



STARTER + STRATEGY GUIDE

PROJECT
P7

THIS GUIDE WILL TEACH YOU HOW TO START A BIBLE CLUB

THIS GUIDE WILL TEACH YOU

HOW TO START A BIBLE CLUB IN PUBLIC

SCHOOLS, ONLINE SCHOOLS, HOME

SCHOOLS, AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

**AFTER SHARING HOW TO GAIN SCHOOL
APPROVAL AND START YOUR CLUB, WE
WILL LAYOUT STRATEGIES, IDEAS AND
EXPERIENCES ON HOW TO LEAD AN
ONGOING, SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL CLUB.**



HOW TO START A P7 CLUB

IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL

Public school is the most common educational choice for young students in America. Starting Project 7 in your public school is your right as a student, but you still need to follow club guidelines your school sets. First, you will need go to your school's main office or student services office and request a "Club Start-Up Form." Then, you will need to fulfill the obligations they request. The typical requirements of starting a club in public schools are as follows:

- **Select a Student Club President or Leader.**

The club's student leader handles making decisions for the club, as well as leading the meetings. This position is normally held by the student starting the club.

- **Find a Teacher Sponsor.** If you are going to run a school recognized club, you will need a teacher sponsor. Finding a teacher willing to sponsor your club is the toughest requirement to fulfill. A teacher sponsor is an employee of the school that makes sure your club runs

safely. The teacher sponsor provides adult supervision, but at the same time the sponsor cannot lead, participate in, or run the club in any way.



• ***Names of a few Interested***

Students. Public schools usually require proof of student interest in the club so they can justify creating it on the campus. Typically, you can fulfill the student interest requirements by inviting your friends to sign up for the club.

• ***Select a Time and Day for Meetings.***

Public school meetings can only take place during non-instructional hours, which means your club can only take place before school, during lunch, or after school.

• ***Club Name.*** Your club name should be “Project 7.”

Once you complete the obligations for starting a club, submit the form and information to the main office. Most schools will approve a club as soon as you turn in the form. Other schools will respond back to you within a week. If your school does not respond within a week, you need to be proactive about obtaining approval to start your club. Being proactive means asking the administration or office

staff questions about why your club hasn’t been approved yet. Make sure the office staff gave your club forms to the correct person and schedule a meeting to talk to that person if need be. You may have to ask your Teacher Sponsor or School Counselor to assist you if no response was received after checking on your application status a couple of times. Always remember, school administration is often times very busy, so ask with grace and understanding.

**IF YOUR CLUB IS DENIED
(PUBLIC SCHOOLS ONLY)**

If your club has been denied and you are reading this be encouraged because most clubs are denied in error, miscommunication, or lack of information. If you fulfilled all of your school’s requirements to start a club, and the school still denies your P7 Club equal access to resources or facilities, or has established restrictions that infringe upon freedoms of speech or religion, you the student (and, if necessary, your parents) should meet with the principal or dean to discuss the matter and request a resolution. We highly encourage you to research the “Equal Access Act”, which protects your rights as a student to have equal access to meet at school for religious, political, and philosophical purposes. Please don’t hesitate to contact us online at P7Clubs.com if your school denies your club. We want to help guide you through the process of getting your Club approved!

NOTE: The only way a public school can deny you access to an official club is if they deny every club. On occasion, a school will have a very strict club policy in which they do not allow student-led clubs. It does happen, and it is the only legal way for public schools to stop clubs from starting on campus.

IN AN ONLINE OR CYBER SCHOOL

Online schools are gaining more and more popularity each year. Most online schools use a thread, forum or blog style format for communication. To start an online club, simply ask the teacher or facilitator if you can start an online thread, blog or discussion post about Project 7, or if you can have a religious discussion. If circumstances don't allow you to post directly to the school or class page, it is OK. One option you can use is video chat via Skype, Google Hangouts, ooVoo, etc. You can invite your classmates and your friends to join your video chat Bible study. Online Bible studies are becoming more and more common in today's generation.

