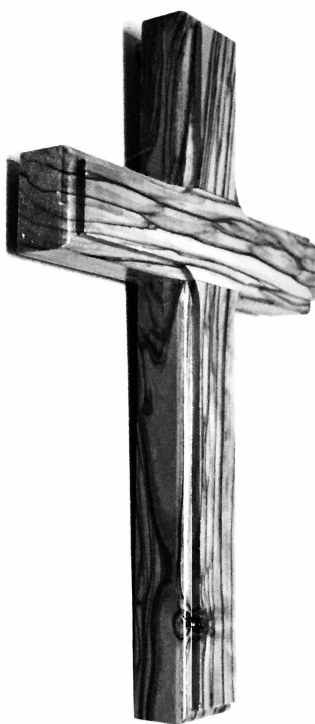




A year of intentional choices to follow Jesus and share the Good News.

— CHOOSE THIS DAY —

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



FIRST PRIORITY HOPE GUIDE

**CHOOSE SACRIFICE**

• ISSUE SEVEN •

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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 talk about what it looks like to choose sacrifice.

Because He lives,

*First Priority Family*



## CHOOSE SACRIFICE



My Prayer list for my school:



Listen to what God is telling you through His Word.

## HIGHLIGHT SCRIPTURE

“Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” Hebrews 13:15-16

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## EXPLAIN

Sacrifice. There’s no way to sugar-coat it. It hurts. It’s supposed to. Sacrifice isn’t pleasant. It is the act of giving up something you love or value for a greater purpose.

Paul says in Philippians chapter 2 verses 6 through 8 that Jesus, “emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” It’s important to understand what Jesus emptied Himself of. He left the comforts of heaven to come to earth, to take on human form, to die on a cross. He gave up all this, so that He could meet our need for salvation.

We will never be called to make that kind of sacrifice, but let’s look at some sacrifices we can make in response to Jesus’ sacrifice. In Hebrews chapter 13 verses 15 and 16, God tells us what sacrifices please Him, “Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” When we bring a “sacrifice of praise,” we choose to believe that, even though life is not going as we think it should, God is still good and can be trusted. When we choose to praise God, despite the storms, He is honored, and our faith grows

deeper. Real praise continues, regardless of circumstances.

In verse 16, it tells the other sacrifices that please God: doing good and sharing with others. Instead of focusing on ourselves and our own needs, look for opportunities to pour into other people. Stop living for yourself. The world is full of people who are hurt, lost, and discouraged. You don't have to save the world. Jesus already did that. But helping others is something He wants us to do. Don't wait. Take the opportunity to help someone. You won't regret it, and God won't forget it - "For such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

**APPLY**

This week's Help Tool will help you share Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and how you can choose a relationship with Him. Below is your eFold and the instructions on how to use it are on the next page.



NEXT PAGE →



**HELP WEEK**

**CHOOSE SACRIFICE**



## CHOOSE SACRIFICE

### RESPOND

Take a few minutes to read through and practice eFold.

1) Show the front picture which represents man separated from God



(Point to the right side) This light represents God. God is perfect and without sin. God loves us! God doesn't want us to perish, but to have everlasting life. But our sins must be forgiven in order to have eternal life with God.

(Point to the left side) This represents every person like you and me. The darkness represents our sin. Sin is anything that God tells us not to do. The Bible says, all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

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2) Open to Jesus on the cross



God loved us so much that He sent His only Son Jesus Christ to earth as a man. Jesus died on a cross to pay for our sins with His blood. He took our sins in His body on the cross so that we could come to God. (1 Peter 2:24, 3:18). The Bible also says that "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son Jesus, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) The Bible says, "God demonstrates His own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

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3) Point to the Tomb



Men buried Jesus in a tomb. They rolled a huge stone in front of it. Soldiers guarded the tomb.

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4) Point to Jesus outside the Tomb



God sent an angel to roll away the big stone and scare away the soldiers.  
God raised Jesus from the dead!  
Soon afterward, God took Jesus back to Heaven.  
Jesus has paid the price for our sin, and Jesus has conquered death.

## TAKING THE HOPE OF CHRIST TO EVERY STUDENT

## 5) Open to the Cross Bridge



Jesus is the only way we can come to God. Jesus said in the Bible, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father [God] except through Me.” (John 14:6) Through Jesus, we can be forgiven of all our sins and be with God forever. But just knowing about these things is not enough! We must choose to put our faith in Jesus, to trust Him to save us from sin. If you do not take the step of trusting in Jesus, then your sins are not removed! (Hebrews 4:2)

## 6) Open to Heaven and Hell



The Bible says that whoever believes in Jesus has eternal life and is not judged. But whoever does not believe in Jesus has been judged already and the wrath of God remains upon him! (John 3:16, 18, 36) The penalty for sin is death, but eternal life through Jesus is a free gift from God. What choice will you make?  
Trust in Jesus Christ to be forgiven and have eternal life?  
(point to ‘Heaven’)  
Or reject Jesus Christ and suffer eternal punishment in fire?  
(point to ‘hell’)

## ASK THE QUESTION: Would you like to trust Jesus right now and be saved?

The Bible says, “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.” (Romans 10:9) I can lead us in a prayer to God. Remember, it’s not saying the words that saves you; God is looking at your heart for true faith in Jesus.

