



# PREPARE WEEK

## Month 1: EMPOWERED

“I am empowered!”

“Father, help us reach **EVERY LAST ONE** on our campus with Your **HOPE!**”

### WELCOME

**LEADER TIP:** Arriving early to pray over the room, playing worship live or on a bluetooth speaker, and greeting attendees as they enter, creates an environment that welcomes God's presence and people well.

Welcome: \_\_\_\_\_ (Leader)

**SAY:** Welcome to First Priority! It's great to see you here today! So far this month we have talked about God's HEART for us and the OPPORTUNITY to overcome obstacles in our lives. We have learned that God is our **Creator** and we are **created** in His image! The P in HOPE stands for **PREPARE**, and this week is **PREPARE** Week. On each **prepare** week, we will look closely at how God is **preparing** us to share about Jesus. Today, our **PREPARE** GOAL is for us to know that the Holy Spirit can **empower** us to share the good news of Jesus!

Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_ (Leader)

**LEADER TIP:** Feel free to add your own words to this prayer.

**SAY:** Let's pray. “Father, You have **created** us in Your image! Please give us courage and boldness as we **prepare** to share about Jesus and who You say we are! We need the **power** of Your Holy Spirit in our lives! In Jesus' Name, amen.”

### WORSHIP (OPTIONAL)

Worship Transition Talk: \_\_\_\_\_ (Leader)

**SAY:** Psalm 57:7 says, “My heart is **prepared**, O God, My heart is **prepared**, I sing and praise.” While singing is a way that we can worship God, our worship is more than just singing song lyrics out loud. True worship **prepares** our hearts and minds to focus on One thing – our Heavenly Father's presence! (John 4:23-24)

Worship: \_\_\_\_\_ (Leader)

Worship song(s) length: \_\_\_\_\_

**LEADER TIP:** You have the option for worship led live by students or by a lyric video. Test everything and **prepare** WELL BEFORE club time, ensuring all technology functions properly. Students have vastly different worship experiences and backgrounds. For everyone to confidently sing and enter God's presence in worship, it is best to have lyrics **prepared** in a slides presentation or on paper.

Song Suggestion:

**TOPIC:**  
The power of the Holy Spirit  
**Prepare** to share Jesus

**SONG:**  
Rest On Us  
Build My Life

**ARTIST:**  
Maverick City  
Pat Barrett

Message Transition Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_ (Leader)

**LEADER TIP:** Since worship can be such a powerful time of inviting God's presence into the room, we want to direct this moment with care and respect. To carefully transition into the message, have a student leader pray their own prayer or pray the prayer below.

**SAY:** “God, our focus is on You. We need Your presence with us right now. We want to be **prepared** for all that You have for us. Our hearts are open to receive the **power** that You want to give us by Your Holy Spirit. Speak to us through Your Word today so that we can be **prepared** to carry the power from Your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' Name, amen.”

### MESSAGE

Scripture: \_\_\_\_\_ (Leader)

**SAY:** Today's verse is from Acts 1:8, which says, “*But you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be My witnesses, telling people about Me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*”

Message: \_\_\_\_\_ (Leader)

**LEADER TIP:** One or more leaders may present the message. If you'd like to write the message in your own words, use the MESSAGE TIPS portion of the CLUB PLAN TEMPLATE provided at the end of this week's lesson.

**Today's Message Author:** The message below was written by Drew, a First Priority student leader in St. Clair County, Alabama.

**SAY:** Have you ever heard Bible stories like when Moses went and spoke to Pharaoh, the most **powerful** leader in the world at that time? How about when Jesus's disciples healed the lame and the sick? Maybe when a shepherd boy, named David, defeated a giant? Have you wondered, “How is this possible? How were they able to do and see these miracles?” These things that no one can do, and that are not humanly possible. It can be difficult for students to understand, especially considering the fact that sometimes it's hard for us to even get out of bed in the morning. Have you ever thought, “How can I have this same **power**? How can I be strong? How can I accomplish great things for God's glory?”

The Bible tells us in Acts 1:8 about the promise of the **power** of the Holy Spirit, and what it means for us. This verse states “*but you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be My witnesses, telling people about Me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria and to the ends of the earth.*” These were the last words that Jesus spoke to His disciples before leaving them and ascending into heaven. He tells them that being **empowered** by the Holy Spirit is not a question of “if,” but “when.” When we follow in accordance with God's plan, we will be **empowered** by the Holy Spirit. The **power** of the Holy Spirit is what gives us the courage and confidence to do all that God has called us to do. Anyone can receive this **power** from the Holy Spirit, if they have a personal relationship with Jesus as their Savior. God's **empowerment** isn't a risk or a “what if.” It's a promise that we can receive.

In this verse, Jesus also says that we will be His witnesses “in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria.” When we are **empowered** by God, we are compelled or drawn to step away from our personal wants, opinions, and biases, and follow after the heart of Jesus to spread the good news. When Jesus told His disciples to go to Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria, He knew that it would be hard for them to share the gospel where they might be rejected.

