

JOY

Prepare Week Leader Guide

Prepare Week: A time for students to learn how to share their story of what their life was like without Christ in contrast to their new life with Christ.



PRE MEETING INSTRUCTIONS:

- Select one student to lead this month's Prepare Week
- Post to social media and text friends inviting them to First Priority Club
- Print "Your Faith Story" (1 per student) if you want to have every student attending club working on their testimony at the same time. (Faculty sponsors can usually print these for you if given enough notice)

INTRODUCTION: 3 minutes

Welcome Students, Prayer and Explanation

- **Prepare Week Host:** "Welcome to First Priority! This club is a place to seek and grow in God. This week is Prepare week, which is where we practice sharing our personal story about how we came to know Jesus."
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Introduce Students Giving Testimonies:** "Today, my friend _____ is going to share their story. Please listen respectfully as it takes a lot of courage to speak in front of others. Afterward, we are going to give some positive feedback on how well they did and also ask questions. Let's welcome them as they share."

JOY Prepare Week Leader Guide (continued)

TESTIMONY TIME: (15 minutes)

Share Testimonies

1. Student Testimony = _____

2. Student Testimony = _____

3. Student Testimony = _____

TESTIMONY WRAP UP:

- **Prepare Week Host:** "Let's take the next couple of minutes to give positive feedback to those who shared about how they did and feel free to ask them questions about their story."

[**OPTIONAL**]: Pass out printed copies of "Your Faith Story" and read, explain, and practice each step in groups of 2 or 3.

Appendix A

YOUR FAITH STORY - HOW TO WRITE YOUR TESTIMONY

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 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.

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	

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 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!

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ACTION CHALLENGES:

- **Group Challenge:** GROUP SELFIE! Get everyone huddled together and take a photo and post it to social media with the hashtags: #firstpriority #fpjoy #FPprepareweek
- **Prayer Challenge:** Pray for the sharing of the Gospel next week. Pray that the hearts of those who come to Engage week but do not know Jesus would be receptive to the good news.
- **Invite Challenge:** Personally invite at least 5 students to Engage week next week.

WRAP UP: 2 minutes

- Share any FP Club announcements including that next week's meeting is Engage Week. Remind everyone to bring a guest because it will be a fun atmosphere with food and a game, as well as a student giving a gospel presentation.