

PLAN OF SALVATION

Just as there are physical laws that govern the physical universe, so are there spiritual laws that govern your relationship with God.

1. God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for your life.

God's Love

- Read John 3:16

God's Plan

- Read John 10:10

Why is it that most people are not experiencing that abundant life?

Because...

2. Man is sinful and separated from God; therefore, he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life.

Man is Sinful

- Read Romans 3:23

Man is Separated

- Read Romans 6:23

The third law explains the only way to bring this gulf...

3. Jesus Christ is God's only provision for man's sin. Through Him, you can know and experience God's love and plan for your life.

He Died in Our Place

- Read Romans 5:8

He Rose from the Dead

- Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-6

He is the Only Way to God

- Read John 14:6

It is not enough just to know these three laws...

4. We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives.

We Must Receive Christ

- Read John 1:12

We Receive Christ Through Faith

- Read Ephesians 2:8,9

When We Receive Christ, We

Experience a New Birth

- Read John 3:1-8

We Receive Christ Through Personal Invitation

- Read Revelation 3:20

Receiving Christ involves turning to God from self (repentance) and trusting Christ to come into your life to forgive your sins and to make you what He wants you to be. Simply agreeing intellectually that Jesus Christ is the son of God and that He died on the cross for our sins is not enough. It is also not enough to have an emotional experience. We receive Jesus Christ by faith, as an act of the will.

You can receive Christ right now by faith through prayer.

(Prayer is talking with God)

Here are some words to get you started:

Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be.

Does this prayer express the desire of your heart? If it does, you are invited to pray this prayer right now, and Christ will come into your life, as He promised.

The next four pages lead you to better understand the 4 major themes of the Christian faith. Take a moment to read the verses in your Bible and follow the S.O.A.P. process of studying each scripture passage. Since these pages have little room for notes, please feel free to write your thoughts in a journal.

- S** The S stands for Scripture - you physically write out the scripture.....you'll be amazed at what God will reveal to you just by taking the time to slow down and actually write out what you are reading!
- O** The O stands for Observation - what do you see in the verses that you're reading? Who is the audience? Is there a repetition of words? What words stand out to you?
- A** The A stands for Application - this is when God's Word becomes personal. What is God saying to me today? How can I apply what I just read to my own personal life? What changes do I need to make? Is there an action that I need to take?
- P** The P stands for Prayer - pray God's Word back to Him. If He has revealed something to you during this time in His Word, pray about it. Confess if He has revealed some sin that is in your life.

Studying God's Word like this can take as little or as long as you have time to give. Some days it can take just 10 or 15 minutes, other days longer.

GOD

Read the following passages and write a few things you learn about God.

CREATOR

Genesis 1-2 (p. 1); Psalm 90 (p. 496)

KING

Psalm 47; 145 (pp. 472; 524); Revelation 4 (p. 1030)

LOVE

1 John 4:7-21 (p. 1023); Psalm 136 (p. 520)

PURPOSE

Psalm 150 (p. 526); Revelation 21-22 (p. 1041)

HUMANS

Read the following passages and write a few things you learn about humanity.

IMAGE OF GOD Genesis 1:26-27; 5:1-2; 9:6 (pp. 1; 4; 6)

SIN Romans 1-3; 7 (pp. 939; 943); Psalms 51; 53 (pp. 474; 475)

SEPARATION Luke 16:19-30 (p. 876); Revelation 20:11-15 (p. 1040)

BROKEN Genesis 3 (p. 2); Romans 8:18-25 (p. 944)

CHRIST

Read the following passages and write a few things you learn about Christ.

SON

John 1:1-18; 3:16-21 (pp. 886; 888)

CROSS

Luke 23 (p. 883); Romans 5 (p. 942)

RAISED

John 20 (p. 906); 1 Corinthians 15 (p. 961)

RESTORED

Acts 1:6-11; 2:22-36 (p. 909); Philippians 2:1-11 (p. 980)

RESPONSE

Read the following passages and write what you learn about conversion.

TURN

Acts 2:36-47; 17:29-31 (pp. 910; 927); Isaiah 55 (p. 615)

TRUST

John 11:1-44 (p. 897); Romans 10:1-13 (p. 946)

SPIRIT

John 3:1-8 (p. 887); Romans 8:1-30 (p. 944)

CHURCH

Ephesians 3:10-21 (p. 977); Revelation 2-3 (p. 1028)

CAMPUS PRAYER GUIDE

“I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective...”

(Philemon 1:6, p. 1000)

PRAY FOR MORE STUDENT MISSIONARIES ON YOUR CAMPUS.

“And [Jesus] said to them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’” (Luke 10:2, p. 868)

PRAY FOR OPEN DOORS TO DECLARE GOD’S WORD ON YOUR CAMPUS.

“At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ...” (Colossians 4:3, p. 985)

PRAY FOR BOLDNESS TO SPEAK GOD’S WORD ON YOUR CAMPUS.

“‘Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.’ And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.” (Acts 4:29-31, p. 912)

PRAY FOR CLARITY WHEN SHARING CHRIST ON YOUR CAMPUS.

*“At the same time, pray also for us... to declare the mystery of Christ ... that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.”
(Colossians 4:3-4, p. 985)*

PRAY FOR GOD’S WORD TO SPREAD QUICKLY ON YOUR CAMPUS.

“Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you.” (2 Thessalonians 3:1, p. 990)

PRAY FOR UNBELIEVING FRIENDS ON YOUR CAMPUS.

“Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.” (Romans 10:1, p. 946)

FIRST PRIORITY CLUB LEADERSHIP

CLUB LEADER:

A student who is a follower of Jesus Christ with a passion to share the hope of Christ with every student on campus.

“Club leadership is not just the weekly speaker. Every successful FP club needs people to welcome everyone into the room as they arrive, serve food (if applicable) with a smile, make posters, plan each week, remind everyone of their tasks for this week’s club, and more. Great teams have people with many different talents! Be sure to use yours at the First Priority club.”

CLUB COACH:

An adult leader involved in a local church who helps coach the student leaders of the First Priority club.

CLUB SPONSOR:

A school employee who opens his/her room for the First Priority club meetings and helps students to stay in compliance with the Equal Access law. The sponsor also acts as a liaison with the school administration on behalf of the students.

PRIORITY PARENT:

A parent whose priority is to disciple your son/daughter into living and sharing their faith every day, provide resources for the club, promote the club in their church, and pray for the effectiveness of the club.

For more details on the roles that you can play to help students reach students through their First Priority club, check out www.firstpriority.club and click on the ‘Roles’ tab.

HOPE CYCLE

In order to see the Good News of Jesus get to every student in the school, we run a regular themed cycle we call HOPE.

HELP WEEK:

Defined: Help Christian students understand and become able to articulate the Good News of Jesus in a clear and concise manner.

OVERCOME WEEK:

Defined: Overcome the fear of reaching out and being the influence God has called you to be at school.

PREPARE WEEK:

Defined: Christian students prepare their story of faith and share it in front of their peers at this week's First Priority club.

ENGAGE WEEK:

Defined: Students invite their friends to a fun, safe atmosphere at school to hear the hope of Christ.

FOLLOW-UP:

Follow up with each student making any type of decision for Christ. For those without a church, invite them. For those wanting to read their Bible and pray, offer to do it with them. Follow up is investing in the new believers to build them up in Christ.

For more information about the HOPE cycle and running your First Priority club, check out **www.firstpriority.club** and click on 'club resources' or download our 'First Priority of America' app from the Apple or Google app store.

LIVING ON MISSION:

God has a purpose and a plan for where you live, go to school, and even the seat where you sit in class. You live where you live because God put you there. You are in the school that you are in because God put you there. You have the locker you have and even sit in the seats you sit in for your classes because God put you there. Let that soak in. You are an ambassador for Christ. (2 Cor. 5:20) The majority of Christians in America give their life to Christ before they graduate high school. You are in the largest mission field in the country and you can make a difference. Take hold of Romans 10:13-16, and know that you are sent by God and your feet are blessed. When your feet hit the floor each morning when you wake up, may all of Hell tremble because you are awake! Pray Isaiah's prayer... *Here am I Lord send me. (Is. 6:8)*

