

STORY

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.

PRE MEETING INSTRUCTIONS:

- Select one student to host this month's Help Week
- Remind students to post on social media and text friends reminding them about First Priority club

INTRODUCTION: 3 minutes

Welcome Students, Prayer and Introduction

- **Help Week Host:** "Welcome to First Priority! This week is Help Week, which is where we help each other become missionaries to our school. This year we are going to discuss the stories of how the fruit of the Spirit begins to grow in our lives because of a relationship with Christ."
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Introduce Student Leading Discussion:** "Today, my friend, _____, is going to share the about the power of stories."



GROUP TIME: The Power of a Story (20 Minutes)

Student Speaker: Mark 4:2a says, “He taught them by telling many stories in the form of parables...” (*NLT*)



Have you ever thought about the role that stories play in your everyday life? Stories help us understand things that other forms of communication cannot. Stories sometimes become the way we understand ourselves and the world around us. Did you go to a theater to see any

movies this summer? Obviously, the movie was itself a story, but what other stories were involved in your decision to go and pay money to see that movie? Did you see an advertisement for the movie? That's a story. Did you go with friends? A personal story probably determined which friends you went with. Did you buy snacks to enjoy during the movie? A story had to be displayed to help you understand that this entertainment experience would be right for you. Some stories are not as obvious as others, but stories generally do four things:

Stories make a POINT. Rather than simply stating your point, a story illustrates what you are trying to say. Many of the stories in the Old Testament were handed down by being told, and the written version of these stories did not come about until later. Amazingly, the stories and their points were preserved so well that you and I can understand the same message today as when they were first told.

Stories make the point MEMORABLE. Jesus often taught using something called “parables”. He knew that if He taught with stories, people could more easily understand and remember the things He taught. How effective do you think that is? To test this out, let's see how many parables of Jesus we can remember [allow the club to answer and discuss].

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Stories make the point MEANINGFUL. They often reveal things we may not observe otherwise. Then we can personally connect the story with our own lives. The most meaningful stories we can share are about our own experiences.

STORY Help Week Leader Guide (continued)

Stories create CONNECTIONS. When you share a story, you are helping people to relate with you on a personal level. You probably have a lot of great stories you could share about your closest friends. This is such a powerful communication tool because when you share your story along with the Gospel story, you are giving people the opportunity to connect with God!

Everyone Christ-follower has a powerful STORY. Many of us think that we have nothing worth sharing. Maybe you think your testimony is nowhere near as powerful as someone else's. If you follow Jesus, however, you must realize that the true power of your story is in the Gospel, not in your own achievements. No matter what our experience appears to look like on the surface, the truth is that we were lost and now we are found! We were in darkness but now we walk in the light! Once we were alone and without hope, and yet Jesus has brought us into His family!

APPLY IT:

Discussion: Get into groups of three and each of you tell a true story about an unusual experience you've had. It should include at least five details that are memorable. Once everyone has told their stories, everyone find a different partner and try to tell both of the stories you heard including all of the details you can remember. If time permits, choose three people who think they heard the craziest story to come up front and share what they heard without using any names. See if the club can guess who the story is about, or vote on who had the craziest story.



ACTION CHALLENGE:

- **Group Challenge:** Story Challenge!

Think of the most important statement in your testimony and share a quick clip on social media. For example, you could say *“Everyone has a powerful story, and my story is that I was lost, but Jesus found me.”* Include the hashtags #FirstPriority and #FPGodstory!

- **Share Challenge:** Share with someone this week the story of how you can to trust Jesus as Savior.

- **Prayer Challenge:** Have someone close in prayer for your group to be messengers who bring the good news of the Gospel.

WRAP UP: 2 minutes

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