(continue on back)



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### MESSAGE (continued)

Though it might have been uncomfortable or risky for the disciples to follow the command of Jesus, He gave them a promise of **power** to share hope with others regardless of their background, reputation, or status.

Finally, as Jesus says these last words to His disciples on earth, He gives them the promise of **empowerment** by the Holy Spirit. He tells them to go share “to the ends of the earth.” For the disciples, “going to the ends of the earth” meant telling people everywhere about Jesus. As believers, we carry the same responsibility. Being **empowered** by the Holy Spirit seals the deal, and it secures the promise from Jesus. This promise tells us that when we go share the gospel with others, God is with us and with God, nothing is impossible. (Luke 1:37) And when we are **empowered** by the Holy Spirit, nothing can truly get in the way of our mission to share the gospel with “every last one.” God has graciously given us the same **power** that He shows in the Bible like with Moses speaking to Pharaoh, the disciples seeing miracles, and with David as he faced the giant. If you feel a need for strength in your own walk with Christ, or in sharing the gospel, all you have to do is pray and ask God. He will give you the **power** you’re looking for and **empower** you by the Holy Spirit. I challenge you here in this moment to call on God. Pray, and ask Him to **empower** you with the strength to share hope with others!

### LET’S TALK ABOUT IT (OPTIONAL)

**LEADER TIP:** If you have time available, discuss these questions in a small group or large group setting. For small groups, select a leader for each group.

Group Questions: \_\_\_\_\_ (Leader)

**IMPORTANT:** If discussion or a student’s personal question(s) drift toward topics too lengthy or difficult for the time allotted, please encourage them to ask the adult leaders in the room after the meeting or refer them to their parents or pastors after school.  
(Example: “That’s a great question. Let’s ask \_\_\_\_\_ after the club today or \_\_\_\_\_ after school.”)

#### GROUP LEADER(S) SAY:

1. Why is being **empowered** by the Holy Spirit so important, especially in our current culture?
2. How have you seen or felt the **power** of the Holy Spirit in your own life? Can you explain?
3. Why do you think these words in Acts 1:8 are the last words that Jesus spoke to His disciples?

### CLOSING

Identity Statement: \_\_\_\_\_ (Leader)

**SAY:** *From the message we heard today, we know that we need the **power** of the Holy Spirit to share the good news of Jesus with others! Let’s pray and ask the Holy Spirit to **empower** us to be witnesses for Jesus. Pray this in your heart or out loud after me, “Holy Spirit, fill me with Your **power**!”*

Promo/Announcements: \_\_\_\_\_ (Leader)

**SAY:** We can’t wait to see you next week! We will be sharing the Good News about Jesus and giving an opportunity for our classmates to make a decision during our club time to begin following Him! Don’t forget to follow our club on social media!

**LEADER TIP:** Your social media team members may want to create a graphic to post with this month’s verse or the Identity Statement. Encourage your classmates to follow the club’s social media account, if you have one, and share graphics for upcoming club meetings and events. Sample wording for the graphic: “The Holy Spirit **empowers** me to share the gospel! - Acts 1:8” **IMPORTANT:** If your club doesn’t have a social media account, check with your Faculty Sponsor for approval.

Closing Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_ (Leader)

### LEADERS’ RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Dismiss attendees to class based upon Faculty Sponsor’s direction.
2. Clean your club meeting space, removing any trash.
3. Reset all items in your club meeting space to their original positions.

### CLUB PLAN TEMPLATE

**LEADER TIP:** Use this template to write or type out your own plan on a separate piece of paper for **PREPARE WEEK** based upon Acts 1:8 and this week’s **PREPARE GOAL**.

#### THIS WEEK’S PREPARE GOAL:

Today, our **PREPARE GOAL** is for us to know that the Holy Spirit can **empower** us to share the good news of Jesus.

**LEADER TIP:** Make sure you know the length of your club time and how long you desire each section of your plan to last.

Time:

Welcome:

Prayer:

Worship:

Identity Verse: Acts 1:8

Message:

#### MESSAGE TIPS:

1. Look at this week’s existing scripted message for ideas and inspiration.
2. Use additional scripture references to support and to bring further understanding to this week’s Identity verse.
3. No matter how long you have been serving the Lord, IT’S ALWAYS BEST to share your message ahead of time with your parent, pastor, First Priority Campus Coach or a First Priority staff member BEFORE sharing it with the full club. Ask them to look over it with you and give their prayerful feedback.

#### “Let’s Talk About It” Questions:

**LEADER TIP:** Use scripted questions provided or create your own.

**IMPORTANT:** If discussion or a student’s personal question(s) drift toward topics too lengthy or difficult for the time allotted, please encourage them to ask the adult leaders in the room after the meeting or refer them to their parents or pastors after school.  
(Example: “That’s a great question. Let’s ask \_\_\_\_\_ after the club today or \_\_\_\_\_ after school.”)

Promo/Announcements:

Closing Prayer: