

Prayer to Presence

Move from prayer into healthy relationships with schools and Gospel-centered campus ministries.

Pastors and outreach leaders Pastors, outreach leaders, student pastors, and churches can discern what comes after the month of prayer.	30 / 60 / 90 days Move from prayer to relationships to sustainable service over the next three months.	Listen before launching Identify one school contact and one aligned ministry partner before launching anything new.
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Let prayer lead to thoughtful, consistent service.

AWAKE begins with prayer, but prayer can open a path toward healthy, humble, long-term relationships with schools and students.

After August, move slowly: listen to school leaders, serve practical needs, and support trusted campus ministries already at work.

30 DAYS

Listen and learn

The first move after prayer is not a program. It is listening.

Map relationships

Ask who in your church already works at, attends, or has trusted relationships with the campus.

Learn the school context

Listen for real needs: attendance, mentoring, teacher encouragement, supplies, meals, clubs, or family support.

Find existing ministry

Look for student-led ministries or trusted partners already serving the campus. If the school does not already have an interdenominational, multi-church, student-led Gospel outreach, First Priority can help churches explore one.

USE THIS CHECKLIST

- Do not promise what your church cannot sustain.
- Ask school leaders what would actually help.
- Pray for the campus by name every week while you listen.

LOOKING FOR A STUDENT-LED CAMPUS MINISTRY?

For more than 25 years, First Priority has partnered with local churches to establish student-led, Gospel-focused campus clubs within the Equal Access Act. Churches receive training, coaching, and practical resources to help students reach classmates with the hope of Christ while connecting them to the local church.

[Explore First Priority Connect](#)

connect.firstpriority.org

60 DAYS

Serve with permission

Healthy presence respects school leadership and starts with practical trust.

Offer one helpful action

Teacher appreciation, supply support, volunteer help, mentoring, facility cleanup, or encouragement notes can open relational doors.

Clarify boundaries

Ask what is allowed, who approves it, and how communication should happen.

Keep it consistent

Choose a service rhythm your church can repeat without overextending volunteers.

USE THIS CHECKLIST

- Use background checks and district requirements when volunteers interact with students.
- Communicate through the right school contact.
- Celebrate the school without using service as a photo opportunity.

SERVICE POSTURE

We are here to bless the school, honor its leaders, and serve students with humility.

90 DAYS

Build a sustainable pathway

After trust begins, connect prayer and service to a long-term student ministry pathway.

Partner where possible

First Priority, FCA, Young Life, Youth for Christ, See You at the Pole, and local ministries may already have campus pathways.

Equip students

Help Christian students pray, serve, invite, and lead with wisdom inside the boundaries of their campus.

Keep pastors connected

Share updates with church leaders so prayer, volunteers, and care stay aligned.

USE THIS CHECKLIST

- Name one church leader responsible for the campus relationship.
- Create a simple monthly prayer and service rhythm.
- Collect stories that encourage the church without exposing private student details.

First meeting script

Use this when meeting a principal, counselor, teacher, coach, or ministry partner.

Opening

Thank you for serving students. Our church has been praying for this campus, and we would like to learn how we can be a helpful and respectful community partner.

Questions

What are the biggest needs students and staff are facing right now? Where do volunteers help most? What should we understand before offering support?

Close

We do not want to create extra work for you. If there is one practical way we can serve within your guidelines, we would be grateful to explore it.

USE THIS CHECKLIST

- Listen more than you pitch.
- Write down next steps and follow through quickly.
- If the answer is no, keep praying and honor the relationship.

Start with prayer. Keep showing up.

Claim the campus your church is praying for, then take a practical next step toward a healthy relationship with the school and consistent service.