IN A HOMESCHOOL

If your homeschool is online, then please refer to the previous paragraph. It is not difficult to start a Project 7 Club in a homeschool setting. If your homeschool is a part of a group or co-op, then you will need to ask permission from the facilitator or administrator to begin a P7 club. Once you receive permission, invite your local friends to your Project 7 club. Your friends don't have to be a part of your homeschool group or co-op. They might attend public school. Invite anyone you know. Simply pick a day and time you would like to meet, and schedule your first meeting. We've seen homeschoolers start P7 Clubs that meet in libraries, coffee shops and even in their homes.

IN A PRIVATE SCHOOL

Unlike public schools, private schools are not legally obligated to grant you permission to start a Project 7 club because they are not government-funded. Just because they're not obligated does not mean you can't have a club in a private school, but the opportunity may be limited depending on the situation. Private schools are typically religious institutions that

welcome student-led spiritual activities, which is ideal for a P7 club.

Private Schools are typically religious institutions that welcome student lead spiritual activities, which is ideal for a P7 Club.

As a student, the first step you will need to take is to gather the names of as many people as possible interested in being a part of the P7 club. It doesn't have to be a lot of people. It is helpful

for gaining approval for your club if you already have a good rapport with the teachers, students, and administration.

Once you can show there is interest in having a student-led Bible club on campus, and then you can approach the school's activity director, dean or principal. Let the school's activity director, dean or principal know how many students are interested in attending Project 7 at your school. If the school gives you the approval to start, be sure to study the section "How to Run a Club" Below. The worst thing that can happen is for the school to say, "No." So take a step of faith and try! If the private school does not allow you to begin a club on campus, you can always start a P7 Club at a local coffee shop, library, or your home. You can still answer "yes" to God when the school says "no"!



MY CLUB IS APPROVED! NOW, WHAT DO I DO?

Congratulations on getting your Club approved! If you haven't already tell someone that you got approved (you're parents/pastor/youth pastor) Take a moment to celebrate! Next you want to set a date for your first meeting! The three main things you need to accomplish before your first meeting are: 1. Build a small team, 2. Advertise on campus, and 3. Set a plan of action for how to run your club.

1. Build a small team of leaders first, and then add more leaders as you grow. There is no reason for you to take on the burden of starting a club completely alone. The easiest way to build a team is to start with students that already go to your church. If you are the only student that attends your church and school, then use your friends, or find other Christians from other churches that attend school with you (their denomination does not matter). The initial goal is to have a core group of students that want to be a part of a Christian club.

2. Advertising is an essential part of telling people about your club. First, you need to tell other Christians and

friends about Project 7. Once you have a solid base of core students interested in attending, then begin to advertise to the rest of the school. You can hand out flyers, hang posters, use the school announcement system, or social media to get the word out about Project 7. A great way to advertise is to target students that are not participating in any other activity during the time your club is in session. Head over to P7Clubs.com to check out all of the fresh resources available. We have promo images you can download for your social media as well as flyers you can print off (all for free)! Another great way to get the word out is P7 Gear. Water bottles, pop sockets and shirts with the P7 brand on it are all great outlets to get people familiar with the logo! Head on over to P7Clubs.com to see what's available!

3. Set a plan of action for how to run your club. Plan a time schedule (see samples below) and choose the lesson of the week. Decide what your icebreaker will be, and if you will have food at that week's meeting or not. Will you play a game? Who will teach the lesson? Make sure you plan every part of the meeting. Get your team involved!

MANAGING YOUR P7 CLUB

There are many ways to run a P7 club, but first, we need to understand that Project 7 is not just a Bible study club; it's an opportunity to connect with people and develop friendships. Project 7 is a place where Christians of all denominations and other students who don't claim to be believers can gather together and have fun. Students love hanging out with their friends, so P7 is an awesome outlet for getting that started. Take opportunities to get to know students and have fun doing it. P7 isn't meant to be somber - there's joy in a relationship with Jesus, so P7 leaders should exemplify that. Make sure to involve everyone by playing games, eating food and having great conversations.

TEACHING TIPS

As you familiarize yourself with the lessons and prepare to teach, consider the following tips:

- Always spend time in prayer before you teach.
- Stay cool under fire. Criticism can be turned to an advantage. Remaining cool allows you to make rational decisions and statements.
- Manage your time or it will manage you.
- Know your material. When you make eye contact with people, they feel valued and that you're passionate about what you're speaking on.
- Make respect a central part of P7 culture. You have to give respect to get respect.
- Be flexible because the unexpected will occur.



LESSONS

Every semester, we provide new lessons to use during P7 meetings. We will add more lessons on a regular basis, so you always have new material to choose from. You may also create your own lessons. The lessons are available for download and are arranged in 7 sections.

- 1. Preview:** A short description of the lesson.
- 2. Praise:** An opportunity for everyone to praise God.
- 3. Parable:** A narrative used to lay a foundation for the lesson.
- 4. Present:** The heart of the lesson is revealed.
- 5. Practice:** Offers practical applications of the principles in the lesson.
- 6. Pray:** Everyone's opportunity to chat with God about all they learned.
- 7. Plus:** Provides instructions to give to students for additional study and practice of the lesson outside of the P7 meetings.



SAMPLE TIME SCHEDULES FOR A SUCCESSFUL P7 CLUB

P7 Clubs should be flexible to adjust for what works for you. Here is a sample schedule for a successful P7 Club. You can adjust these schedules as needed to best fit your group.

The first 5-10 minutes: Play upbeat Christian music while everyone starts coming into the room. Allow time for people to arrive a few minutes late. Be social and greet new people to make them feel welcome. This intro time is a perfect time for you get to know people and get into their world. How is school going for them? What do they want to study in college? What is their world-view? Do they believe in God? Do they go to church? What is happening in their life?

If no one shows up to a meeting, go out to the hallway and invite people who

have nowhere else to go. For the first few meetings, and then once a month, take time during the start of your club to walk around your school campus looking for students and inviting them to the meeting.

The second 5-10 minutes: Start the meeting with a short prayer and then go into an icebreaker or game to help build friendships and get new people involved. This is also a great time to have food available for people to grab donuts/pizza/etc. and eat while they're settling into the room and talking with people. Get with your youth pastor, pastor, or another adult and ask them to sponsor your club by providing food. Parents are also a great outlet for providing food!

Here are some ideas for icebreakers.

- Watch a short inspirational video on YouTube.
- If you have artistic students, give them a topic and have them write a poem or a song.
- Students can use this time to testify and share short stories about their life and the good things God is doing in their lives.
- If you have someone who plays guitar and sings, worship would be an option to include in a P7 meeting.
- Play a fun game that involves everyone. Need some help? Head on over to P7Clubs.com for fun game ideas!

The third 10-15

minutes: Start the Project 7 lesson. We encourage you to study ahead of time so you feel comfortable delivering the lesson. End the lesson in prayer and make sure you collect name and contact information for any first time guests. Always remember to clean the room and thank your teacher sponsor.

CONSIDERATIONS

- This is only a guideline and if you are running your club differently and it is working then continue what you are doing and share it with us.
- If there is already a Bible club at your school then please be respectful and try not to have your club on the same day as the other Bible clubs. We do not compete with other Christian groups. I would recommend befriending the other club.

- The P7 Club meeting time is one time slot of many throughout the week. We encourage you to hang out with your P7 members outside of your P7 Club meeting time to get to know them and invest in them. P7 should be a place where can people can make friends, not just a place that is friendly.
- If you find someone in your P7 Club is interested in more conversations about Christ, consider starting a 1:1 Bible Study with them. If someone in your P7 Club is asking doctrinal questions, consider our 1:1 resources available at P7Clubs.com (talked about in the next section).

What is their

world-view?

Do they believe in

God? Do they go

to church? What is

happening in their life?

OPPORTUNITIES FOR DOCTRINAL CONVERSATIONS

Remember, schools are a melting pot of different worldviews, so there will be people that have never heard about some of the doctrinal beliefs you may

hold. Topics such as Jesus Name baptism, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues and holiness standards are all important, and we believe should be handled with wisdom and preparation. Over the last 5 years, we've received a lot of feedback from P7 leaders and connected with many students that have come to the Lord through P7. One of the things that was a common thread was this - doctrinal topics were received best in a 1:1 Bible study. Because of the importance of these conversations, we encourage you to consider inviting a friend out for coffee if/when doctrinal topics come up. Additionally, another main purpose of P7 Clubs is to introduce

students to your local church. Talk to your youth pastor about doing a doctrinal Bible study with that person if they're interested.

