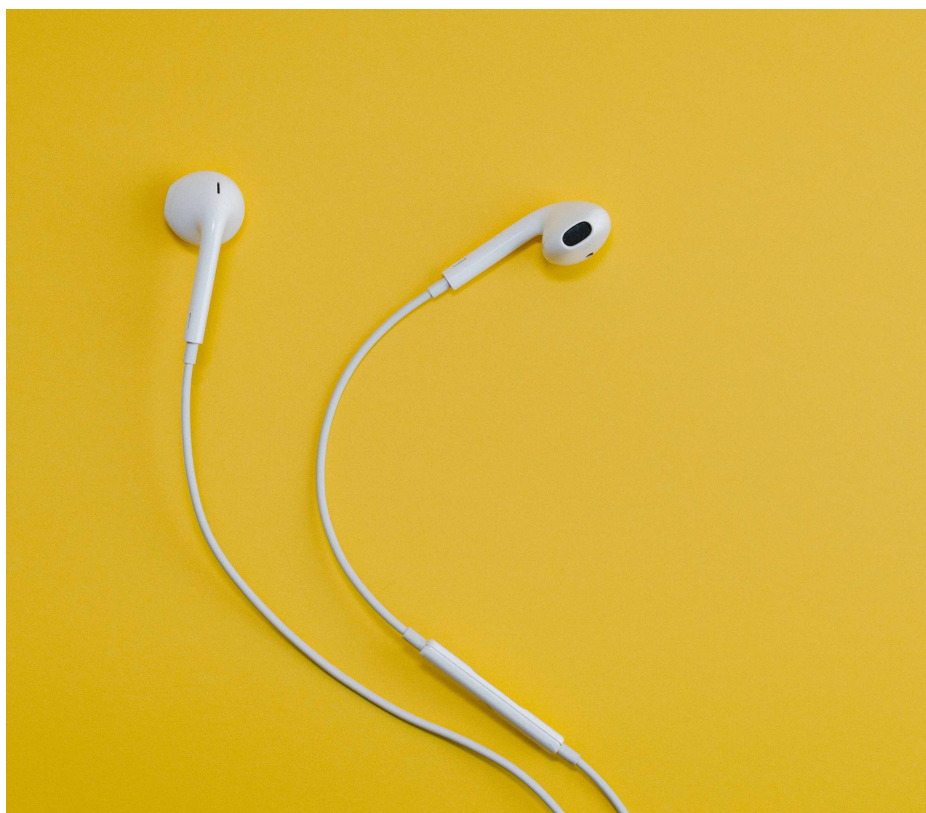




A year of intentional choices to follow Jesus and share the Good News.

— CHOOSE THIS DAY —

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



FIRST PRIORITY HOPE GUIDE

CHOOSE LISTENING

• ISSUE FOUR •

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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.



This month we will learn how talking less and listening more helps us to get to know those around us and gives us an opportunity to share Jesus with them.

Grateful,

First Priority Family



CHOOSE LISTENING



My Prayer list for my school:



Listen to what God is telling you through His Word.

HIGHLIGHT SCRIPTURE

“Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.” James 1:19

EXPLAIN

We live in a world of talk. Talk, talk, talk. Speak, speak, speak. Everyone, it seems, wants to be heard. We have become a culture full of talking heads, regardless of where we find ourselves. The chatter is deafening. Into this noise come the words of James in chapter 1 verse 19, “Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.” This verse is almost impossible to understand by a culture intent on talking. We have it backwards: we are quick to speak, slow to hear.

Do you remember the story of Martha and Mary in Luke chapter 10 verses 38 through 42? Luke offers us a helpful contrast in speaking and listening. Martha was frantically trying to make dinner preparations for Jesus and the disciples. I envision her running around the house, uttering things under her breath like, “I can’t believe Jesus is here on such short notice” and “Why doesn’t Mary get in here and help me?” Unlike Martha in verse 39, it tells us what Mary was doing: “And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to His teaching.”

Not surprisingly, Martha gets a bit frustrated at Mary’s lack of effort with the event. So Martha does what we probably all would do under similar circumstances - she starts talking. In verses 40 through 42, it says, “But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, ‘Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.’” We are not left to wonder

which course of action Jesus commands. We see it in His gentle rebuke: “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.”

Mary was quick to listen and slow to speak. She knew when to be quiet. In a culture full of chatter, I want to learn how to be silent, so I can hear what the Lord wants to teach me. He’s speaking. Am I listening?

APPLY

Today we are going to use one of our Help Tools as a reminder to stop talking and start listening to God and others. The other tool will help us be more intentional about sharing Jesus’ message.



W.A.I.T. Sticker (Why Am I Talking)
Place the sticker on your binder or phone as a reminder to choose daily to listen.



The Cause Circle: Prayer - Care - Share

Prayer: It all starts with prayer! Praying for the people we are seeking to reach with the Gospel prepares their hearts to hear the Good News of Jesus.

