



OPPORTUNITY WEEK

Month 1: KNOW GOD

“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 so much for joining us today! First Priority aims to take the hope of Jesus to every student on our campus! This year, we will be learning about our purpose! Each week of First Priority will feature our HOPE strategy. The O in HOPE stands for OPPORTUNITY. This week is OPPORTUNITY week, where we look at taking the opportunities to overcome anything in the way of us knowing God and knowing our purpose!

Prayer: _____ (Leader)

LEADER TIP: Feel free to have a student leader pray in their own words or the prayer below.

SAY: Let's open our time together in prayer. *“Heavenly Father, thank You for the opportunity we have to worship You and learn more about You. We want to know You! Help us to overcome any obstacle that would keep us from knowing You. In Jesus' Name, amen.”*

WORSHIP (OPTIONAL)

Worship Transition Talk: _____ (Leader)

SAY: Psalm 68:4a says, “Sing praises to God and to His Name!” When we take the opportunity to sing worship songs, we are singing praises to God and to His Name! When we “praise” God, we give Him our honor and appreciation. Let's give God the praise He deserves because we honor and appreciate Him!

Worship: _____ (Leader)

Worship song(s) length: _____

LEADER TIP: Worship can be led live or by a lyric video. Test all technology WELL BEFORE club begins. Because students come from diverse worship backgrounds, provide lyrics (in slides, handouts, or a QR code) so everyone can participate. Song suggestions do not imply FP's endorsement of every artist or song they perform.

Song Suggestion:

TOPIC:	SONG:	ARTIST:
Knowing God	Center	Abbie Gamboa
Opportunity to Praise	Praise	Brandon Lake

Message Transition Prayer: _____ (Leader)

LEADER TIP: Worship is a powerful time to invite God's presence. To carefully transition into the message, have a student leader pray in their own words or use the prayer below.

SAY: *“God, we are so grateful for this opportunity to worship You and to be in Your presence. Help us to open our hearts and our ears to hear Your Word, so that we can know You and the purpose You have for our lives. In Jesus' Name, amen.”*

MESSAGE

Scripture: _____ (Leader)

SAY: Today's verse is John 14:6 which says, *“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”*

Message: _____ (Leader)

LEADER TIP: One or more leaders may present the message. If you'd like to write this message in your own words, use the CLUB PLAN TEMPLATE in the FP AL app and the main points below as a guide.

Today's Message Author: This message was written by Natalee, a First Priority student leader from Shelby County, Alabama.

SAY: Obstacle 1: Distraction. Have you ever noticed that the things that matter most usually don't come easy? If our purpose is to know God, then it makes sense that the enemy would do everything he can to keep us from that. He can't stop God from loving you, but he can try to distract you from spending time with Him. That's exactly what he does. We get busy with sports, school, work, friends, social media, relationships, and everything else life throws at us. None of those things are bad on their own, but when they become more important than our relationship with God, they slowly pull our attention away from the One who gives us life. 1 Peter 5:8 reminds us, *“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”* One of his greatest tactics is distraction because he knows that when we spend time with Jesus, our hearts begin to look more like His.

Obstacle 2: The enemy's lies. Sometimes the obstacle isn't busyness, it's the lies we believe. Maybe you've convinced yourself that God is disappointed in you because you've messed up too many times. Maybe you feel like you're too broken, too far gone, or not “good enough” to really know Him. The enemy loves trying to plant those thoughts because if he can make you believe God doesn't want you, you'll stop running to God. But Jesus completely destroys those lies in John 14:6. He doesn't say, “Be perfect, then come to Me.” He simply says, *“I am the way.”* Jesus already made the way for us through the cross. Romans 5:8 says, *“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* You don't have to earn God's love because He freely offers it. Romans 8:1 also reminds us, *“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”* If you belong to Jesus, shame doesn't get the final say; His grace does.

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MESSAGE (continued)

Obstacle 3: Our desire to stay comfortable. Another obstacle is our own desire to stay comfortable. Let's be honest, following Jesus isn't always easy. Sometimes it means forgiving someone who hurt you. Sometimes it means standing up for your faith when everyone else stays silent. Sometimes it means giving up something you know isn't honoring God. We naturally want to choose what's easiest, but Jesus calls us to choose what's best. Luke 9:23 says, *"Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me."* That sounds challenging, but every time we surrender something to God, He replaces it with something better. James 4:8 promises, *"Come near to God and He will come near to you."* God isn't pushing you away, He's inviting you closer.

How can we take the opportunity to know God? So what does it actually look like to take the opportunity to know God? It starts with making Him a priority, not just when life gets hard, but every day. Spend time in His Word because Psalm 119:105 says, *"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."* Pray honestly because Philippians 4:6-7 tells us not to be anxious but to bring everything to God in prayer, and He promises to give us peace. Worship Him, stay connected to other believers, and keep showing up even when you don't always feel like it. Relationships grow through time together, and your relationship with God is no different. The more you seek Him, the more you'll begin to know His voice, trust His character, and understand His heart.

God can turn our obstacles into opportunities. The truth is, you'll always have obstacles. The enemy isn't going to stop trying to distract you, discourage you, or convince you that knowing God isn't worth it. But every obstacle is also an opportunity. Jeremiah 29:13 says, *"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."* God promises that when we genuinely seek Him, He will be found. You don't have to search for purpose in popularity, success, relationships, or achievements because your purpose starts with knowing Jesus. He said He is *"the way and the truth and the life"* (John 14:6). Everything you've been searching for is found in Him. So when obstacles come, and they will, don't let them pull you away from God. Let them become opportunities to trust Him more, seek Him more, and discover that a relationship with Jesus is the greatest purpose you could ever have.

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 obstacles that keep us from knowing God?
2. Have you ever battled distractions, the enemy's lies, or the desire to stay comfortable? How did you overcome them?
3. What opportunities can we take to know God more?

SOCIAL MEDIA (OPTIONAL)

IMPORTANT: If your club doesn't have a social media account, check with your Faculty Sponsor for approval. **LEADER TIP:** If your club has a social media account, you can create content to share this week's verse, club meeting recaps, upcoming meetings, or events. Encourage your classmates to follow the account. Check out @firstpriorityal on Instagram for inspiration.

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: A place where we can learn about knowing God more is the local church! It is important for followers of Jesus to have a community where they can grow in their faith! If you don't have a church you attend regularly, our Student Leadership Team would love to help you connect with a church. **Example:** *My name is (your name) and I attend (your church). We meet on (day/time).*

CLOSING

Announcements: _____ (Leader)

SAY: "We can't wait to see you next week! Let us know if we can help you connect to a local church! Let's close in prayer."

Closing Prayer: _____ (Leader)

LEADER TIP: Ask God to help all of us know Him and His heart for us.

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.