

## H.O.P.E. Cycle One: Sin and Separation 8/2018

### **How to have a student-led club:**

1. A student opens and closes meeting in prayer
2. A student explains the purpose of First Priority
3. Students read verses and questions for the week
4. Read the Challenge to your group each week

**Memory Verse:** "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" **1 John 1:9**

### Week One - HELP

The story of Adam and Eve tells us how sin entered the world and separated us from God. Adam and Eve were tempted by the serpent and disobeyed God by eating fruit from the forbidden tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Read **Genesis 3:6-11**.

- 1) What warning did God give Adam and Eve concerning the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?
- 2) How did Adam and Eve know they had sinned against God? How do they respond to God when HE asks what they had done?
- 3) What does the serpent do, and how does this affect Adam and Eve? Why do you think they believed the serpent, rather than God?
- 3) What does **Ephesians 2:1-3** say about us as sinners?
- 4) Describe ways that we sin against God? Give personal examples. In what ways do we feel separated from God when we sin? Describe
- 5) What **HELP** does **1 John 1: 8-9** give us about restoring our relationship with God?

**Challenge: Pray for two friends who need to know Jesus.**

### Week One-HELP Verses

#### **Genesis 3:6-11**

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. <sup>8</sup> And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"<sup>10</sup> And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup> He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." (ESV)

#### **Ephesians 2:1-3**

In the past you were spiritually dead because of your sins and the things you did against God. <sup>2</sup> Yes, in the past your lives were full of those sins. You lived the way the world lives, following the ruler of the evil powers that are above the earth. That same spirit is now working in those who refuse to obey God. <sup>3</sup> In the past all of us lived like that, trying to please our sinful selves. We did all the things our bodies and minds wanted. Like everyone else in the world, we deserved to suffer God's anger just because of the way we were. (ERV)

## 1 John 1:8-9

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (ESV)

## Week Two – OVERCOME

In 2 Samuel 11, King David commits murder by having Bathsheba's husband killed during battle. Initially, King David attempts to cover up his sin, but after suffering from separation from God and many consequences, David repents and asks for forgiveness. David records his plea for forgiveness in **Psalm 51: 1-4 & 10** and his joy and relief from guilt in **Psalm 32:1-5** (please read verses).

- 1) How did David feel when he was separated from God (**Psalm 32:3-5**)?
- 2) What does David ask God to do in **Psalm 32: 10**? Why do you think he asks God for this?
- 3) Describe a time when you sinned against God and tried to cover it up or deny it. How did this make you feel?
- 4) What are ways that teens deal with the pain of their sin?
- 5) How would you encourage a friend who is feeling the consequences of a sin and is trying to cover it up?
- 6) Read **James 5:19-20**. What do these verses say about helping a friend who has strayed from God?
- 7) What lessons can we learn from David about repentance and forgiveness? Do you think there are any sins too big for God to forgive? Why or why not?

**Challenge: At the end of the meeting, gather in a circle and pray for each other.**

## Week Two-OVERCOME Verses

### Psalm 51:1-4 & 10

God, be merciful to me because of your faithful love. Because of your great compassion, erase all the wrongs I have done.<sup>2</sup> Scrub away my guilt. Wash me clean from my sin.<sup>3</sup> I know I have done wrong. I remember that sin all the time.<sup>4</sup> I did what you said is wrong. You are the one I have sinned against. I say this so that people will know that I am wrong and you are right. What you decided is fair. <sup>10</sup>God, create a pure heart in me, and make my spirit strong again.

### Psalm 32:1-5

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. <sup>2</sup>Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. <sup>3</sup>For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.<sup>4</sup> For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.<sup>5</sup> I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

### James 5:19-20

<sup>19</sup>My brothers and sisters, if anyone wanders away from the truth and someone helps that person come back, <sup>20</sup>remember this: Anyone who brings a sinner back from the wrong way will save that person from eternal death and cause many sins to be forgiven.

## Week Three - PREPARE

Spend this week's group meeting PREPARING for Engage Week. Follow this check list, in preparation:

- Which student(s) will share his or her faith story (see topic ideas below)?
- Which student(s) will read the gospel and invitation?
- Which student will be in charge of the Response Cards?
- Will you have food at the meeting?
- Who will open and close the meeting in prayer?

### Topic Ideas for student speakers:

- 1) Share a time when you felt separated from God and how that affected you physically and emotionally. How was your relationship with God restored?
- 2) How can you encourage others to know that no sin is too great for God to forgive and everyone can experience God's peace and grace?

**Challenge: Invite at least two friends to next week's Engage Week meeting.**

### Week Four - ENGAGE

The Engage Week meeting is designed for others to hear how God is moving in the lives of students. Follow these steps in order to **engage** your campus for Christ:

- A student open and closes in prayer
- A student explains that FP is a Christian club that is open to all students
- Student(s) shares his/her faith story
- A student reads the gospel message (see below)
- Student(s) pass out the Student Response Cards (can be downloaded from our website)
- A student reads the invitation (see below)
- A student closes in prayer
- Students collect Response Cards and the Follow Team follows up with decisions or questions

**Challenge: Invite two friends to your youth group or church this week.**

### ***Gospel Message (read this the group):***

[Romans 3:23](#), "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." The Bible tells us that there is no one who is innocent.

[Romans 5:8](#) says, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Jesus' resurrection proves that God accepted Jesus' death as the payment for our sins.

[Romans 10:13](#) "for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Salvation, the forgiveness of sins, is available to anyone who will trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

[Romans 5:1](#) tells us, "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." The Bible says that if we believe in Jesus, we will have peace with God. We can be reconnected to him.

***Invitation/Prayer (ask students to bow their heads and this read this out loud):*** If this message is speaking to you today, and you want to trust in Jesus as your Savior then pray this simple prayer to yourself: Dear Lord, I admit that I have sinned and this has separated me from you. But, I believe that through you I can be forgiven. Today, I pray that you will come into my life and help me to trust in you. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

### ***Follow UP Plan:***

Once you've shared the gospel and invitation, collect the Student Response Cards (can be downloaded from the First Priority website) and then follow these steps:

1. Student leaders commit to praying for and contacting any student who has made a decision for Christ and/or has questions.
2. When contacting these students, student leaders will want to:
  - Answer any questions they may have and offer to pray for them
  - Invite them to the next week's HELP Week meeting
  - Invite them to your church, if they don't have one
3. Return all Student Response cards to the group president or teacher sponsor (This information must never be given to an outside adult or organization/ church).