Ready? (If yes)

Let’s pray: “God, thank You for loving me. I confess that I have sinned against You. I believe that Your Son Jesus died on a cross to pay for my sins, and that You raised Jesus from the dead. I now put my faith only in Jesus to forgive me and save me from my sins. I confess that Jesus is Lord! Thank you for your gift of eternal life. I pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

## BIG IDEA TO REMEMBER

Choose today to live a life of sacrifice.



Share your eFold with 2 people this week.



**HELP WEEK**

**CHOOSE SACRIFICE**



## OVERCOME WEEK

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

### CHOOSE SACRIFICE



My Prayer list for my family:

#### WOULD YOU RATHER:

- Would you rather use an iPhone or a Samsung?
- Would you rather dress fashionably or comfortably?
- Would you rather hop around all day or walk backwards?
- Would you rather have a pimple on your nose or between your eyes?
- Would you rather give up sleep or give up your phone?



Listen to what God is telling you through His Word.

#### HIGHLIGHT SCRIPTURE

“Then he said to them all: Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.” Luke 9:23-24

#### EXPLAIN

Sacrifice: an act of giving up something you value for the sake of something else that is important or worthy.

Living a life for ourselves adds stress, pressure, and chaos to our life. We miss out on the peace that only comes from sacrificial living. When we sacrifice, we give up something that means a lot to us. For instance, if we give away clothes that we never wear or games that we never play, is that sacrifice? Nope. If what we give up doesn't mean anything to us, it doesn't mean anything to God. In Luke chapter 9 verses 23 and 24, Jesus gave instructions when He said, “whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”

What does it mean to deny myself and take up my cross daily? It means that we sacrifice our thoughts, our needs, and even our time for service to God. What would motivate us to do this? We do this



because we love God and are called to serve Him. We don't serve others just to get credit or recognition or so that our good deeds outweigh our bad deeds. To deny ourselves means to give up anything that keeps us from doing what God intends for us. We don't usually like to give up anything.

How about taking up our cross? What's that? You see, Jesus doesn't simply call us to believe that He existed or even to believe that He can save us. He calls on us to commit our whole lives to Him—to trust Him alone for our salvation and then to follow Him as His disciples. Luke chapter 14 verse 27 says, "Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple."

Have you allowed Jesus to be in complete control of your life? Have you put to death your own plans and committed yourself to His plans for your life? Don't be satisfied with anything less, for there is no greater joy in life than following Christ every day.

---

## APPLY

So what does this mean for us? It means no matter what we think or do, we are to sacrifice our wants and desires and to follow Christ; we are to sacrifice our comfort and share the Gospel with others. This becomes a lifestyle and a way of giving up what we want, so that we can share the Gospel.

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## RESPOND

- What are things, times, events, you can sacrifice for the sake of others?
- How have others sacrificed for you?
- Think of three things that you can do this week that would be considered a sacrifice for someone else.

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## BIG IDEA TO REMEMBER

In order to be a disciple or follower of Jesus, we must be willing to give up things in our life for His plan.



Pick one thing this week that you can give up for the sake of someone else.



**OVERCOME WEEK**

**CHOOSE SACRIFICE**



## PREPARE WEEK

Preparing your story of  
believing the Good  
News of Jesus.

### CHOOSE SACRIFICE



My Prayer list for myself:



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

## BOTH SIDES OF THE STORY

Have you ever heard two people tell the same story? Most of the time there are two sides to every story. Our faith story is a lot like that, too. One side of the story is about us and what our life was like before and after beginning a relationship with Jesus. That part is very important. But sometimes we forget the other side of the story, which is how much Jesus sacrificed to rescue us from our sin and brokenness.

Hebrews chapter 12 verse 2 says, “looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was before him endured the cross, despising the shame and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Our story should always point other people to Jesus and what He has done. Today we want to list both sides of the story beside each other. This will help us remember to include both sides of the story, when we share our faith story.

Use the space on the next page or a separate piece of paper to show both sides of the story.

On the next page is the Prepare Week Worksheet. →  
Write your story in the space provided.

## PREPARE WEEK WORKSHEET

### BOTH SIDES OF THE STORY

1. On the “ME” side, write down things that God has changed in your life since you began a relationship with God. (Examples: He has helped me love more. He has given me joy. He has taken away my shame.)
2. On the “JESUS” side, write down things that Jesus did to rescue you from sin and restore your broken relationship with God. (Examples: Lived a perfect life. Loved me. Died on the cross. Rose from the dead.)

ME

JESUS

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3. Circle the list on the “JESUS” side. This is a reminder to always include what Jesus has done to restore our relationship with God in your story.
4. Write a short paragraph about how having a relationship with Jesus has changed your life AND what Jesus did for you, so that you could have a relationship with God.



Take the time this week to share your story and His story with someone new.



## ENGAGE WEEK

Engaging your school  
with the Good News  
of Jesus.

### CHOOSE SACRIFICE



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.

