



PREPARE WEEK

Month 7: FREE

“I am free!”

“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 learned that Jesus is **Lord** and that we can be made **new** because of what He did for us! The P in HOPE stands for **PREPARE**, and this week is **PREPARE** Week. During 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 we can be **free** because of what Jesus has done for us!

Prayer: _____ (Leader)

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

SAY: Let's pray. "Jesus, we believe that You are the Son of God! We know that Your Word tells us that who the Son sets **free** is **free** indeed! Thank You for setting us **free** from sin! Let every heart in this room be **prepared** to receive all that You have for them. In Jesus' Name, amen." (John 8:36)

WORSHIP (OPTIONAL)

Worship Transition Talk: _____ (Leader)

SAY: When we worship God, we are inviting His presence to be with us. God's Word tells us in Second Corinthians 3:17 that wherever God's Spirit is, there is **freedom**! Let's invite God's presence into this room and every part of our school right now. We want everyone in our school to experience the **freedom** that only comes from Him! As we worship, let's invite that **freedom** to fill every heart today!

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:
Celebrating **Freedom**
Freedom in Jesus

SONG:
I Thank God
Who You Say I Am

ARTIST:
Maverick City
Hillsong

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, we thank You for what You did for us on the cross. We know that because You died and rose again, we can be **free** from sin and shame! Help us to take the hope that we have in You and share it with at least one person today. If someone here has never received Your **freedom**, help them to put their trust in You before we leave this room. In Jesus' Name, amen."

MESSAGE

Scripture: _____ (Leader)

SAY: Today's verse is John 8:36, which says, "So if the Son sets you **free**, you will be **free** indeed."

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: This message was written by **Caleb**, a First Priority student leader from St. Clair County, Alabama.

SAY: **Freedom** is a beautiful thing. Whether it's **freedom** from sickness, **freedom** from something you didn't want to do, or maybe a **freedom** that your parents give you, like hanging out with your friends or having a sleep over. **Freedom** can come in many different shapes and sizes and it can come in many different areas of life. But there is a **freedom** that is greater than any other **freedom** we could ever receive. THAT **freedom** is the **freedom** that we have through Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the One and only Son of God who came to earth from heaven and lived a perfect and sinless life. Yet because of wickedness and evil, those who Jesus came to save chose to reject Him and kill Him on the cross. But because Jesus is perfect and lived a sinless life, God raised Him from the dead three days later! While Jesus was on the earth, He taught us wonderful and amazing things about how to live our life in a way that glorifies God. He tells us in John 8:31b and verse 32, "If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you **free**." That truth that Jesus is speaking of is the truth that He was and is the perfect Son of God, and that because of His death, burial and resurrection, we can have a relationship with Him and be forgiven of all our sins. Romans 10:9 says, "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is **Lord**,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

This salvation and **freedom** that comes only from Jesus Christ is the most beautiful gift we could ever receive, and it's from God! Because it is a gift, it means that we don't have to do anything to earn it. (Ephesians 2:8-9) There is nothing we could ever do to earn or deserve God's gift of salvation. This **freedom**, Jesus **freely** offers to all who put their faith in Him. It's not a gift that vanishes with time or that will leave you if you make a mistake. This **freedom** is meant to be carried throughout your life, to the very end of your days. Jesus tells us in John 8:36, "So if the Son sets you **free**, you are **free** indeed." When you truly understand the Truth of Jesus and what He did for you, you will desire Him to be the **Lord** of your life and you will experience the **freedom** that Jesus Christ died to give you. Everybody has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23) Jesus tells us in John 8:34 that all who sin are a slave to sin. But salvation through Jesus Christ is what **freed** us from our slavery to sin and allows us to have a relationship with the loving God of all creation.

Jesus' **freedom** does not mean that He expects us to be perfect and never make a mistake again. He knows the pains and struggles that we have. His **freedom** allows us to bring those pains and struggles to Him and lay them down at His feet. As we lay those sins and struggles down, His sacrifice allows us to ask for forgiveness and He will forgive us. (1 John 1:9) This beautiful **freedom** and relationship with Him means that we can also ask Him for His strength and courage to turn from those sinful ways and live in a way that pleases Him.

(continue on back)



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MESSAGE (continued)

Jesus' sacrifice means that we do not have to fight sin alone, in fact it proves that we can't fight it alone. We need Jesus' strength, forgiveness and love. His **freedom** shows us that He desires to take away our sins and forgive us.

John 3:16-17 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him." Whether you've heard it 1,000 times, or whether you've never heard it before, I want you to know that Jesus Christ, the God of all creation, loves YOU. He died so that you may be forgiven of every sin you have ever committed. He died so that you could live in the unmatched **freedom** that He holds in His hands and is reaching out to give you.

Like we read earlier, Romans 10:9 says, "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is **Lord**,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Jesus made the decision to receive His salvation that easy. All He requires is that we allow Him to be the **Lord** and Ruler of our lives and believe that He is who He says He is. If you have never accepted Jesus Christ as your **Lord** and Savior and today you have decided that you want to accept His salvation and **freedom**, then I am going to lead us in a prayer to receive Jesus as our **Lord** and Savior. I ask that you repeat it after me. The prayer isn't magic, and it's not what saves you. It is just a way to verbalize the commitment you have decided to make today. Let's pray. **LEADER TIP:** Say this slowly in clear, short phrases: "God, I confess to You that I am a sinner. I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe that You sent Your Son, Jesus, to die for my sins. I believe that He rose again and is the only Way to You. Jesus, thank You that I am **free** because of You. In Jesus' Name, amen." (John 14:6)

If you have already made that decision, I want to present you, and those who made that decision today, with a challenge. What are you going to do to spread the knowledge of the **freedom** and salvation of Jesus Christ with those around you? As you go throughout your day today, think about that. What can you do to spread the knowledge of what Jesus has done for us?

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. Do you remember a moment when you experienced the true **freedom** that Jesus gives? What was that like?
2. Is there any area in your life where you need His **freedom**?
3. What can we do to spread the good news about what Jesus has done for us?

CLOSING

Identity Statement: _____ (Leader)

SAY: As we leave today, let's remind ourselves of who God says we are! Repeat this statement after me, out loud or in your heart: "I am **free**!"

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: "I am **free**!" - John 8:36

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 John 8:36 and this week's **PREPARE GOAL**.

THIS WEEK'S PREPARE GOAL:

Today, our **PREPARE GOAL** is for us to know that we can be **free** because of what Jesus has done for 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:

Identity Verse: John 8:36

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: