



HEART WEEK

Month 3: LOVE 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! We are so happy that you are here today! This month, we will be talking about how our purpose is to love God. This week is HEART week, where we will learn that God’s heart for us is to love Him!

Prayer: _____ (Leader)

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

SAY: Let’s pray. “God, thank You for loving us! Help us to learn how we can love You more than we already do! We want everything that we say and do to show our love for You. Speak to our hearts today. In Jesus’ Name, amen.”

WORSHIP (OPTIONAL)

Worship Transition Talk: _____ (Leader)

SAY: Psalm 63:3 says, “Your unfailing love is better than life itself; how I praise You!” We praise God because we love Him! God’s love is better than anything we’ve ever known. Let’s show Him how much we love Him through our worship!

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:
Loving God	Jesus, We Love You	Bethel
Loving God	Abandoned	Benjamin William Hastings

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 love You! May our worship to You show You just how much we love You! As we hear this message today, teach us how to love You more. We want to walk in this purpose that You have for our lives—to love You. In Jesus’ Name, amen.”

MESSAGE

Scripture: _____ (Leader)

SAY: Today’s scripture is from Matthew 22:37, which says, “Jesus replied, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’”

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.

SAY: 1. The most important thing we can do is love God.

In Matthew chapter 22, Jesus was teaching a group of people. Within that group were several religious leaders. There were many times that the religious leaders asked Jesus questions to try to challenge Him. They wanted to prove that Jesus wasn’t the Son of God. In Matthew 22:36, some religious leaders asked Jesus to tell them the most important commandment. Jesus answers their question in Matthew 22:37, when He says, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.” In this verse, Jesus told them that the most important thing they could ever do is to love God.

Did you know that the words of Jesus still speak to us? The first part of Hebrews 4:12 tells us, “For the Word of God is alive and powerful...” This means that God’s Word, the Bible, still speaks to us today! If Jesus said that the most important commandment is to love God, we should pay close attention and apply this commandment to our lives!

2. What does the Bible say about love?

To know how we can love God, we have to understand what love is. Do you know the true definition of love? What does the Bible say about love? The Bible tells us what love is in First Corinthians chapter 13, which is also known as “The Love Chapter.” 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.”

Love has all of these characteristics. Love is patient and kind. It isn’t prideful or rude. It never gives up and it lasts through any situation. Telling someone that you love them shouldn’t be something that we just say.

(continue on back)



HEART WEEK

Month 3: LOVE GOD

MESSAGE (continued)

It's not a casual phrase. Love is powerful. It doesn't change based on if we feel like showing it or not. When we tell God we love Him, it shouldn't be just because it's something we say. We tell Him we love Him because we want Him to know that He is everything to us.

3. To love God is to make Him our First Priority.

How do we love God with all of our heart, all of our soul, and all of our mind? To love God with all our heart, soul, and mind means that we put Him first in everything. It means that He is truly our First Priority. When we love God with everything, we aren't afraid to live for Him and worship Him. To love God with everything means that He is our Lord and He is in control of our lives. We follow Him and obey Him no matter what. In John 14:15, Jesus says, *"If you love Me, obey My commandments."*

Jesus doesn't tell us to obey His commandments because He wants to boss us around and show off His power. That's not His heart. He gives us commandments to follow that will lead us to the purpose that He has for our lives! His commandments will never hurt or shame us. When we follow His commandments, we will walk in the good plans that He has for us! Jeremiah 29:11 and 13 tells us about the good plans that God has for us when we love Him and follow Him. It says, *"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope...If you look for Me wholeheartedly, you will find Me."*

In John 14:21, Jesus says, *"Those who accept My commandments and obey them are the ones who love Me. And because they love Me, My Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal Myself to each of them."* Our purpose is to love God and obey Him. The greatest commandment we can follow is to love Him with all that we are. This means that our words, our attitudes, our thoughts, and our actions show that we love Him. Let's love God boldly today, so that others can see how much God loves them by how much we love Him.

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. Why is it important to love God?
2. What are some ways that you show God that you love Him?
3. How can our love for God show others how much He loves them?

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.

CLOSING

Announcements: _____ (Leader)

SAY: "We can't wait to see you next week! Pray about who the Lord wants you to invite! Let's close our time together in prayer."

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.