Conversations about Baptism and the Holy Ghost can seem a little daunting if not prepared, so we'd love to help with that. If you have a friend that would like to discuss these topics, check out our new resource: The Gospel, which helps shape these 1:1 conversations. This resource is not meant for large group lessons, but will be more effective when handled on a more personal level.

There may be a time that you may have to deal with a student who only wants to disrupt the P7 meeting and what you are trying to accomplish. Disruptive students may be from other religions or denominations, or they may be on the defensive due to sin or a lifestyle choice that conflicts with Christianity. Disruption can be frustrating, and if the problem gets out of hand, you can involve your teacher sponsor. Debating during P7 is not recommended. If someone

asks a question you do not know the answer to it's ok. Simply write down the question and tell them you will have an answer for them the next week. Do not take club time to answer questions that turn into distractions. Always answer questions before or after the meeting. Of course, if it is a simple question that has to do with the lesson, then, by all means, take a moment to answer. ▲



INVOLVING YOUR YOUTH PASTOR,

YOUTH LEADER, OR CHURCH YOUTH WORKERS

The most successful clubs almost always have a spiritual leader involved with the club. Yes, your youth pastor, youth leader or church youth workers can come on campus and even teach a lesson at your club. First, your guest will need to fill out a volunteer form at the school and have a background check completed. If a person has a criminal record, they will likely fail the background check and will not be allowed on the school campus. As the P7 club leader, you need to invite your guest to campus. Law states outside

spiritual leaders can't regularly attend the club because it must be student-led, but usually, once the school gets to know your youth leader they can pretty much come and go freely. It is important the youth leader is as friendly as possible to the office staff and teacher sponsor. As a visitor to the club, a youth pastor or leader can interact with the students freely and be social. The main role of a youth leader at P7 is to encourage the student leader and to help facilitate the club's food needs.

WAYS TO FUND YOUR P7 CLUB

Why would a P7 Club need funding? It's very possible for a P7 Club to go through the entire year and never need any funds under a couple circumstances: all students involved with P7 purchase their own t-shirts/gear and the leaders of P7 purchase their own food for P7 Club meeting snacks. If this isn't an option for you, we encourage you to consider some other options:

PARTNERING WITH YOUR LOCAL CHURCH

The local church is a great place to begin with funding your P7 Club. Consider meeting with your youth pastor or pastor to discuss any needs the club may have. Discuss with them the importance of having food in a P7 Club meeting. The financial commitment is pretty low for items such as donuts, pizza, etc. Another opportunity for a local church to sponsor a club is to purchase t-shirts for all club members.

FUNDRAISERS

If your school allows club fundraisers, consider hosting a bake sale or another

fundraiser for the sake of purchasing things like P7 t shirts. Make sure there is clear documentation on all funds coming in and going out.

LOCAL BUSINESS SPONSORS

If you can find the right business owner, some businesses love sponsoring local school clubs. Ask the business owner if they would consider sponsoring t shirts or other P7 gear. There are additional ways a business could sponsor a P7 Club. For example, a bakery may consider donating a couple dozen donuts to your club once a week.

SCHOOL FUNDING

It's possible that your school has a funding program for general student activities (some call it the Associated Student Body (ASB) budget. In this scenario, the school can't discriminate against recognized religious student clubs by denying them equal access to funds simply because of a religious viewpoint. If other recognized clubs are allowed to access these funds and participate in activities such as fundraisers and other events, a recognized religious student club must have the same opportunities.

VISIT P7CLUBS.COM

If you have other questions, visit our website P7clubs.com. If the website doesn't provide an answer to your question, please contact us and we will be happy to assist you in any way possible.

Register your club on the website and fill out all the requested information. All of the lessons and resources are free to download. Visit our store and purchase any merchandise you may want for your club.



PRAY + PARTNER
PREPARE + PRACTICE
PLAN + PRESENT
PRODUCE

P7CLUBS.COM



P7CLUBS



UPCI
YOUTH MINISTRIES