Has anyone ever given up something important for you? Maybe it was their time or a very expensive gift. There is a person who made the greatest sacrifice of all for you. Jesus gave His life to rescue the world from sin (Matthew 20:28). This is a big deal because of who Jesus 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><b>TRUE identity cont.</b></p>	<p>than you could ever imagine. He has created you to love Him and other people. This is your true identity.</p> <p>Sadly, everything did not remain the way that God created it. Everything became broken.</p>
<p><b>OUR lives are broken by sin.</b></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. We needed someone to love us so much that they would do anything to rescue us.</p>
<p><b>REAL love is Jesus giving His life for ours.</b></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). He is the true King who rescued us by His love.</p> <p>Jesus giving His life for us was the greatest sacrifice in human history.</p>
<p><b>YOU are invited into God's story.</b></p>	<p>John chapter 3 verse 16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." There is a reason for Jesus' sacrifice. He gave His life, so you can have eternal life. You are invited into God's story. It begins with a choice to believe in Jesus.</p>

**NEXT PAGE→**



**ENGAGE WEEK**

**CHOOSE SACRIFICE**

## ENGAGE WEEK

### CHOOSE SACRIFICE

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.



Pray for an opportunity to share the Gospel Message that you just read with a friend or teachers.

# 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: @kermitjhf  
Kermit High: @kermitfp

### MONAHANS

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

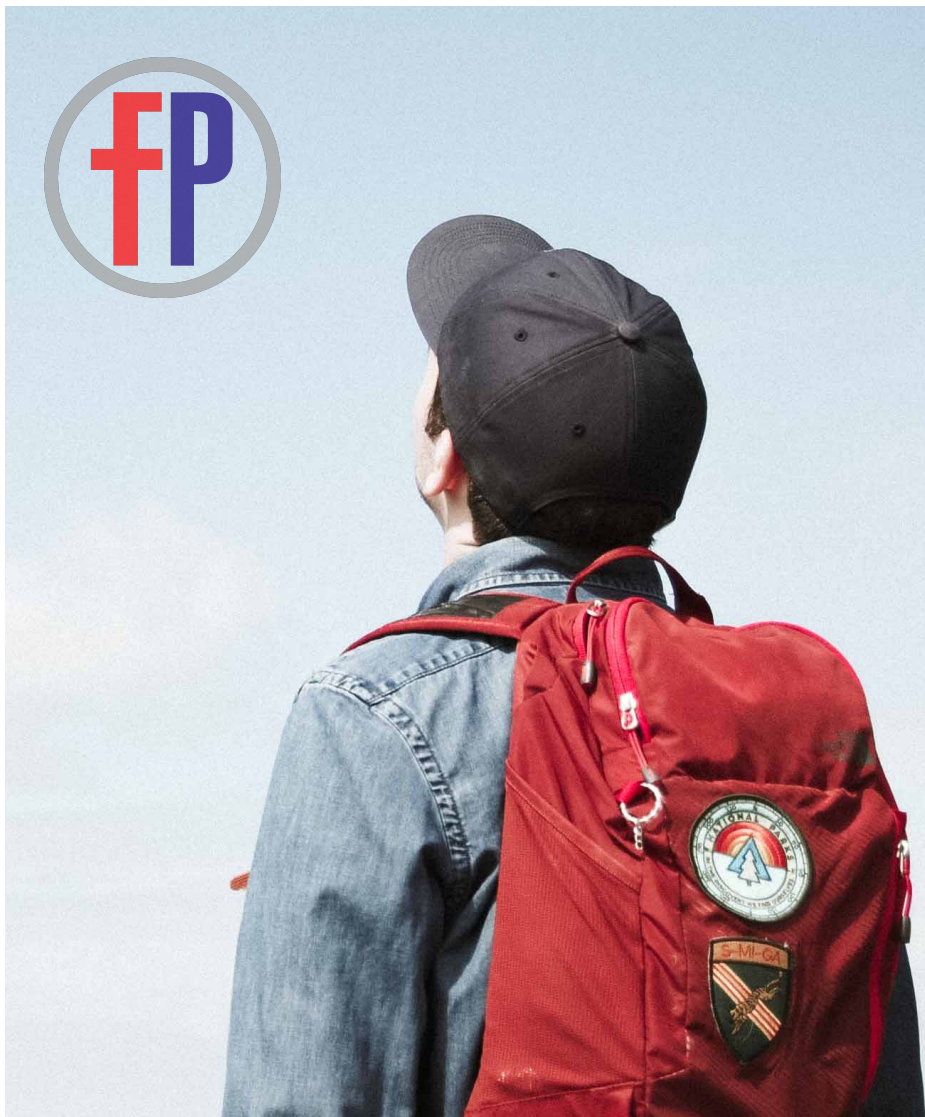
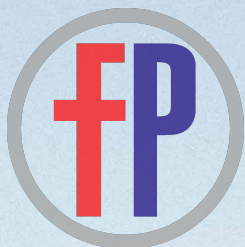
### STANTON

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

**JOIN US IN SEPTEMBER AS WE KICK OFF  
FIRST PRIORITY ON CAMPUS  
FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR.**

FOLLOW US:   firstprioritypb  firstprioritypb.org

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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