Care: Jesus modeled how important it is to care for people’s needs. In the same way, we must love those we are trying to reach. We do this by listening to them and caring for them.

Share: After prayer and care, we must lovingly share the Gospel message clearly and confidently. When we invite someone to put their faith in Christ, we are inviting them to make the best decision of their lives.

NEXT PAGE →



HELP WEEK

CHOOSE LISTENING



CHOOSE LISTENING

RESPOND

Take some time to fill out **The Cause Circle** card with the names of people you will start praying for, taking care of, and sharing with.

BIG IDEA TO REMEMBER

Choose today what James suggests in our highlight scripture; be quick to listen and slow to speak.



Commit this week to talk less and listen more.

TAKING THE HOPE OF CHRIST TO 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

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

CHOOSE LISTENING



My Prayer list for my family:

WOULD YOU RATHER:

- Would you rather be stranded in the jungle or in the desert?
- Would you rather only be able to whisper or shout?
- Would you rather all your shirts be two sizes too big or one size too small?
- Would you rather wrestle a bear or wrestle an alligator?
- Would you rather lose the ability to speak or to hear?



Listen to what God is telling you through His Word.

HIGHLIGHT SCRIPTURE

“Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.” Proverbs 19:20

EXPLAIN

Last week we learned the story of Mary and Martha and about being still and listening. Mary would listen well, while Martha stayed busy and missed out on what Jesus had to say. We have the same problem. We want to be heard. We want people to hear about our day or our experiences. Why is it so difficult for us to listen? We struggle with this, because we would rather speak our thoughts instead of listening to the thoughts of others.

Proverbs chapter 19 verse 20 tells us to “listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.” So listen to advice and take instruction. This verse describes the need for listening. It takes effort, patience, and being intentional. A lot of times we barely listen, because we are distracted by our surroundings. Instead of concentrating on what’s being said, we are busy deciding what to say in response or mentally rejecting the other person’s point of view.

Proverbs chapter 18 verse 2 says, “It is the fool who takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.” It means a lot to a person to be heard. When someone starts talking to you, they are inviting you to walk with them and go on a journey for a short time. Maybe it’s not your first choice of conversation, or maybe you are in a hurry and feel like you don’t have the time. Stop and take the time to invest in someone else’s story. Be an example of God’s love, and let His light shine through simply by listening.

The Bible says that Jesus was a friend of sinners. That’s our example—to be a friend, to listen to people, see where they are, and then take them where they need to go.

APPLY

Be ready whenever someone needs to talk. It might mean you have to give up a lunch or maybe a workout. God is asking us to represent Him to others, and God always listens to us.

RESPOND

- Who is someone you listen to when you need advice?
- When you listen, are you listening to learn from them or waiting for a moment of silence so you can interject what you think?

BIG IDEA TO REMEMBER

The best ministry you might do for someone today is to simply listen.



Spend this week listening to others more.



OVERCOME WEEK

CHOOSE LISTENING



PREPARE WEEK

Preparing your story of
believing the Good
News of Jesus.

CHOOSE LISTENING



My Prayer list for myself:



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

CARDBOARD TESTIMONY

We have seen homeless people standing on street corners with a piece of cardboard and a message, such as “Will Work for Food,” “Need Money,” or “Please help me feed my family.” That is where the idea for cardboard testimonies began. The silent message can speak volumes in just a few words.

We have put our own spin on the idea by sharing a few words on one side of the cardboard about our life before Jesus and writing a few words on the back about our transformation after Jesus made us a new creation. Not many of us get an opportunity to stand before an audience and speak about what the Lord has done in our lives. Even fewer Christians want to speak before an audience because of fear. A cardboard testimony is a way to share the change Jesus has made in our lives without speaking a word. It is a powerful witness to the transforming power of God’s Spirit in our lives.

- Paul is one of the most prominent Christians in the Bible. His testimony would probably say:
side one: murderer - Christian hater
side two: evangelist - prisoner for Jesus
- The disciple John would perhaps say:
side one: selfish – angry
side two: beloved by Christ
- Zacchaeus encountered Christ, who invited Him home to dinner. His testimony?
side one: cheater - thief
side two: generous - forgiven
- One of the most powerful testimonies would come from Lazarus:
side one: literally dead for 4 days
side two: alive - healthy - following Jesus

PREPARE WEEK WORKSHEET

CARDBOARD TESTIMONY

Now it is your turn to share your cardboard testimonies. You will need a piece of paper to write on or you can use the space below to write your testimony.

On one side write what your life was like before Jesus, and keep it simple. Flip it over to the other side and write the difference Jesus has made in your life.

What does your cardboard testimony say?

SIDE ONE



SIDE TWO



Use your social media to share your cardboard testimony with others.



ENGAGE WEEK

Engaging your school
with the Good News
of Jesus.

CHOOSE LISTENING



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.

There are many voices that we are told to listen to. Some are good, like teachers, coaches, and parents. Others are not so good. We have to choose who we will listen to. The Gospel story tells us to listen to Jesus because of who He 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. The entire story of the Bible is about how Jesus is coming to rescue people from sin, because He is the true King.

