



# HEART WEEK

## Month 2: FATHER “God, You are my Heavenly Father.”

“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! Thank you for joining us today! This year, we are learning about Who God is and who He has created us to be! Each month, we introduce a new characteristic of Who God is from the Bible. Today, we will talk about how God is our Heavenly **Father**. Each week of First Priority will feature a piece of our HOPE strategy. The H in HOPE stands for **HEART**. This week is **HEART** week, where we will hear about God's **heart** for us, our classmates, and our campus! Our **HEART** GOAL this week is for every one of us to know and believe that God is our Heavenly **Father**!

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

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

**SAY:** Let's pray. *“Father, thank You for being with us in this room right now. We are so grateful that You are our Good Father, Who loves us so much. Help everyone in this room and on our campus know how much You love them. In Jesus' Name, amen.”*

### WORSHIP (OPTIONAL)

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

**SAY:** Psalm 63:3 says, *“Your unfailing love is better than life itself; how I praise You!”* We can praise our Heavenly **Father** together because His love will never fail us. Let's take this moment to praise and worship Him together, thanking Him for His amazing love!

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, on paper, or via a QR code.

Song Suggestion:

**TOPIC:**  
God's **Heart**  
God is **Father**

**SONG:**  
Good, Good **Father**  
Abba

**ARTIST:**  
Chris Tomlin  
Eddie James

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

**LEADER TIP:** Worship draws, or attracts, our Heavenly Father's presence. The world tries to pull us away, or distract us, from the One Who wants to be our true “First Priority.” (John 4:23-24) Feel free to add your own words to this prayer.

**SAY:** *“Father, we worship You because You deserve all of our praise. We open our hearts to hear Your Word and ask that You would speak to us through this message. Help everyone here today know that You are our Good Father, Who loves us so much. In Jesus' Name, amen.”*

### MESSAGE

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

**SAY:** Today's verse is Matthew 6:9, which says, *“Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may Your Name be kept holy.”*

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.

**SAY:** Today's verse comes from the book of Matthew, the first book of the New Testament. Matthew was a follower of Jesus and the writer of this book. He wrote about all that he saw and experienced while he followed Jesus's earthly ministry. In Matthew chapters 5, 6, and 7, we can read Jesus's longest recorded sermon or message. This message is called “The Sermon on the Mount.” Jesus gives this sermon near the Sea of Galilee in the country of Israel, where a huge crowd of people were gathered to hear Him speak! Today's verse comes from what Jesus shared in “The Sermon on the Mount.”

In Matthew chapter 6, we see Jesus teaching His followers and the crowd how to pray and talk with God. A simple definition of the word “prayer” is “talking with God.” Just like Jesus showed His followers that they could talk with God, their Heavenly **Father**, we can pray and have conversations with God as our Heavenly **Father**. We can talk to Him about everything, just like we would talk to our friends and family. The verse we read from Matthew chapter 6 comes from a passage of scripture known as “The Lord's Prayer.” (Matthew 6:9-13) It is called this because Jesus (our Lord and Savior) is giving an example of how to pray. Jesus tells His followers to begin their prayer by calling on God, their **Father** in heaven. In Matthew chapter 6 verse 9, Jesus tells the crowd how to begin their prayer when He says, “Pray like this: Our **Father** in heaven...” Why would Jesus tell His followers to call God their Heavenly **Father**? I think it is because Jesus was showing them a characteristic of Who God is! God is our Heavenly **Father**!

What does it mean for God to be our Heavenly **Father**? The answer to this question can be found all throughout scripture in the Bible. First John chapter 3 verse 1 says, “See how very much our **Father** loves us, for He calls us His children, and that is what we are!” This verse shows us that our Heavenly **Father** loves us! God loves us so much that He calls us His children! Because of His amazing **heart** of love, He gives us the opportunity to be a part of His family. Ephesians chapter 1 verse 5 says, *“God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure.”* This scripture shows us that God's **heart** was to welcome us into His family through His Son, Jesus.

James chapter 1 verse 17 says, “Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our **Father**, Who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes...” This scripture shows us that our Heavenly **Father** wants to bless us with good gifts! It isn't directly saying that we will receive physical gifts and presents that we can open.

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### MESSAGE (continued)

However, this scripture does show us that God’s **heart** is to bless us with His presence and His desires for our life! (Psalm 37:4) His desires and plans for our lives are good and filled with hope! (Jeremiah 29:11) Psalm chapter 103 verse 13 says, “As a **father** is kind to his children, so the Lord is kind to those who honor Him.” God is so kind towards His children. He is gracious, compassionate, and full of love towards us! (Psalm 145:8-9)

Something so amazing about God being our Heavenly **Father** is that He never changes! There may have been people in our lives who have let us down. We may have been hurt by people who used to be there for us, but they changed, leaving us with the feeling that we are alone. Even though we may feel alone, rejected, or abandoned, our Heavenly **Father** will NEVER leave us! In Hebrews chapter 13 verse 5, God says, “I will never leave you. I will never abandon you.” Having God as our Heavenly **Father** means that we have Someone Who will always be there for us! He is with us in every single moment of every day!

It is so amazing that the same **Father** that Jesus talked about in His “Sermon on the Mount” is our Heavenly **Father** today. He has not changed and He never will! (James 1:17; Hebrews 13:8) The beautiful thing about the gospel and God’s **heart** for us is that even if you do not have a good representation of what a **father** here on earth should be, because of what Jesus did for us on the cross, we can all be a part of God’s family. (Ephesians 2:18-19) God is a **Father** to the **fatherless**. (Psalm 68:5) God’s **heart** is for everyone in this room and on our campus to know that He is our Heavenly **Father**, and that we have the opportunity to be a part of His family. If you don’t have a relationship with God as your Heavenly **Father** or you have questions about this, our student leaders or Campus Coach would love to talk with you about it! Find one of them before you leave today!

### 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. How does knowing that God is your Heavenly **Father** impact how you live everyday?
2. How does Matthew 6:9 teach us one way to begin a prayer?
3. Why is it important for us to know and understand our Heavenly **Father’s** heart?

### CLOSING

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

**SAY:** As we leave today, let’s declare the truth from God’s Word together. Say this after me in your **heart** or out loud: “God, You are my Heavenly **Father!**”

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

**SAY:** We can’t wait to see you next week! Pray about who the Lord wants you to invite! 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: “God is my Heavenly **Father!** - Matthew 6:9”

**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 **HEART WEEK** based upon Matthew 6:9 and this week’s **HEART GOAL**.

#### THIS WEEK’S HEART GOAL:

Our **HEART GOAL** this week is for every one of us to know and believe that God is our Heavenly **Father**.

**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:

“God Is” Verse: Matthew 6:9

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: