

HOPE Cycle 2- Understanding Salvation/“being saved”

How to have a student-led club:

- A student opens and closes meetings in prayer
- A student explains the purpose of First Priority
- A student reads the questions out loud to the group

Memory Verse: “Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.” John 5:1

WEEK 1: HELP Week

Our sin (bad/selfish decisions) separates us from God because He is Holy (pure/without sin/perfect). The only way to be reconnected to God is through faith in Jesus. God makes this possible through grace, which is a free gift. When you believe in Jesus, you are reconnected to God, thereby “saved” (from eternal separation from God).

1. Read Ephesians 2:8-9(GW): “God saved you through faith as an act of kindness. You had nothing to do with it. Being saved is a gift from God. ⁹ It’s not the result of anything you’ve done, so no one can brag about it.” Why is it important for us to know that we had nothing to do with it (answer is in verse 9)? Explain
2. Read Acts 2:21 (NIV): “But everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.” And Titus 2:11-12(ERV):“That is the way we should live, because God’s grace has come. That grace can save everyone. ¹² It teaches us not to live against God and not to do the bad things the world wants to do. It teaches us to live on earth now in a wise and right way—a way that shows true devotion to God.” Questions: Who is salvation available to? What does it mean to live *against* God in verse 12 (give examples of living against God)?
3. Why is eternal separation from God so terrible?
4. Is this the first time you have heard about grace and salvation? If yes, please explain how this has affected you.
5. Why is God’s grace such a beautiful gift? What does this tell us about God (describe Him)?

Challenge: Pray for a friend who needs to know Jesus.

WEEK 2: OVERCOME Week

Last week, we talked about how our faith in Jesus reconnects us to God, and this is referred to as “being saved”; this means we are saved from eternal separation from God. This week, we will talk about having peace with God and why this is important.

1. Read Romans 5:10(TLB): “And since, when we were his enemies, we were brought back to God by the death of his Son, what blessings he must have for us now that we are his friends and he is living within us!” In this verse, how are we described in relationship to God before the death of his Son? What does this mean to you?
2. Read 5:1 (NIV): “Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.” And Psalm 29:11(NIV):“The LORD gives his people strength. The LORD blesses them with peace”. The definition for peace is when there is no war or conflict. Question: In light of this, what does it mean to have peace with God?
3. Why would we want peace with God? How does this peace affect us? Give specific examples.
4. How does God’s peace help us to overcome the troubles of this world (examples: hurricanes, terrorism, anxiety, family problems, etc.)?

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

Week 3: PREPARE Week

In this cycle, we have talked about being reconnected to God through faith in Jesus and this allows us to have peace with God. We are no longer an enemy of God, but loved and cherished by Him. As we prepare for next week’s Engage meeting, let us consider the following:

1. Have you learned the memory verse? Recite it together out loud.
2. Jesus said the following: “I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart! And the peace I give isn’t fragile like the peace the world gives. So don’t be troubled or afraid” John 14:27(TLB). Question: With this verse in mind, how has this cycle prepared you for future stress, worries, or problems?

3. PREPARE for ENGAGE Week by asking for volunteers to:

- Share his or her faith story [when and how Jesus has affected their life]
- Read the salvation prayer and invitation (see below)
- Be greeters at the door
- Hand out the Response Cards [found on the FP website under the "Student" tab]
- Report attendance for this week and next week
- Be on the follow-up team (see below)
- End the meeting in prayer

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

WEEK 4: ENGAGE Week

Use your faith story to **ENGAGE** your campus for Christ. Share the gospel message and invitation (SEE BELOW). Please remember to use the Response Cards, and to report attendance and decisions for Christ.

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

Gospel Message (To be read a out loud to the group):

- Admit that you are a sinner. To "sin" means to make a bad choice, and sin separates us from God.
- 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.
- Confess Christ Jesus as your Lord and Savior. This means acknowledging that you want Him 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 have sinned and this has separated me from you because you are a Holy God. But, I your word in Ephesians says that Jesus died for me, and his grace is extended to me so that I can be forgiven. Today, I pray that you will come into my life and be my LORD and help me to trust in you and live in a way that is pleasing to 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 student leader or teacher (Response cards or information on the cards must never be given to an outside adult or organization/ church)