

THE HOPE OF CHRIST IN EVERY STUDENT

HOPE

WEEKLY GUIDE

FOREVER

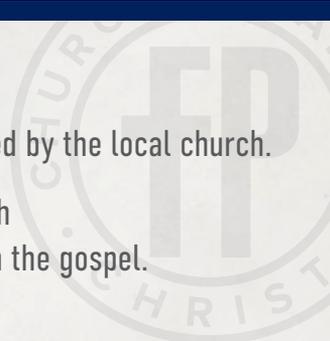
MONTH 9, VOLUME 3



FIRST PRIORITY

is a campus evangelism strategy implemented by the local church.

MISSION: To unite the local body of Christ with a plan of action to influence the schools with the gospel.



FIRST PRIORITY BUILDS NETWORKS OF SUPPORT



Students “The Players In the Game” Taking The Love & Message of Jesus Christ As Missionaries To Their School.



Parents “The Fans In The Stands” Praying For, Supporting & Discipling Their Children.



Churches “The Coaches On The Sidelines” Equipping, Encouraging and Empowering Students.



Educators “The Referees Of The Game” Providing Guidance and Direction.



Business / Community Leaders “The Owners Of The Team” Investing Leadership, Mentoring and Resources In Their Community.



“First Priority is the most innovative way to reach a city for Christ. It unites our local churches together as one to make a difference.”

– Dr. Jay Strack, President of Student Leadership University

PLANNING GUIDE

Help Week:

Host:

Leadership speaker:

Behind the scenes organizer:

Overcome Week:

Host:

Leadership speaker:

Behind the scenes organizer:

Prepare Week:

Host:

Faith story 1:

Faith story 2: (optional)

Faith story 3: (optional)

Behind the scenes organizer:

Engage Week:

Host:

Activity Leader:

Gospel speaker:

Behind the scenes organizer:

Host: Welcomes, opens in prayer, introduces the week, introduces the speaker, makes announcements, talks through response cards, thanks everyone, and dismisses.

Behind the scenes organizer: Makes necessary arrangements for (but doesn't do it all him/herself) greeters (who also hand out response cards), food, decor, printing, music.

YOUTHPASTORSUMMIT.COM

YOUTH PASTOR SUMMIT

Free 2-Day Conference

AS A GIFT TO STUDENT PASTORS,
VOLUNTEERS, AND EDUCATORS

ORLANDO: March 19-20, 2018

DALLAS: April 9-10, 2018

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: April 16-17, 2018

NASHVILLE: April 23-24, 2018

Speakers Include:



Jeff Wallace



Levi Lusko



Eugene Cho



Danielle Strickland



Brad Lomenick



Greg Stier

...and many more



Brent Crowe



Bob Goff



Ben Trueblood



Dr. Robert Smith, Jr.



Megan Fate Marshman



David Nasser

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Youth Pastor Summit is an Extension of Student Leadership University
in Partnership with LifeWay Students  LIFEWAYSTUDENTS

FOREVER

Help Week Leader Guide

Help Week: A time for student leaders to equip their peers to become missionaries to their school, as they plan and pray for the month of campus ministry ahead.

CLUB TIME PREP:

- Select one student to lead this month's Help Week
- Ask one student to bring a pad of square post it notes to be shared during the Help week discussion.
- Remind students to post on social media and text friends reminding them about First Priority club time

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 Help Week, which is where we help each other become missionaries to our school. This month we are discussing what it means to for Christians to live Forever and the impact that has on sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ."
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Introduce Student Leading Discussion:** "Today, my friend, _____, is going to share about why understanding eternity is vital to reaching our school with the gospel."



DISCUSSION: Living Forever (20 Minutes)

Assigned Speaker Suggestion: Today I would like to begin by reading a passage from John Chapter 14:

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.” (John 14: 1-3 ESV)

Jesus has just shared some major moments with his disciples in Chapter 13 in the book of John. He washes their feet, He shares who will betray him, He gives them the new commandment of “love one another as you have been loved” and then shares with Peter that Peter too will deny him. It feels like a roller coaster ride of emotions in a very short time. All of that context in Chapter 13 brings clarity to why Jesus decides to share the text above with his friends.

One of the gifts of following Jesus is that we live forever with God. However, sometimes it can seem so hard to wrap our minds around forever? I mean think about it, as humans we tend to think in the temporary. We operate in days, or weeks, or even 30 minute television shows. But for God there is no beginning or end, there is only eternity or Forever.

Jesus has the great ability of helping His followers see into the future, in this case the future of eternity. As His disciples take in what He has just said to them, that not only is there a future place for them, but that He will in the right moment come back to get them. He is helping to bring calm and clarity to all we will face in the temporary.

I bet it’s a fair guess that each of you this week have faced a few roller coaster rides of emotions. Bad test grade, a family member getting sick or just being treated poorly by someone who was supposed to be a friend. Reality is, as long as we live in the temporary, those things can really cause a mess in our lives. For you and I as Christ followers, Jesus has provided the promise of Living Forever with Him so we have a different perspective and can face those moments with confidence. In other words, no matter what we face when we begin to view our daily lives through eternity, it changes the way we react to each situation. For if my spirit is going to be connected to God forever, than the temporary can hurt me, it can effect me, but it cannot separate me from God’s love for me.



FOREVER Help Week Leader Guide (continued)

Here is where this Forever perspective change gets fun. Jesus follows this discussion with this text out of John 14:

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.” (John 14: 12-14 ESV)

Jesus, Son of God, Savior of the universe is letting us in on a little secret; Forever is not just about the future, but it's also about now for all of His followers. That when we believe that what Jesus has said is true about being with God for Forever, He will help us change today. God is asking us to ask Him to help us bring Forever to the way we live today. In that choosing to believe and ask, we will even do greater things than He did before. What a crazy thought!

I am asking my friend _____ to pass out a post it note to each of you. I want to ask you to write the words “Living Forever” on the top of your post it. Now spend a moment, write down a few ways that knowing the fact that God wants to be with you forever will change the way you view the week you are going to live. Once you have done that, open your binder or notebook to a place that you see each morning and place it there. As you start your school day pause and read that note there to remind you of the opportunity we have living Forever.



ACTION CHALLENGES:

- 1. Group Challenge:** Consider eternity together. If you are willing, share one of the ways you wrote on your post it note, that living Forever with God is helping adjust the way you live this week.
- 2. Share Challenge:** Be intentional this week about sharing with someone about your relationship with God through Christ and how it helps you deal with the real challenges you face each week.
- 3. Prayer Challenge:** Have one person pray to close your group time, asking the Lord to be close to you as you live out what was just

discussed.

WRAP UP: 2 minutes

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



WHY IS TRAINING STUDENT LEADERS TO SHARE THE HOPE OF CHRIST SO IMPORTANT?

Last school year over 2,000 students were trained as leaders and 9,000 of their peers responded to the good news they shared in FP clubs.

#studentsreachstudents
#firstpriority

FOREVER

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 we are discussing what it means to live Forever and the impact that has on sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ."
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Introduce Student Leading Discussion:** Today, my friend, _____, is going to share about overcoming obstacles to sharing our faith.

DISCUSSION: Asking Jesus (20 minutes)

Assigned Speaker Suggestion: This month, we are talking about the understanding that we can live Forever through Christ and the impact He has on our lives. Today, I wanted to start with a story found in the Bible out of Luke Chapter 7. In this story, a Roman soldier who is over a group of 6,000 men has a servant who is sick, to the point of death. This Centurion soldier hears that Jesus is in his area and sends the local Jewish leaders to go and ask Jesus to help his servant.

Knowing this time in history, it makes total sense that the soldier would not just go to Jesus himself and ask for help. Jesus is a Jewish teacher, so sending the local Jewish leaders to Jesus on the soldiers behalf is culturally the norm. It is however, somewhat of a surprise that Jesus agrees to go with them to meet the soldier.

As Jesus is on his way to the man's house. Another messenger comes, this time one of the Centurions servants with a message from the soldier, *"Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. Therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. For I too am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."*



The Bible says that Jesus marvels at this mans words. And then announces to all those around him, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." Jesus is surrounded by his followers, by the local Jewish teachers and despite that he says the greatest faith is found in a man that he

has not even seen or met, but that man simply asked and believed.

Somewhere in history, asking for help became a sign of weakness. In our flesh we hear statements like "you must depend on yourself." Or, "at some point everyone is going to fail you, but you must never fail you." Frankly, even as I say those "self reliance" statements it makes me sad, because they fail to understand the real issues that face all of us.

As was mentioned earlier today by one of our other leaders, this month we are talking about what it means to live Forever in Christ. I believe this Centurion soldiers decision to not only ask but to also believe for what he is asking for can tell us a lot about what it mens to live Forever.

FOREVER Overcome Week Leader Guide (continued)

Each day we face real stuff. Friendship stuff in the halls, family stuff in our homes, even locker room stuff on our teams. No matter what we face as Christ followers we have the right to Ask Jesus to come and be involved. Even more than that, we have the right to say to Jesus that we believe in what He can do. It's our stuff that gives us opportunities to activate our faith in living with Him forever, and believing that forever starts the moment we put our lives into his hands through salvation. So he doesn't want us to wait to ask, he wants us to ask and believe often!

