



# OPPORTUNITY WEEK

Month 7: NEW

“Jesus, I am a made new because of You!”

“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! This year, we have been learning about Who God is and who He says we are! Each week we cover a piece of the HOPE strategy. The O in HOPE stands for **OPPORTUNITY** and this week is **OPPORTUNITY** week. We will learn how to take the **opportunity** to overcome anything in the way of us knowing Who God is and who He says we are! Today, our goal is for each of us to believe and say, “Jesus, I am made **new** because of You!”

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

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

**SAY:** Let's pray. “Jesus, You are **Lord**. We thank You that You make all things **new**! We pray that You would bless our time together today as we hear Your Word. Help us to share Your love and hope in our school. As we go throughout our day, help us to look for just one **opportunity** to tell someone just how much You love them. In Jesus' Name, amen.”

## WORSHIP (OPTIONAL)

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

**SAY:** Psalm 149:1 says, “Praise the **Lord**. Sing to the **Lord** a **new** song, His praise in the assembly of His faithful people.” This means that every time we assemble or come together, we can give God praise! We can sing and give Him a **new** praise that is from our hearts! Let's worship the **Lord** together.

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:                          | SONG:                   | ARTIST:               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Made <b>New</b>                 | <b>New</b> Thing        | Hillsong Young & Free |
| God Is Doing A <b>New</b> Thing | <b>New</b> Thing Coming | Elevation Worship     |

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:** “Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross for us, so that we can be made **new**! Thank You for **freeing** us from the mistakes of our past, and giving us **new** life! We pray that every lie that comes against who You say we are would be silenced today! Let Your truth fill this room right now as we listen to Your Word! In Jesus' Name, amen.” (John 8:32)

## MESSAGE

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

**SAY:** Today's verse is 2 Corinthians 5:17 which says, “*This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a **new** person. The old life is gone; a **new** life has begun!*”

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:** In John 10:10, Jesus says, “*The thief (the devil) comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*” One thing that our enemy (the devil) wants to steal from us is our identity. He tries to put obstacles in our way to keep us from believing who God is and who He says we are. He will often lie to us to confuse and twist our understanding of Who God is and who He has created us to be. (John 8:44)

The devil doesn't want us to know or believe that we can be made **new** through Jesus. One of the greatest obstacles that he will use to trap us is shame. “Shame” is a feeling of humiliation, dread, or guilt caused by one's wrongful behavior or bad decision. Have you ever made a mistake and felt really bad about it? When you made that mistake, did you feel like you were a terrible person because of it? If you have ever felt that way, you likely felt a feeling of shame. The enemy wants us to take on shame as our identity. He wants us to define ourselves through the lens of shame. But Jesus paid the ultimate price that sets us **free** from the shame of our past! What He did on the cross for us allows us to become a **new** person! We don't have to live in the shame of our mistakes or the lies from the enemy! We can receive a **new** life in Him! He tells us who we are! (1 Peter 2:9)

The end of Luke chapter 5 tells us about a group of people who came to Jesus to ask Him questions. In this conversation, Jesus gave them an example about being made **new**. Luke 5:36-38 says, “*Then Jesus gave them this illustration: ‘No one tears a piece of cloth from a **new** garment and uses it to patch an old garment. For then the **new** garment would be ruined, and the **new** patch wouldn't even match the old garment. And no one puts **new** wine into old wineskins. For the **new** wine would burst the wineskins, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. **New** wine must be stored in **new** wineskins.’*” Jesus is saying that when He does a **new** thing, there is no longer room for the old thing. The **new** and the old cannot remain together. The same is true for us. When we ask Jesus to be the **Lord** of our lives, He begins a **new** work in us. When we fully surrender to Him, we can't remain in our old ways. Everything changes when Jesus becomes **Lord**! When He makes us **new**, our lives begin to look like Him. The conversations we have, the ways that we treat others, and how we act when we're alone should begin to look like Him. Just like our scripture from Second Corinthians 5:17 tells us, when we belong to Jesus, “The old life is gone; a **new** life has begun!”

Some of us have believed the lie that it is easier to live in our old life than it is to live in the **new** life that Jesus gives us. It can be difficult to think about what needs to change in our lives to make room for the **new** thing God wants to do. But when we are made **new** in Jesus, we don't have to walk through this journey on our own! It is impossible for us to transform into a **new** person in Christ on our own. (Mark 10:27) By ourselves, we don't have the power to overcome the obstacles and lies from the enemy. However, through the power of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives, we can become **new** and be transformed to be more like Jesus! (2 Corinthians 3:18)

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## MESSAGE (continued)

What does it look like to live out the work of Jesus in our lives? How can we live like we've been made **new**? The Holy Spirit is our Helper and will help us live out our **new** life. (John 14:26) God's Word talks about what a **new** life in Jesus looks like! Listen to these scriptures from the Bible that tell us how we can live out our **new** life in Jesus! **LEADER TIP: Student leaders can each take a verse below and talk about what it means.**

Romans 12:1 says, “Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a **new** person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”

Romans 6:4 says, “For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live **new** lives.”

Revelation 21:5 says, “And the One sitting on the throne (Jesus) said, ‘Look, I am making everything **new**!’ And then He said to me, ‘Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true’.”

Isaiah 43:18-19 says, “But forget all that—it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. I am about to do something **new**. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.”

Ephesians 4:24 says, “Put on your **new** nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.”

Let's live like the **new** person God's Word talks about, so that we can show others how amazing our God is! Let's be an example of how God can remove the old person we were, and make us **new**! Don't be afraid to share this good news with someone today as the **Lord** gives you an **opportunity**!

## 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. What do you think it means to be made **new** in Jesus?
2. What are some of the obstacles that keep us from believing that Jesus can make us a **new** person?
3. When Jesus became the **Lord** of your life, did you immediately feel like a “**new** person”? Why? Or why not?

## LOCAL CHURCH INVITE

Local Church Invite: \_\_\_\_\_ (Leader)

**LEADER TIP:** Take this **opportunity** to share with the club about your church/youth group, what day/time you meet, and any upcoming events that may be taking place.

**SAY:** It is important for followers of Jesus to have a community where they can be encouraged and grow in their faith! If you don't have a church you attend regularly, our student leadership team would love to help you get connected with a church. (Acts 2:42-47)

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! If you are looking for a church to visit, come ask a student or adult leader to help get you connected.

**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:

“Jesus, I am made **new** because of You! - 2 Corinthians 5:17”

**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 **OPPORTUNITY WEEK** based upon 2 Corinthians 5:17 and this week's **OPPORTUNITY GOAL**.

### THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITY GOAL:

Today, our goal is for each of us to believe and say, “Jesus, I am made **new** because of You!”

**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: 2 Corinthians 5:17

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: