

PATIENCE

Overcome Week Leader Guide

Overcome: A time for student leaders to encourage their peers to overcome their fears of sharing the Gospel.



PRE MEETING INSTRUCTIONS:

- Select one student to lead this month's Overcome Week
- Post to social media and text friends inviting them to First Priority Club

INTRODUCTION: 3 minutes

Welcome Students, Prayer and Introduction

- **Overcome Week Host:** "Welcome to First Priority! This week is Overcome week, which is where we encourage each other to overcome our fear, anxiety, and worry about sharing our faith with our friends."
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Introduce Student Leading Discussion:** Today, my friend, _____, is going to share about how God produces patience in our lives..

GROUP TIME: Trust the process (20 minutes)

Student Speaker: Think of a time when God asked you to share your faith story with a friend and they rejected it and maybe even you.

In 2018, one of the big stories in the NBA was the Philadelphia 76ers and their young and talented roster. For quite some time now the 76ers have been one of the worst teams in the NBA. They have finished at the bottom or close to the bottom of the standings. In doing this they received a lot of good players in the NBA draft. This year they made it all the way to the second round of the playoffs. Their motto over the last few years has been “trust the process.” Today I want to look at the process that God uses in our lives to bring about holiness and what that has to do with Overcome week.

James 1:2-4 says, “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

How can James say to consider it a great joy when trials come into our lives? I don't know about you, but I don't like it when trials come into my life. Trials are hard. James knows that but he still tells us to be joyful about it. He can tell us to have that attitude because of what he says in the next verse. He tells us to “trust the process.” We are not supposed to be joyful about the trial for the trials sake, but we are to be joyful in the trial because it is part of a greater process.

He goes on to say that when our faith gets tested our endurance (or patience) grows. It is like a blade of grass. Every rain that comes along beats down the small blade of grass but it also brings water to make the grass continue to grow! Trials are simply times to grow.

Trials force our roots to go down deeper in Christ as we lean into Him for the strength to make it through the trial.



PATIENCE Overcome Week Leader Guide (continued)

As our endurance continues to grow we become perfect and complete according to James. The perfection and completeness do not come because we have become completely patient, but because of how we have had to do to become patient. By leaning into Christ in our trials, we become more like Him. Being more like Jesus should be the goal of every Christian.

Jesus was never in a hurry. Jesus never worried that he wouldn't meet others expectations. He never took shortcuts and never gave up through His toughest moments. Jesus endured the heaviest cross anyone could ever bear – the sins of the whole world and ultimate judgment against that sin. Even when you feel completely defeated, trust that God knows what He is doing. **TRUST THE PROCESS!**

APPLY IT:

Discussion Option 1: Share about a time when you wanted to quit or take a shortcut, but instead decided to trust the process. What was the outcome?

Discussion Option 2: Share about a time when you shared about your faith with someone and got rejected and what you learned from it. Then share about a time you shared the gospel and someone decided to follow Christ.

ACTION CHALLENGES:

- **Group Challenge:** Take a photo, Instastory, or snap with those around you and use #trusttheprocess #firstpriority
- **Invite Challenge:** Find 3 people that you know are not Christians. Pray for them over the next couple of days and invite the FP next week!
- **Prayer Challenge:** Lastly, get into groups of three or four and spread out. Pray for each other that God would lead you through the process of trusting Him.

WRAP UP: 2 minutes

- Share any FP Club announcements including that next week's meeting is Prepare Week.