As I finish today, consider the week you have ahead. What stuff do you see in the future? Tests, ball games, dance recitals, hanging with friends, how can you Ask Jesus to be part of each of those moments and live them out with Forever in mind? Remember, Jesus is looking for people who are willing to Ask and Believe. Will you? Or will you just rely on yourself and miss the gift of Forever that He wants to show you today.

APPLY IT:

Discussion Option 1: What do you think Jesus wants for your school? What things going on around you do you think he would be a part of if you just asked?

Discussion Option 2: What are some bold things we could pray for that would make this school closer to what God wants? How can we be a part of that?

ACTION CHALLENGES:

- 1. Group Challenge:** Consider eternity together. If you are willing, share one of the ways you wrote on your post it note from last week, that living forever with God is helping adjust the way you live this week.
- 2. Personal Challenge:** Be intentional this week about sharing with someone about your relationship with God through Christ and how it helps you deal with the real challenges you face each week.
- 3. Prayer Challenge:** Have one person pray to close your group time, asking the Lord to be close to you as you live out what was just discussed.



WRAP UP: 2 minutes

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

THE SONG YOU KNOW,
THE STORY YOU DON'T

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE

IN THEATERS SPRING 2018

AN ERWIN BROTHERS FILM



It's the song that brings ultimate hope to so many. Next spring, MercyMe's hit song will encourage people in a whole new way when it comes to life on the big screen! A gripping reminder of the power of forgiveness, **I CAN ONLY IMAGINE** beautifully illustrates that no one is ever too far from God's love—or from an eternal home in Heaven.

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FOREVER

Prepare Week Leader Guide

Prepare Week: A time for students to learn how to share their story of what their life was like without Christ in contrast to their new life with Christ.



CLUB TIME PREP:

- Select one student to lead this month's Prepare Week
- Post to social media and text friends inviting them to First Priority Club
- Print "Appendix A – Your Faith Story" (1 per student) if you want to have every student attending club working on their testimony at the same time (recommended at least once a semester). Faculty sponsors can usually print these for you if given enough notice

INTRODUCTION: 3 minutes

Welcome Students, Prayer and Explanation

- **Assigned Leader Opens:** "Welcome to First Priority! This club is a place to seek and grow in God. This week is Prepare Week, which is where we practice sharing our personal story about how we came to know Jesus."
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Introduce Students Giving Testimonies:** Assigned Leader Suggestion: "Today, my friend <insert name> is going to share their story. Please listen respectfully as it takes a lot of courage to speak in front of others. At the end, we are going to give some positive feedback on how well they did and also ask questions. Let's welcome them as they share."

TESTIMONY TIME: (15 minutes)

Share Testimonies

- › Student 1 Testimony = _____

- › Student 2 Testimony = _____

- › Student 3 Testimony = _____

- **Leader Host:** Thank you for sharing, <insert name>. Now let's take a minute to share some positive feedback about how they did. Also, feel free to ask them questions about their story.
- **(Optional)** If you are working on testimonies collectively, pass out *Appendix A – Your Faith Story* and read/explain/discuss each step.

TESTIMONY WRAP UP:

- **Leader Host:** "Let's take the next couple of minutes to give positive feedback to those who shared about how they did and feel free to ask them questions about their story."

ACTION CHALLENGES:

- **Group Challenge:** Personally invite at least 5 students to Engage week next week. They can be friends or people you barely know, but how will they hear the gospel if no one ever invites anyone to hear more about Him?
- **Prayer Challenge:** Pray daily for the students in your school who need to hear the hope of Jesus Christ and for Christ-following students to be encouraged to be bold in talking with others about Jesus.

WRAP UP: 2 minutes

- Share any FP Club announcements including that next week's meeting is Engage Week. Remind everyone to bring a guest because it will be a fun atmosphere with food and a game, as well as a student giving a gospel presentation.

FIRST PRIORITY IS INFLUENCING STUDENT LEADERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO SHARE THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST IN THEIR SCHOOL.

- 25 Million Teenagers
- 41,000 schools
- 325,000 churches
- 1640 Coordinators
- 100 Regional chapters
- 1 FP Family



**ROCK IN THE
POND THEORY**

Do you know a community that needs a First Priority movement started? Throughout the year we train FP Coordinators to lead this movement into their community. Go here to get started;

firstpriority.club/roles/first-priority-coordinator

FOREVER

Engage Week Leader Guide

Engage Week: A time for students to engage their school with the gospel.

