

HOPE CYCLE 6: Worship vs. Works

How to have a student-led club:

A student opens and closes meetings in prayer
A student explains the purpose of First Priority
Students read verses and questions for the week

* Remember to give the Challenge each week and encourage students to learn the memory verse.

Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:8-9: For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

WEEK 1: HELP Week

- 1) Read **Luke 10:38-42**. Describe the difference between how Mary and Martha reacted to Jesus while he was in their home. How would you react if Jesus visited your home?
- 2) In **Luke 10:42**, Jesus told Martha that only one thing is needed and Mary has chosen what is better. What is the "one thing" he was referring to?
- 3) Read **Psalms 46:10**. What distractions prevent you from spending quiet time with God? Sports, social media, TV? What changes can you make, so that God is a priority in your life?
- 4) In the Scripture story, Martha is frazzled, yet Mary is calm. How can spending time with God **HELP** you handle life's challenges differently?

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

HELP Week Bible Verses

Luke 10: 38-42: As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me! "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.

Psalms 46:10: Be still and know that I am God.

WEEK 2: OVERCOME Week

- 1) Read **John 12:1-5**: Why do you think Mary gave Jesus such an expensive gift? Do you think Jesus favored Mary because of her gift? Why?
- 2) In this story, Martha and Mary served Jesus in different ways - Martha served Jesus and the guests and Mary gave Jesus an expensive gift. As a result of their generous service to Jesus, do you think they are more likely to receive the gift of eternal life? Why or why not?
- 3) **Ephesians 2:8-9** tells us that salvation is not earned by doing "works", but it is a gift from God. Do believe that "works", such as going to church often, giving money to charities, serving the homeless, going on mission trips, etc., affects your salvation or makes you a better Christian? Why or why not?
- 4) What does **John 5:24** tell us about eternal life? How can this truth help someone **OVERCOME** their confusion about how we receive the gift of salvation?

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

OVERCOME Week Bible Verses

John 12:1-5: Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. ³ Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the

perfume. ⁴ But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, ⁵ “Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages.”

Ephesians 2:8-9: For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

John 5:24: Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.

WEEK 3: PREPARE Week- How many students learned the memory verse?

- 1) Read **Ephesians 2:8-10**. What is the difference between doing "good works" to earn salvation and doing "good works" to glorify God?
- 2) List examples of "good works or deeds" that you have done that glorify God.
- 3) Read **Matthew 5:16**. As Christians, how can our "good deeds" influence others to want to know more about Jesus? Whose "good deeds" have inspired you to want to serve God?
- 4) Review Week One's story about Martha and Mary in **Luke 10:38-42** (shown below). What lessons about "works" and spending quiet time with God can you use to **PREPARE** to share your faith story?

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

PREPARE Week Bible Verses

Ephesians 2:8-10 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Matthew 5:16: In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Luke 10: 38-42: As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me! “Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

WEEK 4: ENGAGE Week

Use your faith story to **ENGAGE** your campus for Christ. Share the gospel message and invitation (SEE BELOW). Please report your group’s attendance and decisions on the phone app.

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

Gospel Message (To be read aloud to the group):

- **A – Admit:** Admit that you are a sinner. To "sin" means to make a bad choice (a transgression or wrongdoing), and sin separates us from God.
- **B – Believe:** Believe in Jesus and put your trust in Him. Christ's death on a cross two thousand years ago was an act of selfless love. He took on the whole sins of humanity, making it possible for all people to encounter God.
- **C – Confess:** Confess Christ Jesus as your Lord and Savior. This means acknowledging that you want Jesus in your life.

Invitation/Prayer (ask students to bow their heads):

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
 - 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 teachers sponsor (Response cards or information on the cards must never be given to an outside adult or organization/ church)

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