



WHAT IS FIRST PRIORITY?

First Priority is a strategy to connect the CHURCH to reach the CAMPUS for CHRIST. It is intended to change the spiritual climate of the school and the world through students.

VISION

The Hope of Christ in Every Student.

MISSION

Unite the Local Body of Christ with a plan of action to influence the school with the gospel.



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THE HOPE OF CHRIST IN EVERY STUDENT



HOW DOES FIRST PRIORITY WORK?

First Priority works well as a strategy for the local church if the local church takes the time to organize each component of the strategy. To explain this, we compare life as a Christian in the U.S. to the necessary components of a football game. First Priority is the game plan for the students in the community to come together at school and live the game of faith every day.

STUDENTS: “Players on the field” as [indigenous] missionaries to the teenage culture at school.

TEACHERS: “Referees on the field” who can’t play in the game, but can make sure that the rules of the school are being followed and the door to the classroom is open.

YOUTH MINISTERS: “Coaches on the sideline” who train, equip, plan, and strategize to help students lead the club with excellence and achieving the desired outcomes.

PARENTS: “Fans in the stands” who promote and provide for the club, and encourage and pray for students as they play the game.

BUSINESS LEADERS: “Owners of the team” who provide health, structure, and longevity overseeing the ministry and ensuring that the mission and vision to share HOPE with students lasts for decades to come.

OUR DISTINCTIVES

- Local Church strategy
- Student led and initiated at school
- Networks of support
- Long term plan and structure
- Community based and locally owned

WHAT DOES FIRST PRIORITY LOOK LIKE FOR STUDENTS?

We employ the H.O.P.E. acronym in cycles throughout the school year: Help, Overcome, Prepare, and Engage.

HELP: Students are equipped to share the gospel.

OVERCOME: Students are inspired to overcome their fear of sharing the gospel.

PREPARE: Students are given the opportunity to share their testimony.

ENGAGE: Believing students are given the opportunity to invite their non-believing friends to hear about the HOPE of Christ.

FOLLOW UP PROCESS: During Engage week, students are given the opportunity to respond to a gospel presentation where they can indicate a desire for another student to follow up with them. Often this leads to their attending a local youth ministry for the first time and getting connected to the local church for discipleship.

WHO BENEFITS FROM FIRST PRIORITY?

THE LOCAL CHURCH

- helping churches organize, equip and mobilize students to reach students with the gospel
- giving churches specific, manageable opportunities to serve middle and high schools in their community

THE LOCAL SCHOOLS

- providing a network of support to the school from local churches

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- when students’ lives are changed by the hope found only in Jesus Christ

WHY FIRST PRIORITY?

- Because being lost without Christ means a loss of hope. Only a declining 12% of students in the US attend church weekly. Culture statistics indicate that suicide, sexual confusion, and abortion are on the incline.
- Because without intentional campus evangelism training and implementation, students who don’t attend church may never hear the gospel.
- Because no one church can reach and disciple every middle and high school student in their community, but when united, THE Church can.
- According to the Billy Graham Association, 85% of all who come to know Christ do so before they graduate high school, thereby making our middle and high schools the greatest mission field in America.