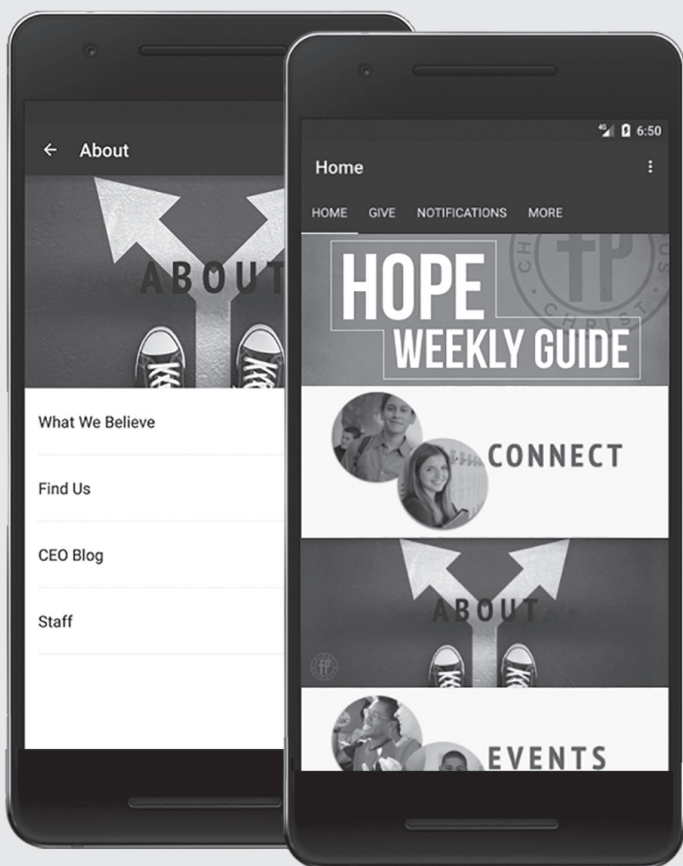
**DON'T JUST SURVIVE
MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL....
CHANGE
IT!**

Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV)

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Jesus

DOWNLOAD THE FP APP

The First Priority of America app will help unite the churches in your community to equip, encourage, and empower Christian students to lead a First Priority club inside their school. Our goal is to help Christian students to share Jesus with every student in their school at some point each year. This app will be useful for you to help unite the churches and church leaders, lead a club, pray, and connect with other FP chapters around the country.



WHY READ THE BIBLE?

The Bible is an incredible book! In fact, it's not really so much a book, but a collection of books. Think of the Bible as God's library. It was written by dozens of different authors over hundreds of years. But it's been pulled together into one book about God's work to save us. Many wonder, how can Scripture be written by human beings and still be the Word of God? That is where our study begins.

BIBLE | 2 PETER 1:20-21 (p. 1018)

a. What are two places the apostle Peter says Scripture does not come from?

b. In contrast, where does it come from (look at the end of verse 21)?

Who carried them along?

THE GOSPEL OF GRACE

The central message of the Bible is the Gospel, and the Gospel is a message about God's grace (Acts 20:24, p. 929)! It's not about what we DO, but what God has DONE to save us in Christ. "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9, p. 976). We were lost and dead in our sins, "but when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy..." (Titus 3:4-5, p. 998). Amazing grace is what saves us, through the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

BIBLE | 2 TIMOTHY 3:14-17 (p. 996)

a. According to verse 16, what is the specific source of Scripture?

What do you think this means?

b. Reread verses 16 and 17. List the various things Scripture is useful for.

c. According to verse 15, what do the “sacred writings” make us wise for?

What does this mean?

THE LIVING WORD

The Bible doesn't simply transfer information. It also transfers power! “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12, p. 1003). Wherever its message takes root, like a plant, it bears fruit and grows (Colossians 1:5-6, p. 983). The Gospel “increases” and “multiplies” (Acts 6:7, p. 914; 12:24, p. 924). God's word is alive!

WHY GET BAPTIZED?

John the Baptist was a prophet who came just before Christ, to prepare everyone for Jesus' arrival. He baptized people in water as a way to show that they were sorry for their sins. It showed that they wanted to turn their life around and change (see Matthew 3:1-12, Luke 3:1-22, John 1:25-34). Then came the most important day in John's life. He got the opportunity to baptize the Lord Jesus himself! This time it wasn't for repentance though, because Jesus never sinned. John baptized Jesus to launch him into his public ministry and mission.

BAPTISM | MATTHEW 3:13-17 (p. 808)

Here we see Jesus identify with us, through His baptism, as today we now identify with Him through ours.

a. Whose voice spoke from heaven? What did the voice say?

b. Who descended and came to rest upon Jesus? What form did He take?

c. Jesus is God's eternal Son, who put on flesh (see John 1:1, 14, p. 886).

How does this passage show God as three-in-one (Trinity) – Father, Son, and Spirit?

BAPTISM | MATTHEW 28:18-20 (p. 835)

- a. This passage contains some of the final instructions Jesus gave us, before He returned to heaven. According to verse 18, who has authority? How far does this authority extend?

- b. Reread verse 19. What does Jesus want us to “make” with his authority?

- c. List two ways, according to verses 19 and 20, disciple-making is accomplished.

- d. According to verse 19, what “name” are we to be baptized in?

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

“Stop – in the name of the law!” It’s the old cliché a police officer shouts when chasing down a criminal. When issuing that verbal command, what is the officer actually saying? When we appeal to the name of something, like the law, we’re appealing to its authority. In this case, he’s saying:

“Stop, because I have the authority of the law of the state behind me.” As Christians, that’s why we baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit. We baptize in the name and authority of the triune (three-person) God.

