



A year of intentional choices to follow Jesus and share the Good News.

— CHOOSE THIS DAY —

Choose this day whom you will serve... Joshua 24:15



FIRST PRIORITY HOPE GUIDE

CHOOSE JESUS

• ISSUE ONE •

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THIS GUIDE
BELONGS TO

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INTRODUCTION

How to get the most out of your First Priority H.O.P.E. Guide

HELP WEEK • OVERCOME WEEK • PREPARE WEEK • ENGAGE WEEK



DEVO TIME

The HOPE Guide is designed to be used weekly. For example: on Monday, read through Help Week and put it into action the rest of the week. Then next Monday, read Overcome Week and do the same. So pick a day that works best for you, whether it is alone or with a group, and read that week's devotion.



PRAYER STOP

Spending time in prayer with God and praying for others.



H.E.A.R.

Listen to what God is telling you through His Word.

- Highlight Scripture
- Explain Context
- Apply to your life
- Respond



GO

Your challenge for the week.



SHARE

Telling your faith story to others.

STUDENT CHECK-IN

Click on QR Code and share where you are.



We pray that you allow God to work in and through you as you grow closer to Him. When you step into your school, remember you have entered your mission field. Claim it for Jesus Christ today!

Till the trumpets sound,

First Priority Family



CHOOSE JESUS



My Prayer list for my school:



Listen to what God is telling you through His Word.

HIGHLIGHT SCRIPTURE

“Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” Joshua 24:14-15

EXPLAIN

Who you are today determines who you will be tomorrow. If you want to be a better student, you have to decide today to study and put in the work. If you want to grow in your relationship with God, you have to decide today to spend time reading His Word, the Bible. So when we decide what we want to do with our lives, we have more control than we think.

In Joshua chapter 24 verse 14, Joshua gave Israel a challenge: “Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.” The decision was in their hands. God did not force Himself on anyone, but Joshua had already decided that he would follow and serve the Lord. In verse 15, Joshua gave them the choice: to serve the gods of their fathers or serve the Lord. You see, we do not need to convince people to serve the Lord. We have nothing to fear and everything to gain by presenting the options and giving our friends and family the right to make up their own minds.

Then Joshua made it personal at the end of verse 15: “But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” At the end of the day, it comes down to this: YOU must choose to serve the Lord. It won’t

happen by accident. You must begin each day by choosing to serve Him and then follow up that decision with a bunch of small choices in the right direction. If you follow Jesus, there will come a time when you must say, “Do what you want, and whatever you do, I will still be your friend, but I am going to serve the Lord.”

The request is clear: Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve. I pray you will make the right choice. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

APPLY

Today’s Help Tool is the Life/Death card. Take the Life/Death card and begin with the word Death showing. Read the top of the card, “For the wages of sin is death.” Then flip the card clockwise to show the word Life and read the top of the card, “But the gift of God is eternal life.” Next, read the verses on the back as you continue to share the Gospel.



JESUS LOVES YOU

We have all sinned and are separated from God.
(Romans 3:23)

But God still loves us. (Romans 5:8)

Sin earns us death in hell but God gives us eternal life
through Jesus Christ. (Romans 6:23)

If we confess our sins and turn from them, believe in our
heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, we will be saved.
(Romans 10:9-10,13)

CHOOSE JESUS TODAY

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HELP WEEK

CHOOSE JESUS



HELP WEEK

Helping you believe and
share the Good News
of Jesus.

CHOOSE JESUS

RESPOND

Practice the Help Tool and ask God to give you boldness to begin the conversation about Jesus with your classmates.

BIG IDEA TO REMEMBER

Decide today who you will be tomorrow and whom you will serve.



Share your Death/Life card with a classmate and a teacher this week.

