

ENCOURAGEMENT WEEK TOPIC # 1
“One Thing You Can’t Do in Heaven”

The Goal: Every time we stand before students and speak at ENCOURAGEMENT WEEK we need to be reminded that the focus is to encourage students with the message of **WHY** they should share the **GOSPEL**. You may use the points provided as a guide in your preparation... modify and personalize to your personality and that with regards to the nature of the First Priority club.

300 million years from now, what will be the only thing that matters?

- Who you might have dated as a teenager?
- What kind of cell phone you had?
- How good you were at sports or a video game?
- What kind of car you drove?
- How much money you made in your life time?

I think we may all agree that 300 million years from now the only thing that will matter is ‘who is in heaven.’

- Will you be there?
- Will your family be there?
- Will your friends be there?

II Corinthians 5:10 – *‘For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.’* (ESV)

Have you ever considered what it’s going to be like in heaven? What do you think we’ll be doing there?

- Worshipping God... Absolutely!
- Singing praises to Jesus... No doubt about it!
- Fellowshiping with the saints from all time... Amazing!

But of all the things God commanded of us here on earth there is one ‘biggie’ we’ll not be able to perform in heaven... do you know what it is?

To tell someone who is not a believer in Jesus Christ how they may have a personal relationship with God!

What is the ‘Great Commission’?

Matthew 28: 18-20 - *And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”* (ESV)

We only get one shot at this life and that means we only have this life on earth to do this thing that Jesus commanded of all of us.

But you may be thinking, ‘I want my friends to be there in 300 million years and I know I have a role in getting them there... but I don’t think I can do it... I don’t have the skills!’

Two things about that:

FIRST:

If you're not good at something, some kind of skill in sports... maybe you want to get better playing an instrument... learn how to be a better driver... what should you do?

That's right...you practice.

What did you learn last week at TRAINING WEEK? You learned how to talk about your faith using a tool. The more you use a tool the better you'll be in mastering it... that makes sense, doesn't it?

Just talk to everybody you know about Jesus and you'll be well on your way to being an awesome evangelist!

SECOND:

When you make up your mind to be obedient to the 'Great Commission', God has promised that you won't be alone!

Luke 12:11-12, "And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say." (ESV)

So, whenever you take a step towards telling your friends or family about how they can know God through Jesus Christ this passage clearly states that through the power of the Holy Spirit (who lives in you) you will know what to say.

And the tools you'll be getting each TRAINING WEEK are going to make it easier for the Holy Spirit to speak through you!

Final Thought:

II Timothy 4:1-2, I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. (ESV)

There are two seasons that we should be ready to be used by God to speak into someone's life... when are they?

Is there a time when we don't need to be ready to preach the Gospel?

Who can you start practicing on right now?

The content of this discussion guide has been gleaned, with permission, from 'One Thing You Can't Do in Heaven', written by Mark Cahill, published 2002. Mark Cahill is a gifted author and passionate speaker with regards to Evangelism. His ministry is a gift to the church and he is available for camps, retreats and conferences. You may contact Mark: 770.498.3851, mark@markcahill.org or visit his website at www.markcahill.org