CLUB TIME PREP:

- Confirm your student or guest speaker and remind them to be prepared to share the gospel and an invitation to accept Christ. Gospel presentation options can be found at firstpriority.club
- Confirm that student follow up cards have been printed and will be ready to hand out to students as they enter your meeting space. Faculty sponsors can print for you if requested in advance.
- Confirm that arrangements for food for the club have been completed and that it is ready to serve just before club opening.

INTRODUCTION: 3 minutes

- Allow students to fellowship as student leaders prepare the group activity.

Welcome Students and Pray

- **Assigned Student Leader Host:** "Welcome to First Priority! Today we are going to start with a game to get to know one another. There is food for everyone here, so please feel free to grab a bite to eat while we get started."



GROUP ACTIVITY TIME: 5 minutes

• Game: **Beach Ball Madness**

You will need 3 or 4, cheap 12" beach balls. Usually a local dollar store has these. Divide your attendees into 3 or 4 groups of 5, have each team circle up. Each group is given a beach ball and must find a way to keep the ball in the air without hitting it with their hands, their knees or their feet. When the game leader tells them to, one member of each team will throw the ball up in the middle of the circle and then the game is on. The last team to keep the ball in the air, Wins. If time allows, play multiple rounds allowing others to play as well.

GROUP TIME: GOSPEL (15 minutes)

Introduce Speaker Sharing the Gospel

- **Student Leader Host:** "Today, my friend, _____, is going to share about something that is very important to them. Please listen respectfully, as it takes a lot of courage to speak in front of others. You all were given a student response card that looks like this (hold up a sample card) when you came in. Just hold on to it and we will explain them to you shortly."

Gospel, Invitation, and Response Cards

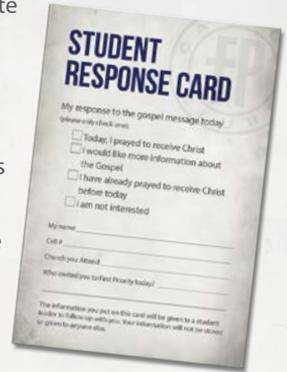
- **Gospel Presenter:** Share the gospel and give a personal invitation using "Appendix B Sample Gospel Presentation" or another gospel presentation at FirstPriority.club.



INVITATION & STUDENT RESPONSE CARDS: 5 minutes

Opportunity to connect to Jesus

- If everyone would just take a minute and think about what I shared today. If you would like to have a relationship with Jesus today, then simply take a minute where you are and let Him know that. Then, on your response card, simply let us know that you made that decision today so that we can connect with you and answer any questions you may have to celebrate your new life in Jesus.
- If you are not interested in having a relationship with Jesus at this time, it's ok to be honest and mark that on your student response card. The great thing about Jesus is that He died on the cross for us out of love knowing that some would not love Him back. That is not to make you feel bad, but to let you know that Jesus still loves you and died for you and cares for you no matter what you write on that card. No one here will judge you.
- If you have questions and don't know what you want or feel, mark that on your student card so we can connect with you and just listen to what you have to say. We would love to help you find answers to your questions.



Opportunity to connect to a local youth group

- We also want to make sure to give everyone an opportunity to connect with a local youth group if you are not involved in one right now. Could each of you please mark your level of interest in connecting with a local youth group? Also, if you are already connecting with a local youth group, we want to know so we can help you invite other students to join you.

WRAP UP & PRAYER: 2 minutes

- As we wrap up, I want to close in prayer, but first I wanted you to know that _____ is available to connect with you if you have questions today. Also, the response cards can be given to _____ and will only be used for follow up requests. Thank you for coming today and please join with me as I close us out in prayer thanking God for His love for all of us today.
- **Student Leader:** Thank you so much for coming today! Please turn in your card to _____ before you leave. We meet here every week at this time, so you are all invited to come back next week.

Appendix A

YOUR FAITH STORY

Your story is one of the most important tools you have been given by God to share the gospel with the world around you! Finding the power in your story will depend on how you learn to tell it. The first step to being able to tell a powerful story is to **WRITE IT DOWN**. This will give you the ability to edit the specifics and memorize. The second is to **PRACTICE OUT LOUD** with a close friend or parent so that they can give you useful feedback. The third is to **SPEND TIME IN PRAYER AND IN THE SCRIPTURE** to ask God to speak through you before you share your story publicly, because God can do more in others through you than you can do by yourself!

1. START WITH A KEYWORD

The first step in writing down your faith story is choosing what keywords describe your life before Christ. Below is a list of emotions. Circle two or three that adequately describe how you felt as a result of a problem you faced without Christ in your life. You are not limited to this list, so feel free to choose a keyword of your own! This part helps keep your story compelling and on track.

