

## H.O.P.E. Cycle 8- Confession, Repentance, Forgiveness

### 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/questions for the week

**Memory Verse: Psalm 51:1&2:** “Be gracious to me, God, according to Your faithful love, according to Your abundant compassion, blot out my transgressions. Wash away my guilt and cleanse me from all my sin.”

### WEEK 1: HELP Week

This week, we will talk about the importance of confessing our sin. In other words, admitting when we have done wrong. Remember, sin is when we choose our own selfish desires over God’s plan for us.

1. Think about God’s grace, which is His free gift of love and forgiveness to us, even though we do not deserve it. God sent his only son, Jesus, to save us from eternal death and separation from Him. This happened when Jesus died on the cross in our place. His death paid for & covered all of our sins. **Question:** based on what you just read, please explain to others how Jesus’ death is a free gift from God.
2. **Read John 6:28-29 (AMP):** Then they asked [Jesus], “What are we to do, so that we may *habitually* be doing the works of God?” <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, “This is the work of God: that you believe [adhere to, trust in, rely on, and have faith] in the One whom He has sent.” **Question:** What is our part in receiving this gift from God? [the answer is found in the verse]
3. *Confession* is the act of admitting that you have made wrong and selfish choices [sinned against God]. **Read 1 John 1:9 (AMP):** “If we [freely] admit that we have sinned *and* confess our sins, He is faithful and just [true to His own nature and promises], and will forgive our sins and cleanse us *continually* from all unrighteousness [our wrongdoing, everything not in conformity with His will and purpose]” In this verse, it says that God cleanses us from our wrongdoing. **Question:** Why do we need God to cleanse us from our sin?
4. Read **James 5:16 (ERV):** “So always tell each other the wrong things you have done. Then pray for each other. Do this so that God can heal you. Anyone who lives the way God wants can pray, and great things will happen”. **Question:** How does it HELP us to have people in our lives with whom we can confess our wrongdoing?
5. Please describe a time when you made a bad decision and had to confess it. How did the confession affect you [were you relieved, sad, ashamed]? Give details

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

### WEEK 2: OVERCOME Week

Last week, we talked about confessing our sins and how God is faithful to cleanse us when we do. This week, we will talk about repentance and why it is important to do after we confess sin. Repentance or to repent means to literally change your mind. In other words, to stop pursuing your own self desire [sin] and pursue God’s will for you.

1. Read **Acts 3:19 (NIV):** Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord...” **Question:** In this season of your life, are you moving towards God or away from Him? Please explain
2. Read **James 4:8 (ERV):** “Come near to God and he will come near to you. You are sinners, so clean sin out of your lives. You are trying to follow God and the world at the same time. Make your thinking pure.” **Question:** In the above verse, what does it mean to follow God and the world at the same time? Give examples of what it means to follow the world.
3. Based on the verse in question 2, why is it hard to turn away from worldly pursuits and only follow God? Discuss

4. Read **2 Chronicles 7:14 (ERV)**: “and if my people who are called by my name become humble and pray, and look for me, and turn away from their evil ways, then I will hear them from heaven. I will forgive their sin and heal their land.”  
**Question:** Is there something in your life that you need to turn away from and turn to God instead [something that you need to OVERCOME]? Please have the courage to share

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

### WEEK 3: PREPARE Week

Last week, we talked about repentance, which means to turn from our own selfish desires [sin] and follow God. This week, we will talk briefly about forgiveness and then prepare for next week’s Engage meeting.

1. Read **Proverbs 28:13 (ERV)**: “Whoever hides their sins will not be successful, but whoever confesses their sins and stops doing wrong will receive mercy.” **Question:** what are some ways that we hide our sin? How does hiding our sin affect us?
2. Read the following verse together as a group: **Psalm 51:1&2**: “Be gracious to me, God, according to Your faithful love, according to Your abundant compassion, blot out my transgressions. Wash away my guilt and cleanse me from all my sin.” **Question:** This verse says that God has abundant compassion. What does this mean to you?
3. **PREPARE** for next week’s meeting by assigning one student to:
  - Share his or her faith story [how God is working in their lives]
  - Share the gospel message and invitation [see below]
  - Pass out Response cards to all students [download from the FPTB website]
  - Report attendance and decisions
  - Open and close 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) and ask all students to complete the Response Cards (download from the First Priority of Tampa Bay website under the Student tab). Please report your group’s attendance and decisions on the phone app, and follow up with first time decisions.

**Challenge:** Invite two friends to your youth group or church 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)

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