

H.O.P.E Cycle 7: Seeking God

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

A student shares his/her faith story and the gospel message on Engage Week

Memory Verse: Philippians 4:6-7 (AMP): “Do not be anxious *or* worried about anything, but in everything [every circumstance and situation] by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your [specific] requests known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God [that peace which reassures the heart, that peace] which transcends all understanding, [that peace which] stands guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus [is yours].”

Week One: HELP

This week, we will talk about the importance of seeking God, which means to search for or look for HIM. As we read through the Bible verses and lessons, we will learn how to search for God and why it is important to do this daily.

1) Read **Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NIV):** “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹² Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” **Question:** In verse 13, what do you think it means to seek God with all your heart? What does this look like in your daily life?

2) Read **Psalms 14:2 (NIV):** The LORD looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. **Question:** According to this verse, God is paying attention to those who are seeking HIM. How does this make you feel and why? Be specific with your answer

3) Read **Hebrews 11:6b (ERV):** “Whoever comes to God must believe that he is real and that he rewards those who sincerely try to find him.” **Question:** Why is it important to believe that God is real when you are seeking HIM? Do you struggle with believing that God is real? Can you still seek God if you are struggling with doubt?

4) Read **105:4 (ERV):** “Depend on the LORD for strength. Always go to him for help.” This verse tells us that we should always seek God and to depend on Him. **Question:** How can you encourage someone today who is struggling to believe in God? How would you encourage him/her to seek God?

Challenge: Pray for two friends who do not know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Week Two: OVERCOME

Prayer is one of the best ways to seek God. In the Bible, Jesus teaches us how to talk to God with this prayer as an example: **Read Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV):** “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,¹⁰ your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.¹¹ Give us today our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” In this prayer, Jesus refers to God as hallowed, which means honored and holy. **Question:** Why do you think he begins the prayer by calling God holy?

2) Read **Philippians 4:6-7 (AMP):** “Do not be anxious *or* worried about anything, but in everything [every circumstance and situation] by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your [specific] requests known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God [that peace which reassures the heart, that peace] which transcends all understanding, [that peace which] stands guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus [is yours].” **Question:** Is there something in your life that is making you anxious or worried? Do you struggle submitting this struggle to God? Explain.

3) What does verse 6 in Philippians 4 say we should do when we are worried?

4) In verse 7 in Philippians 4, what does it mean to have “peace that stands guard over your heart” mean? Explain this in a way that makes sense to everyone in the group.

5) Read **James 5:13 (TLB):** “Is anyone among you suffering? He should keep on praying about it. And those who have reason to be thankful should continually be singing praises to the Lord.” **Question:** In what ways are you suffering and need prayer? How can you praise God in prayer?

Challenge: Pray together as a group; ask for prayer requests if needed.

Week Three: PREPARE

For the last few weeks, we have talked about the importance of us seeking God. This week, we will talk about how God seeks us.

1) Read **Luke 19:10 (ERV)**: "The Son of Man came to find lost people and save them." In this verse, "Son of Man" refers to Jesus. **Question:** Knowing that Jesus came to save us [from being separated from God because of our sin], how does this verse personally affect you?

2) Read **John 4:23 (ERV)**: "But the time is coming when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. In fact, that time is now here. And these are the kind of people the Father wants to be his worshipers." This verse tells us that God is seeking people who worship in spirit and in truth, meaning true worship is an internal experience (our hearts and head), not external. **Question:** Are you struggling to seek the Lord with all of your heart and head? If yes, why? How can you encourage someone who is struggling?

3) **Prepare** for Engage Week by asking a student to share his/her faith story next week, a student (or two) to share the gospel message and invitation (found below), and a student to open and close the meeting in prayer next week.

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

Week Four: ENGAGE

Use your faith story to **ENGAGE** your campus for Christ. Share the gospel message and invitation (see below), and report attendance on the app. Please remember to use the Response Cards which can be downloaded from www.firstprioritytampa.org under the Students tab.

Challenge: Invite a friend to your church or youth group this week.

Gospel Message (please read this out loud to your 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.

[Pass out Student Response Cards here]

Invitation/Prayer (ask students to close their eyes and 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)

[Spring 2020]