TRUE
identity
begins
with
knowing
that God
created
us.

But wait, why do we need Jesus to rescue us from our sins? Let me explain.

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

<p>TRUE identity cont.</p>	<p>than you could ever imagine. He has created you to love Him and other people. This is your true identity. God also created you to hear His voice and respond.</p> <p>Sadly, everything did not remain the way that God created it. Everything became broken.</p>
<p>OUR lives are broken by sin.</p>	<p>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. Instead of listening to God, we listen to other voices that lead us away from Him. This causes us to feel distant and disconnected from God. We need someone to rescue us and reconnect us to God.</p>
<p>REAL love is Jesus giving His life for ours.</p>	<p>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).</p> <p>He is the true King who rescued us by His love. Listening to Him is the first step to being rescued.</p>
<p>YOU are invited into God's story.</p>	<p>You have a choice about who you will listen to. By listening to this Good News about Jesus and believing it, you can be rescued from sin. You are invited into God's story. It begins with a choice to trust and follow Jesus.</p>

NEXT PAGE →



ENGAGE WEEK

CHOOSE LISTENING

CHOOSE LISTENING

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 the Good News of Jesus with someone new and take the time to listen to their response.

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



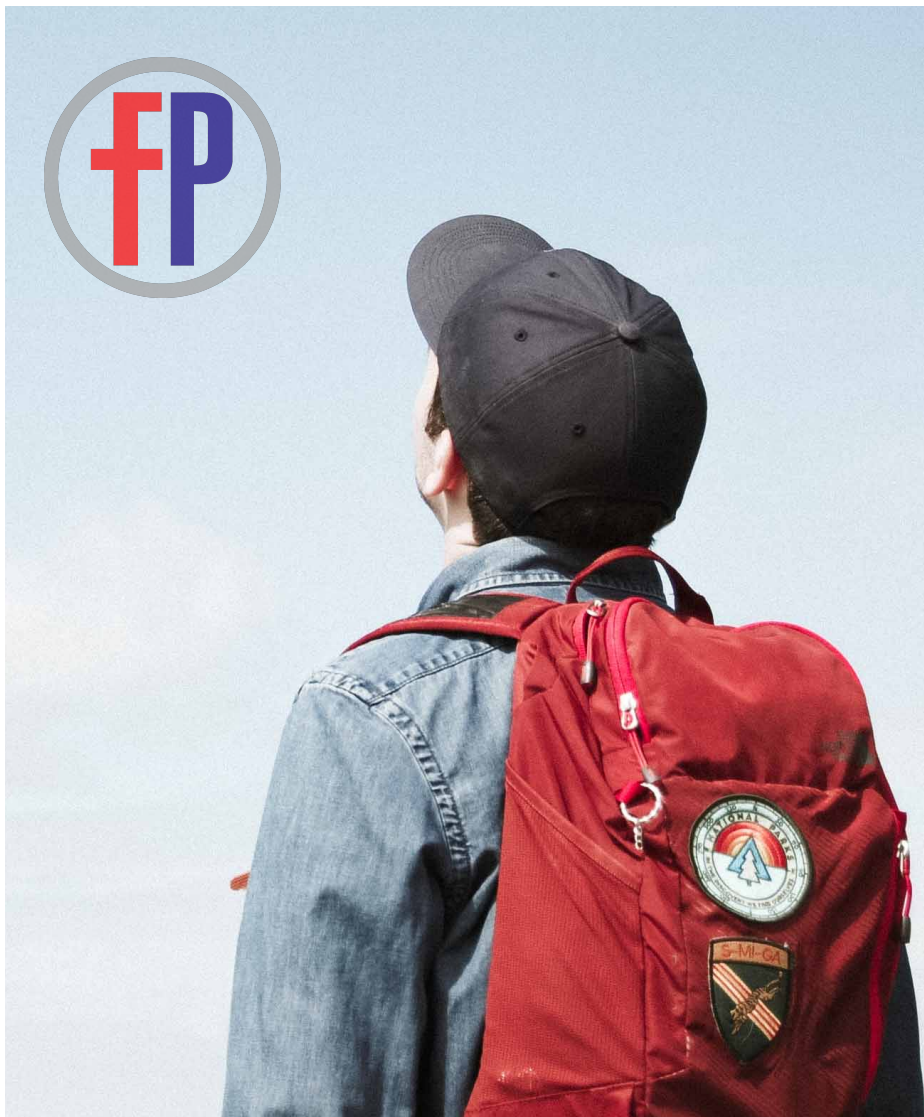
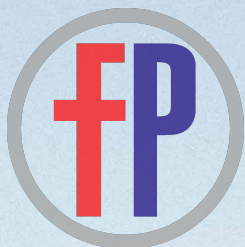
CHOOSE LOVE

• ISSUE FIVE •

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Permian Basin First Priority's vision is to unite the local church to impact our middle and high schools in the Permian Basin with the Gospel Message through student-led clubs.



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