NOTES:

THE HOPE OF CHRIST IN EVERY STUDENT

SIGN UP TODAY

FIRST PRIORITY TEXT UPDATES



Text @_____ to 81010 to stay in the loop.
[SCHOOL CODE]

ODESSA

Bonham: @bonhamfp
Bowie: @bowiefp
Compass: @compassfp
Crockett: @crockettfp
Ector: @ectorfp
New Tech: @ntofp
Nimitz: @nimitzfp
OCA: @utpbfp
OCTechs: @octechsfp
Odessa High: @odessafp
Permian High: @permian2fp
Stem Academy: @stemfp
Wilson Young: @wayfp

MIDLAND

Abell: @abellfp
Alamo: @alamofp
Goddard: @goddardfp
Lee Fresh: @leefreshfp
Lee High: @leefp
Midland Fresh: @midfreshfp
Midland High: @midlandfp
San Jacinto: @sjfp

ANDREWS

Andrews High: @andrewsfp
Andrews Middle: @andrewsmfp

GREENWOOD

Brooks Middle: @brooksfp
Greenwood High: @greenfp

KERMIT

Kermit Jr. High: @kermitjhfp
Kermit High: @kermitfp

MONAHANS

Monahans High: @monahansfp
Walker Jr. High: @walkerfp

STANTON

Stanton Jr. High: @stantonjfp
Stanton High: @stantonfp

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OVERCOME WEEK

CHOOSE JESUS

Overcoming things that keep you from sharing the Good News of Jesus.



My Prayer list for my family:

WOULD YOU RATHER:

- Would you rather be covered in fur or covered in scales?
- Would you rather lose the ability to read or lose the ability to speak?
- Would you rather have free flights forever or never have to pay for food?
- Would you rather dance or sing to every song you hear?
- Would you rather only use a fork or only use a spoon?



Listen to what God is telling you through His Word.

HIGHLIGHT SCRIPTURE

"The young man said to him, 'All these I have kept. What do I still lack?' Jesus said to him, 'If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.'" Matthew 19:20-21

EXPLAIN

We don't usually think of ourselves as being rich. There are people with bigger houses, more money, and nicer stuff. There is a sense of security when we have everything we need. Instead of looking to God to find our worth, we look at our "stuff" for that.

In the Book of Matthew chapter 19, we read about a young guy who was very wealthy. We call him the rich young ruler. He asked Jesus what good deed he must do to have eternal life. Jesus told him to follow the commandments. The rich young ruler told Jesus that he already followed all of them but was still lacking something. Jesus then told him in verse 21, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven;

and come, follow me.” When the rich young ruler heard this, he went away sad.

What? Is Jesus asking us to sell all our stuff? Maybe. When Jesus told the young man to sell all his stuff, He was telling him to get rid of everything that he had that was more important to him than Jesus. He is asking us to do the same. Jesus wants us to let go of whatever takes our focus off Him, so we can follow Him.

Real JOY comes from following Jesus and allowing Him to work through us. Sometimes that means that we must OVERCOME the desire to focus on “stuff.” At the end of the day, it’s not about us - it’s about Him.

The story in Matthew goes on to say that the rich young ruler was very sad when he walked away from the conversation with Jesus. He was sad, because he was not willing to give up the things that he loved to follow Jesus. What about you? Are you willing to say yes to whatever He is asking you to do?

APPLY

What do you have to overcome to make Jesus first?

Pray that God gives you nudges when you start to take your eyes away from Him.

RESPOND

- How can you move Jesus up on your priority list?
- What things do you tend to focus on more than Jesus?

BIG IDEA TO REMEMBER

Life is full of tough choices. Choose today to follow Jesus.



Encourage someone who keeps to themself.



OVERCOME WEEK

CHOOSE JESUS



PREPARE WEEK

Preparing your story of
believing the Good
News of Jesus.

CHOOSE JESUS



My Prayer list for myself:



Today you will learn a creative way to share your faith story.

THE HERO OF MY STORY

Who is the hero of your faith story? For many of us, our faith story serves as a way of sharing some of the most important details in our lives that led to choosing to follow Jesus. If we are not careful, though, we can share too much about our own actions and not enough about Christ's. It is helpful to think of Jesus as the hero and main focus of our story, so that the Gospel is clearly presented when we share how it all happened. Romans chapter 5 verse 8 and Ephesians chapter 2 verse 8 tell us that salvation was started and finished by Christ, and our part in that is simply to receive or reject.

Romans chapter 5 verse 8 says, "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Ephesians chapter 2 verse 8 says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

This doesn't mean that you are no longer in your story; it just means that Jesus is the focus! In order to show Jesus as the hero, describe in detail what God has done and limit describing your own actions to ways in which you responded to His work. This will help your listeners to understand that they, too, are invited by God to follow Him, and that they can respond to that invitation any time.

→ On the next page is the **Prepare Week Worksheet** that will walk you through writing out your faith story.

