



HEART/OPPORTUNITY WEEK

Month 9: FRIEND/KNOWN

“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 have been learning about Who God is and who He has created us to be! Today, we are combining **Heart** and **Opportunity** weeks from our HOPE strategy. We will talk about God’s **heart** for us, and overcoming obstacles that can come against us **knowing** who God says we are. Our GOAL this week is for every one of us to **know** that Jesus is our **Friend** and we are **known** by Him!

Prayer: _____ (Leader)

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

SAY: Let’s pray. “Heavenly Father, thank You for the **opportunity** we have here in First Priority to talk about You. We want to share Your love with everyone here and in our school. Help us all **know** that we are never alone because You are with us. You are the greatest **Friend** that we could ever have. Thank You for loving us so much! In Jesus’ Name, amen.” (Hebrews 13:5)

WORSHIP (OPTIONAL)

Worship Transition Talk: _____ (Leader)

SAY: Psalm 56:3 says, “But when I am afraid, I will put my trust in You.” Worshipping God is a way that we can show that our trust is in Him. When we put our trust in God, it means that we believe He is Who He says He is and that He will do what He says He will do! Let’s take this **opportunity** to worship our Heavenly Father and trust Him 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:
Jesus is my **Friend**
Known by God

SONG:
Friend In Jesus
God Really Loves Us

ARTIST:
CAIN
Crowder & Dante Bowe

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: “Heavenly Father, we trust You! You will never fail us. When You speak, You keep Your Word. You will never break Your promises. As we hear this message about You being our **Friend**, help us to open our **hearts** to receive and believe Your Word. In Jesus’ Name, amen.” (Proverbs 30:5; Luke 1:37)

MESSAGE

Scripture: _____ (Leader)

SAY: Today, we will talk about two scriptures. John 15:15b says, “Instead, I have called you **friends**, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made **known** to you.” Psalm 139:14 says, “I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I **know** that full well.”

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.

What does it mean to be a true **friend**? A true **friend** is someone who loves you no matter what and is always there for you. A true **friend** supports you and cheers you on. Did you **know** that the Bible talks about **friendship**? Did you **know** that the Bible also tells us about the greatest **friend** we could ever have? In John chapter 15, Jesus tells His followers (the disciples) about what being a true **friend** looks like. In John 15:13, Jesus says, “There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s **friends**.” Jesus is saying that the greatest love someone could ever show is to give their life for their **friends**. Did you **know** that this is exactly what Jesus did? He is the greatest **Friend** that we could ever have! He is the greatest example of a true **friend**!

In John 15:15b, Jesus says, “Instead, I have called you **friends**, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made **known** to you.” How amazing is it that Jesus would call us His **friends**! Because He gave His life for us on the cross, He made a way for us to have a relationship with Him. We can have a **friendship** with Him by believing that He is our Lord, and by obeying what He has told us to do in His Word. (John 15:14)

If you are here today and you feel like you don’t have any **friends**, did you **know** that Jesus wants to be your **friend**? He truly cares about you. (1 Peter 5:7) We can pray and talk to Him every single day. Just like we would talk to another person, we can tell Him about our day and what we are going through. First Peter 5:7 says, “Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you.” Proverbs 17:17 says, “A **friend** is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need.” Jesus is the most loyal **friend**. This means that He will never leave us and He will never fail us. He will always be there for us. He will never make a promise to us and break it. He always keeps His Word. (Proverbs 30:5; 2 Corinthians 1:20)

Do you have a very best **friend** or a group of really close **friends**? Is there someone in your life who **knows** everything about you? Did you **know** that our Heavenly Father **knows** everything about us? He **knows** every detail of our lives. (Psalm 37:23) He **knows** all of the mistakes we have made and all of the heartbreak we have gone through. He even **knows** the number of hairs that are on our heads right now! (Luke 12:7) That’s how much He cares about us!

It can be scary to think about how God **knows** everything about us. He **knows** everything we have ever done, said, and thought. For many of us, when we think about how God **knows** everything about us, we can start to feel sad, ashamed, or disappointed. When we think about mistakes we have made, it can be easy to feel shame.



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MESSAGE (continued)

When we know to do the right thing, but we choose to do the wrong thing, we can often feel a heaviness in our **hearts**. This feeling is an example of shame. Shame can make us want to hide because we feel disappointed in ourselves. Shame can be an obstacle between us and God.

The Bible talks about two people who tried to hide because they felt ashamed. Genesis chapter 3 tells the story of Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, who felt ashamed because they sinned and disobeyed God. They tried to hide from God in a garden. They didn't want God to **know** what they had done. But God **knew** exactly where they were. (Genesis 3) Just like Adam and Eve couldn't hide their sin and shame from God, we can't hide from God and we don't have to. Because God sent Jesus to die for our sins, we don't have to be ashamed! (Psalm 34:5; Romans 8:1; 2 Corinthians 3:18) Through Jesus, we can boldly approach our Heavenly Father without shame! Hebrews 4:16 says, *"So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most."*

The fact that our Heavenly Father **knows** so much about us shows just how much He loves us and cares for us! Psalm 139 is an amazing chapter in the Bible. It talks about how God **knows** us and shows us His thoughts about us. Psalm 139:1-4 says, *"O Lord, you have examined my **heart** and **know** everything about me. You **know** when I sit down or stand up. You **know** my thoughts even when I'm far away. You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You **know** everything I do. You **know** what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord."* How incredible is it that God **knows** everything we do! He **knows** what we are going to say even before we say it! If you've ever wondered what God thinks about you, you can read His Word. Psalm 139:14 says, *"I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I **know** that full well."* Our Heavenly Father made us in His image! (Genesis 1:26a-27) We are fearfully and wonderfully made. We are **known** by Him, and we are never alone. (Hebrews 13:5)

Who can you encourage? Who do you **know** that needs to hear that they are **known** and loved by God? Maybe Jesus is calling you to share His love with someone else by being a good **friend** to them. When we leave this place today, let's look for **opportunities** to share God's **heart** with others. Let's ask Him right now to give us the courage to share the hope of Jesus with at least one person today!

LEADER TIP: Lead a prayer asking God for **opportunities** to share the hope of Jesus!

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 are some characteristics of a true **friend**?
2. Do you have a true **friendship** with Jesus? What does this look like?
3. How does it feel to **know** that you are **known** by God?

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:

"Jesus is my **Friend** and I'm **known** by Him! - John 15:15b; Psalm 139:14"

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/OPPORTUNITY WEEK** based upon John 15:15b, Psalm 139:14, and this week's **GOAL**.

THIS WEEK'S HEART GOAL:

Our **GOAL** this week is for every one of us to know that Jesus is our **Friend** and we are **known** by Him!

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"/Identity Verse: John 15:15b; Psalm 139:14

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: