney Area Sch. Bd.*, 336 F.3d 211, 222 (3d Cir. 2003) ("Simply because the period may fall within the more general parameters of the school day does not indicate that all time within those parameters necessarily constitutes actual classroom instruction."); *Ceniceros ex rel. Risser v. Bd. of Trustees*, 106 F.3d 878, 880 (9th Cir. 1997) (holding that the plain meaning of the term "non-instructional time" under the Act includes meetings held during lunch time).

## **For more information on the Equal Access Act, check out:**

The Equal Access Act itself found online, [www.freedomforum.org](http://www.freedomforum.org), [www.aclj.org](http://www.aclj.org), [www.ceai.org](http://www.ceai.org).

# CHILD PROTECTION INFORMATION FOR FIRST PRIORITY VOLUNTEERS

The protection of youth is paramount to us. With this in mind, we are providing the following training in order to educate you on the procedures for reporting any type of child abuse.

As a volunteer who is directly or indirectly supervising minors, you are mandated to report any suspicion of child abuse, child neglect, child sexual abuse, and/or exploitation of children. This includes, but is not limited to a minor telling you that he/she is:

- Being harmed by someone else
- Is harming someone else
- Is harming themselves
- Is going to harm themselves

In all cases, the requirement is that you call the Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.4.A.CHILD (1.800.422.4453). *Childhelp* is a national organization that provides crisis assistance and other counseling and referral services. You can also look up your local child protective services by going to [www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov). The First Priority Executive Director (and appointed Board Member) must be notified the same day of reporting the incident.

If a parent, guardian, teacher or supervisor is suspected of child abuse and/or neglect: The Abuse Hotline is called immediately and First Priority staff is notified. The Executive Director will notify a school administrator as soon as possible.

1. Complete a "Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect" form.
2. DO NOT CALL THE PARENT.
3. DO NOT CONTACT THE TEACHER.
4. DO NOT INTERVIEW THE CHILD.

All information collected on the incident is kept confidential by the First Priority staff.

Record Keeping:

A copy of the 'Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect' form can be found online at [www.firstpriority.club](http://www.firstpriority.club) at the bottom of the 'policies and procedures' page. Please fill out the form, submit it to the First Priority Executive Director. If you do not know who that is, please submit it via the contact form on [www.firstpriority.club](http://www.firstpriority.club).

Volunteer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Print name \_\_\_\_\_ staff initials \_\_\_\_\_

\*this information is provided as a guide to supplement the 2 hour online child protection training you received when you applied to volunteer with First Priority. If you have not had your background check done nor taken the training, please contact First Priority before continuing as a volunteer.



# [www.firstpriority.club](http://www.firstpriority.club)

A central location for all the information you need.

LEARN ABOUT THE FIRST PRIORITY MOVEMENT

LEARN ABOUT YOUR ROLE

FIND CLUB RESOURCES

FIND PROMOTIONAL VIDEOS AND MATERIALS

MOBILE FRIENDLY



# CAMPUS COACH COMMITMENT



1. Meet with the Student Leadership Team & Faculty Sponsor for **PLANNING MEETINGS** to advise in implementing the First Priority club strategy.
2. **PROVIDE** First Priority resources available for clubs upon request.
3. Encourage new Christian students to follow-through with friends in the **FOLLOW-UP PROCESS**.
4. Be involved with First Priority **NETWORK** meetings and communicate regularly with your First Priority Director.
5. As the Student Leadership Team initiates conversations with you relating to the club, always **ENCOURAGE** the leadership to fulfill the purpose they committed to in their Club Constitution and to discuss any denominational issues with their local church.
6. **INVOLVE YOUR CHURCH** in the ministry of First Priority by developing prayer initiatives, supporting through missions giving, providing volunteers for events and helping us find potential Campus Coaches and Priority Parents.
7. Be a **FOLLOWER OF JESUS CHRIST** and maintain an active relationship in a local church that is in agreement with our statement of faith (below), avoiding disqualifying behavior that Scripture forbids (Galatians 5:19-21, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10), and setting a positive biblical example "in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12, c.f. Galatians 5:22-25).

I agree to the guidelines above and commit to serve the First Priority club at:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(NAME OF SCHOOL)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(SIGNATURE)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## **We Believe**

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

# 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 be a devoted follower of Christ, avoiding disqualifying behavior that Scripture forbids (Galatians 5:19-21, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10), and setting 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 "H.O.P.E." strategy of meetings provides students with the opportunity to grow and apply their personal faith and enhance their relationship 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. \_\_\_\_\_

# FINAL WORD



The HOPE strategy is simple. That is why it works. We believe that if the Gospel is shared, people will respond positively. The reason so many students have not given their lives to Christ is not because they have rejected the message; it is simply because they have not heard.

*Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.*

1 Peter 3:13-16

Can this work? Absolutely! Will it work? Absolutely! The 'can' is up to God while the 'will' is up to us. In Ezekiel 37, could God have brought life to the valley of the dry bones by himself? Yes. Did he? No. He used his followers then, and he is unchanging from that today. We pray you will see this strategy not as something else to do, but instead something that will fit into what you are already doing. If things go well, thank God! If they do not go well, get help!

*If you have a question, contact your local First Priority leadership or First Priority of America at [www.fpofamerica.com](http://www.fpofamerica.com) [admin@fpoa.org](mailto:admin@fpoa.org) or 888-808-FPOA.*



UNITING THE  
**CHURCH**  
TO INFLUENCE THE  
MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL  
**CAMPUS**  
FOR  
**CHRIST!**

# BELIEVE THE IMPOSSIBLE

To say the very least, it amazes God for His children to believe in the impossible. The only two times the Bible ever mentions God being amazed is when His hometown expressed little faith and then when the centurion expressed great faith. (Matt. 8:10)

Do Christians know they can AMAZE God? It is in itself amazing that the omniscient God can be amazed. What lover of God would not want to seize the opportunity to amaze Him by believing in the impossible and ingratiating himself to His heart, ensuring that for America, He did not die in vain!

We believe the Church united in a city can change America!



**First Priority of America**

P.O. Box 473 Brentwood, TN 37027

888-808-FPOA (3762)

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