PREPARE WEEK WORKSHEET

THE HERO OF MY STORY

Redeemed: To be saved or rescued from sin and brokenness.

Below is a guide for writing out your faith story with Jesus as the hero.

1. My name is _____ and I am a follower of Jesus.
Today I'd like to share why.
2. I learned that all people need to be redeemed, because we are all broken by sin - not just in a physical way but in a spiritual way. Here is what I learned about sin and why it is a problem:
3. I realized I was lost and broken because:
4. God created all people and loves them dearly. He knows that they are broken and cannot fix themselves. That's why He sent Jesus. This is what Jesus did for me, so that I would not be separated from God:
5. When I understood all of this for the first time, I realized that I needed Jesus to redeem me. Not only that, but Jesus also invited me to know Him and to follow Him. The story of how I accepted God's offer of salvation went like this:

If you could see my life from my view today, you'd see two very different people, especially compared to what I was like before and after I started following Jesus. Here are some of the biggest things He has done in my life since He redeemed me:

GO

Share your story with someone this week. There is power in your story.

CHOOSE JESUS

My Prayer list for my friends who don't know Jesus:

**GOSPEL S.T.O.R.Y.
SCRIPTURE - TRUE - OUR - REAL - YOU**

The word **Gospel** means **Good News**. It was used to announce good news about a new king. The good news told about the king's message, actions, and victories. The Gospel of Jesus is found in the Bible. It is the Good News of who Jesus is and what He has done. The Gospel story also tells us who we are, why we are broken, and how Jesus is the King who gave His life to rescue us. We are invited to be a part of God's story by trusting and following Jesus.

SCRIPTURE
tells us
who
Jesus is
and what
He has
done.

If you are making a choice to trust and follow someone, you need to know who that person is. The Bible tells us the true story about who Jesus is and what He has done. Mark chapter 1 verse 1 tells us exactly who Jesus is: "The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." Mark says clearly that Jesus is the Son of God. We can look to Jesus to know exactly what God is like.

TRUE
identity
begins
with
knowing
that God
created
us.

The story began with God creating all things. He called everything that He made, good. He created humans to know Him and to represent Him on the earth (Genesis 1:27). God created you, knows you, and loves you more than you could ever imagine. He created you to love Him and other people. This is your true identity.

Sadly, everything did not remain the way that God created it. Everything became broken.

**OUR
lives are
broken by
sin.**

The first humans that God created chose to turn away from Him. They broke their relationship with God. We have all chosen to live our own way, too. We have failed to fulfill God's purpose for our lives to love Him and other people. This is called sin. The Bible says that we have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Our lives and the world that we know are broken by sin. Because of this, we often feel distant and disconnected from God. We need someone to rescue us and reconnect us to God.

**REAL
love is
Jesus
giving His
life for
ours.**

Jesus came with a message of Good News. He was sent by God to rescue us and restore our relationship with God (Luke 19:10). Jesus never sinned. He perfectly loved God and all people. Jesus showed us real love by giving His life for our sins. He died and was buried, but on the third day, God raised Him from the dead. He was seen alive by over 500 people (1 Corinthians 15:3-6). He is the true King who rescued us by His love. We can now be forgiven, rescued, and reconnected to God.

**YOU
are
invited
into God's
story.**

There are many stories about who Jesus is and what He has done in the Bible. John chapter 20 verses 30 and 31 say, "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." John says that the Gospel story was written, so that you would believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and you can have eternal life. You are invited into God's story. This new life can begin by trusting and following Jesus.

NEXT PAGE→



ENGAGE WEEK

CHOOSE JESUS

ENGAGE WEEK

CHOOSE JESUS

Think about what you just read. If you have decided that you want to begin a relationship with Jesus, you can pray this simple prayer.



PRAY: "God, I believe this Gospel story of Jesus. I know that I am broken. I ask you to forgive me of my sins. I want you to be the King of my life. I choose to trust and follow Jesus today and forever. Amen."

YOUR DECISION

Click on QR Code and tell us about your decision.



Share with someone the Gospel Message that you just read and invite them to join you next week.

**DON'T FORGET TO GRAB NEXT
MONTH'S HOPE GUIDE**



CHOOSE PRAYER

• ISSUE TWO •

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Permian Basin First Priority's mission is to unite the local church to impact our schools with the Gospel Message through student-led clubs on campus.



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