BAPTISM | ACTS 8:29-39 (p. 917)

In this passage, we witness Philip, an evangelist, lead an Ethiopian official (eunuch) to Christ.

- a. Reread verse 35. What did Philip tell the official? What does this mean?
- b. Reread verses 36-38. After the official believed in Jesus, what did he want to do next?
- c. Reread the end of verse 39. After he was baptized, how did the official feel? Why?

WHAT DOES BAPTISM MEAN?

When God makes a promise or agreement (a covenant), He connects it to a visible sign. For example, the rainbow after the flood of Noah's day was a sign God wouldn't flood the entire world again. Circumcision was the old sign you belonged to God's people, the Israelites. Through Christ, God has made a new promise to the world, and baptism is the sign.

Think of it like a wedding ring in our culture. The ring is our sign that an adult is married. It shows the world that they belong to their spouse. It is the sign of the union. Similarly, baptism shows the world that you belong to God. It is the sign of your union with Christ (see Galatians 3:27).

Below are a few more beautiful truths baptism displays!

My sins have been washed away

Acts 22:16 (p. 932)

I am united to God's one global Church

Ephesians 4:4-6 (p. 977)

I have a good conscience toward God

1 Peter 3:21 (p. 1016)

I have been buried and raised with Christ

Colossians 2:11-12 (p. 984),

Romans 6:1-4 (p. 942)

WHY JOIN A CHURCH?

Why bother joining a church? Does church really matter? And what does “fellowship” in a church even mean or look like? That’s what we will cover in this lesson.

CHURCH | MATTHEW 16:13-18 (p. 822)

- a. Who is Jesus, according to verse 16?
- b. Based upon this belief, in verse 18, what does Jesus promise to build?
- c. Who does the Church belong to? How do you know?
- d. What does Jesus say “shall not prevail” against His Church (verse 18)?
What do you think this means?

CHURCH | ACTS 2:41-47 (p. 911)

- a. What does it mean to be devoted? In verse 42, what did the first Church devote themselves to?
- b. Reread verse 46. What are some of the places in which the Church met? How often?
- c. According to verse 45, what's one way the believers helped each other?
- d. Reread verse 47. What effect did the practices of the first Church have upon outsiders?

WHAT IS FELLOWSHIP?

“They devoted themselves to... fellowship... all who believed were together and had all things in common” (Acts 2:42, 44). The early Church was devoted to fellowship. They opened their homes and their hearts to one another. They shared their lives. That’s what fellowship is: a sharing or participation in the life of another. But Christian fellowship goes even deeper. It’s not simply sharing our lives; it’s also sharing our rich experience of God together. It’s only because God first “called [us] into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord” and “the fellowship of the Holy Spirit” that we can enjoy this special fellowship with one another in the Church (1 Corinthians 1:9, p. 952, 2 Corinthians 13:14, p. 971).

CHURCH | 1 TIMOTHY 3:14-15 (p. 992)

- a. Why did the apostle Paul write this letter to Timothy, a church-leader and his spiritual son in the faith?
- b. According to verse 15, who does the Church belong to? (Whose Church is it?)
- c. Who lives in a household? Why does Paul call the Church the “household of God”?
- d. “A pillar and buttress” exists to hold something up. What does the Church hold up (look to the end of verse 15)?

CHRIST LOVES THE CHURCH

Ephesians 5:25 says: “Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her.” Jesus loves the Church like a good husband loves His bride (Ephesians 5:28-29, p. 979). Jesus will never give up on His Church. When a man named Saul was persecuting the Church, the risen Christ rebuked him, asking: “Saul, why are you persecuting me?” (Acts 9:4, p. 917). For Jesus, to mess with His Church is to mess with Jesus Himself (see Ephesians 5:23, p. 978; Colossians 1:18, 24, p. 981). That’s how much Jesus loves the Church!

CHURCH | EPHESIANS 3:20-21 (p. 977)

- a. What do you think it means for God to receive glory?

- b. What are two sources, highlighted in the beginning of verse 21, that bring God glory? Why do you think these two are put together, side-by-side?

- c. How many generations glorify God in the Church? What does this mean?

TAKE ACTION

Are you committed to a local church? If not, what steps do you need to take?

WANT MORE BIBLE STUDY?

Connect with your FP Club Coach at school or Student Pastor at church to find a solid book to go through. The best form of learning is in community, so as you are asking for more information, ask if you can join or create a small group that can learn together.

