

THANKFUL

Overcome Week Leader Guide

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



CLUB TIME PREP:

- 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

- **Assigned Leader Opens:** Welcome to First Priority! This club is a place to seek and grow in God. This week is Overcome week, which is where we encourage each other in how to overcome obstacles of sharing the Gospel. This month our theme is "THANKFUL." We are talking about how gratitude enables us to have a stronger and more spiritual influence with others. This month's verse is: *"Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus."* (1 Thessalonians 5:18 NLT)
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Introduce Student Leading Discussion:** Today, my friend, _____, is going to share about how gratitude helps us be intentional about sharing the good news of the gospel.

GROUP TIME: Little Thanks, Big Thanks (20 minutes)

Assigned Speaker Suggestion: Don't answer this question aloud, but on a scale of one to ten, how thankful would you say that you are that Jesus has saved you? Luke chapter 7 tells us about the time Jesus was invited to have a nice dinner with some "important" people (pharisees), only to have the formal occasion awkwardly interrupted by a woman who was probably the subject of 99% of the town's gossip. It was obvious to everyone that her emotions were out of control as she wept and approached the guest of honor (Jesus) with very expensive perfume. The embarrassment of the hosts probably multiplied when she began crying on, kissing and drowning his feet in perfume. She and Jesus were clearly breaking several unspoken social rules. Immediately, the guests at the table began to gossip, this time not only about her, but also about how Jesus would even allow his feet to be touched by any woman, let alone THIS one.

Then Jesus answered his thoughts. "Simon," he said to the Pharisee, "I have something to say to you."

"Go ahead, Teacher," Simon replied.

Then Jesus told him this story: "A man loaned money to two people—500 pieces of silver to one and 50 pieces to the other. But neither of them could repay him, so he kindly forgave them both, canceling their debts. Who do you suppose loved him more after that?"

Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the larger debt." "That's right," Jesus said. Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Look at this woman kneeling here. When I entered your home, you didn't offer me water to wash the dust from my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You didn't greet me with a kiss, but from the time I first came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet. You neglected the courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has anointed my feet with rare perfume.

"I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love." Then Jesus said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven."

The men at the table said among themselves, "Who is this man, that he goes around forgiving sins?"

And Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

(Luke 7:36-50 NLT)

THANKFUL Overcome Week Leader Guide (continued)

It is very important that we consider the size of what Jesus has done on our behalf. If we think that he has saved us from only a little sin in comparison to others, our life will reflect this attitude by our choice to often put other things before God. If we begin to see ourselves as people who owed a huge debt we couldn't possibly pay, we will realize that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and victory over death is the most important act of love anyone has ever done for us. We should be overflowing with thankfulness and eager to love and serve others at any chance we get. Sometimes, even our hesitation to share the gospel with others is evidence that we think we have more "important" things to do. You see, we are this pharisee in this story if our hearts do not have enough thankfulness to serve Jesus at every opportunity.

APPLY IT:

Discussion Option 1: What are some times that you feel like you have allowed selfishness to rob you of opportunities to show or share the love of Jesus with others at school?

Discussion Option 2: Is there anything more important for a Christian than living your life for God's glory? Why do you think so many Christians make excuses or have bigger priorities than Jesus?

ACTION CHALLENGES:

- **Group Challenge:** Take a group photo with the Colossians 3:17 on the white board or on a poster board and post on social media using the hashtags #firstpriority and #FPthankful
- **Invite Challenge:** Text someone to let them know how thankful you are for them in your life and share with a student this week why you are thankful for God in your life.
- **Prayer Challenge:** Lastly, get into groups of three or four and spread out. Take 2 minutes and take turns praying for each other to walk in thankfulness. Then, we are going to huddle up and someone can close out our club time in prayer.



WRAP UP: 2 minutes

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