KEYWORDS

alienated	bitter	fearful	hurt	rejected
alone	confused	frustrated	insecure	uncertain
angry	depressed	guilty	lonely	unforgiving
apathetic	distrusting	heartbroken	lost	unloved
ashamed	doubtful	hopeless	prideful	worthless



2. SET UP THE BACKGROUND

Now describe the situation in which you came to face this problem and why your keyword describes the way you felt. It is more important to be honest than dramatic. This helps people to relate with your story personally and understand why we need God in our lives. If you need more space, continue on the back.

EXAMPLE: *"My parents divorced when I was younger... I blamed myself and began to feel unworthy of relationships... so I become isolated and alone because I was afraid of being rejected for being unworthy..."*

Appendix A YOUR FAITH STORY *(continued)*

3. SHARE HOW JESUS ENTERED YOUR STORY

Now describe how you came to know Jesus. Be sure to describe that moment (or that process) if you can with adjectives that show how meaningful and impactful it was for you. Try to describe how Jesus touched your heart, and how you responded (such as asking Him to be your Lord and Savior). This part challenges people's idea of what God is like.

EXAMPLE: *"One summer I attended church camp with my youth group and we talked about new identity in Christ and being loved as God's children. God began to speak to my heart and to my issues of unworthiness and fear of rejection. One evening I experienced the love of God and realized that Christ died for my sin, so that I could have a loving relationship with God. So I asked Him to save me and forgive me of my sin. The impact of that moment changed everything."*

4. STATE THE IMPACT OF CHRIST ON YOUR LIFE



Now describe how Christ impacted your problem and your life. Use the emotion opposite of your keyword and share how Christ either reversed your problem or is continually giving you the power to overcome. This is the part that inspires your hearers to place their hope in Christ!

EXAMPLE: *"What changed after that was my view of myself. I began to trust that God really did love me and want me to be in relationship with Him. I had once been unworthy, but now I was given worth. I was once alone, but now I see myself as wanted, loved, and together with God and His family. I was once afraid of rejection, but now I know that I am fully accepted by Him, and He is giving me the faith and the strength to overcome the attitudes of the past."*

Appendix B

SAMPLE GOSPEL PRESENTATION

(Presenters note: this gospel presentation works best if you have papers or poster boards that you can write each one of the points in big letters on to show to the club as are you are speaking.)

TO BE HONEST

1. TBH, WE HAVE PROBLEMS

Sometimes life seems great, and then we have bad days. Imagine for a moment that your worst day continued on forever – wouldn't that be terrible? The reason that bad things happen is because of SIN is a part of the world we live in. In other words, sin is making wrong choices that go against God's plan for your life. Sin messes up the way we were created to experience a life full of joy with God. Every person here today has been affected by sin, both by our own and the sin of others. Sin is the reason we are on our own, separated from God forever. None of us can be good enough to overcome the problem of sin and the impact it has on our life.

Romans 3:23 *"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard."*

Romans 3:10 *"No one is righteous – not even one."*

Romans 6:23 *"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

2. TBH, THERE IS AN ANSWER

The good news is that God loves all people so much, He decided to send His Son, Jesus, to pay the price for sin on our behalf. Even when we did not deserve it, Jesus died on a cross and God raised Him to life again to overcome sin and death. Because of what Jesus did, we can be saved from the eternal consequences of sin if we trust and believe in Him. We can experience true joy and life that is better than anything, even when we have bad days.

Romans 5:8 *"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."*

Appendix B SAMPLE GOSPEL PRESENTATION (continued)

3. TBH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO MISS OUT

Jesus invites you today to begin a relationship with Him by turning to and trusting in Him. This means that if we begin to follow Jesus, we get to experience the life God intends for us to live. We can have peace knowing that we are safe with God and that we have a new purpose in living and knowing how much we are loved by God!

Romans 10:9-10 *"If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved."*

HOW TO RECEIVE CHRIST AS SAVIOR

1. Confess your need (I am broken and in sin)
2. Change your direction in life, knowing that God's way of living is better than our way of living
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and was raised to life to save you and restore your relationship to God
4. Receive through prayer the free gift of salvation and begin your journey as part of the family of God.

WHAT TO PRAY

Father God,

I know that I am broken, and I need your forgiveness. Jesus, I believe you died and were raised so I could be saved. I want to turn away from my old life and toward a completely new life with You in Your family. Right now, I put my trust in You and invite You to come into my life and change it. In Jesus' name, Amen.



We believe in the impossible:
THE HOPE OF CHRIST
IN EVERY STUDENT
at your school.

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