



# HEART WEEK

## Month 3: LOVE

“God, You are Love!”

“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 **love**. 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 believe that God is **love** and that He **loves** us!

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

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

**SAY:** Let's pray. “God, thank You for **loving** us so much. I pray that everyone here today and in our school would know that they are **loved** because You are **love**! Help us to show Your great **love** to everyone we see today. In Jesus' Name, amen.”

### WORSHIP (OPTIONAL)

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

**SAY:** Psalm 63:4 says, “I will praise You as long as I live, and in Your Name I will lift up my hands.” Giving God our praise and worship is how we can show Him that we **love** Him and that we are thankful for His **love** for us! We can sing, close our eyes, and lift our hands in worship to Him! Let's take this time to worship our **loving** God!

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:  
God's **Heart**  
God's **Love**

SONG:  
God Really **Loves** Us  
God So **Loved**

ARTIST:  
Crowder & Dante Bowe  
We The Kingdom

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, Your Word tells us in Psalms 66:3 that Your **love** is better than life. We worship You because we **love** You. Speak to our **hearts** through this message. Help us to share Your **heart** of **love** with everyone we know. In Jesus' Name, amen.”

### MESSAGE

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

**SAY:** Today's verse is 1 John 4:16, which says, “And so we know and rely on the **love** God has for us. God is **love**. Whoever lives in **love** lives in God, and God in them.”

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:** First John 4:16 tells us that “God is **love**.” For us to understand what this means, we need to know what **love** really is. God's Word tells us what real **love** is! In the Bible, First Corinthians chapter 13 gives us the best definition of **love**. This chapter has been called “the **love** chapter.” A man named Paul wrote the entire book of First Corinthians. Paul was inspired and empowered by the Holy Spirit to write everything that he wrote, including many other books in the New Testament. (2 Timothy 3:16) Let's take a look at what God's Word says about **love** in First Corinthians chapter 13.

First Corinthians 13:4-7 says, “**Love** is patient and kind. **Love** is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. **Love** never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.” From these verses, we can see what real **love** is. Real **love** isn't rude or prideful. Real **love** doesn't judge someone when they mess up. Real **love** doesn't bring up mistakes from the past. Real **love** is patient and kind. Real **love** never gives up.

When we read about the characteristics of what **love** really is in First Corinthians 13, we can see those same characteristics in Who God is! First Corinthians 13 shows us what God's **heart** looks like. God is patient. God is kind. God is not rude. Because of what Jesus did for us on the cross, God doesn't keep a record of our mistakes. God never gives up. God gives us hope. God endures through everything. God is **love**. This is Who He is! This is what His **heart** looks like!

Today's verse from First John 4:16 tells us that we can “know and rely on the **love** God has for us.” When we “rely” on something, it means that we can put all of our trust and hope in it. We can put our hope and our trust in the truth that God is **love** and His **love** never changes. His **love** will last forever! Lamentations 3:22 says, “The faithful **love** of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease [end].” First Corinthians 13:13 says, “Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and **love**—and the greatest of these is **love**.”

The world will often show us a false picture of what **love** is. The **love** that the world gives can change based upon actions, feelings, or mistakes. The **love** that the world gives wants us to work hard to earn it and prove that we deserve it. (continue on back)



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### MESSAGE (continued)

Have you ever felt like you had to work really hard to be good enough for someone to **love** you? Have you ever had a friend who decided they didn't want to be friends anymore because you didn't do enough for them? Or have you ever had someone who stopped **loving** you because you made a mistake? If you've ever felt this way or experienced something like this, I have great news! God's **love** isn't anything like that! You don't have to work hard to deserve God's **love**! Because God is **love**, we don't have to work to be good enough to earn His **love**! God's **love** is free for us because Jesus paid the price for us to receive it. All we have to do is believe and receive His Son Jesus as our Savior and Lord! (Romans 10:9-10) When we trust in Jesus as our Savior and Lord, we can have a relationship with our Heavenly Father Who is **Love**!

The enemy tries to tell us that God is angry and that He hates people because of the mistakes they have made. These are lies! That is not Who God is! God's **heart** is filled with **love** because that's Who He is. (John 3:16-17) Since we know the truth about God's **heart** and Who He is, we can share it with others. How can we show others who God is? We can show others Who God is by **loving** them. Just like today's verse tells us, "Whoever lives in **love** lives in God, and God in them." (1 John 4:16) In John 13:35, Jesus says, "By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you **love** one another." These verses show us that the way we treat others can be so powerful. Our actions and words can be the proof of God's **love** to people who may not know Him. (1 John 3:18) As you go throughout your day today, will you show God's **love** to others? Will people know that you are a follower of Jesus by how you **love** them?

If you don't know God or have never experienced His amazing **love** that we have been sharing about today, we would **love** to talk with you. Please don't leave today without talking to one of our student leaders or our Campus Coach.

### 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.")

1. How does it make you feel to know that your Heavenly Father **loves** you so much?
2. How would you describe the **love** of God to someone who has never heard about His **love**?
3. What are some ways that we can show God's **heart** of **love** to others today?

### 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 is **love** and He **loves** me!*"

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 **Love**!" - 1 John 4:16

**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 1 John 4:16 and this week's **HEART GOAL**.

#### THIS WEEK'S HEART GOAL:

Our **HEART GOAL** this week is for every one of us to believe that God is **love** and that He **loves** us!

**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: 1 John 4:16

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: