



OPPORTUNITY 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! Thank you so much for joining us today! This year, we have been learning about what God's Word says about our purpose! This week is OPPORTUNITY week. We will talk about taking the opportunities to overcome anything in the way of us loving God! Let's open our time together in prayer.

Prayer: _____ (Leader)

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

SAY: “Heavenly Father, thank You for this opportunity we have to come together in Your Name! We want to know and believe what Your Word says about our purpose! Help us to overcome any obstacles that would keep us from loving You. In Jesus' Name, amen.”

WORSHIP (OPTIONAL)

Worship Transition Talk: _____ (Leader)

SAY: In Psalm 18:1, David sings to the Lord and says, “*I love you, Lord; You are my strength.*” Just as David worshipped the Lord to show how much he loved God, we can show our love to God through singing and worshipping 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:
Loving God	Goodness of God	Jenn Johnson
Loving God	Touch of Heaven	Bethel

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! Thank You for pouring out Your goodness over our lives. We pray that we would hear this message and learn how to love You more. We choose to lay aside any distraction that keeps us from loving You! In Jesus' Name, amen.”

MESSAGE

Scripture: _____ (Leader)

SAY: Today's verse is from Mark 12:30, which says, “*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.*”

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 Brynlee, a First Priority student leader from Shelby County, Alabama.

SAY: 1. Jesus tells us to love God with all that we are.

In this specific moment in Scripture, Jesus is being questioned by another influential teacher of the religious law in Israel. The teacher asks Jesus which of the commandments are most important, and Jesus responds with Mark 12:30 which says, “*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.*” In this moment, Jesus could've responded with any law concerning His glory, concerning honoring His authority, concerning being an upstanding citizen, or any other secular or worldly law, but instead He chose the law concerning loving God with everything we have. Notice how Jesus didn't just say that we need to love God with a part of our hearts, or simply enjoy the idea of loving God, but He expressed that we should love God with all we are.

2. What does it look like to truly love God with all of our being? The big question here is, what does it look like to truly love God with all of our being? Does it look like going to church every Sunday morning? Does it look like saying you believe in Christ when it's convenient? No! Loving God means choosing to have a personal relationship with Him every single day, and devoting your life to Him! Loving God means living a holy life, one that looks different from everyone else in the world around you. Loving God means sacrificing popularity, selfish desires, pride, and our own plans for our futures.

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MESSAGE (continued)

3. When we truly love God, we deny our selfish desires. However, these are the things that can get in the way of us not loving God with our whole being. Popularity, selfish desires, pride, and our own future plans can end up creating obstacles that get in the way of our hearts and God. However, the Bible says in Luke 9:23, *“Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me.”*

In our walks with God, the most loving thing we could do is to deny our selfish desires, and live according to the way Christ has called us to live.

4. We can have hope in the promise of God’s love. By taking up your cross, you’re choosing to sacrifice your own plans, desires, popularity, pride, and everything that can push you away from the presence of God. It means living the life of a humble servant, just like Jesus. Jesus served first, and His biggest act of service was his death on the cross. He died so that we could live, and He wants us to love people the same way He loves us! While it's not always easy to love like Jesus does, we can always have hope in the promise of Romans 8:38-39. It says, *“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* God’s love for us is unconditional and perfect! We could never mess up God’s love for us, and He wants us to love Him with all of our hearts too!

LEADER TIP: Take this opportunity to explain how reading the Bible can help us know and love God more! Encourage anyone who doesn’t have a Bible to let a Student Leader know if they need one. You can also point them to downloading the Bible app. You can ask your church or your Campus Coach’s church if they would be willing to provide Bibles for your club.

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. To you, what does it look like to truly love God with all of your being?
2. What obstacles can get in the way of us loving God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength?
3. Is there anything in your life that you want to surrender to God so that you can love Him more? Would you like to share?

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: 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 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: Close in prayer asking God to help us take opportunities to know Him more.

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.