



PREPARE 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! It's great to see you here today! We have been learning this month that our purpose is to love God! This week is PREPARE Week, where we learn how God can prepare us through His Word. We will be talking about people in the Bible who loved God!

Prayer: _____ (Leader)

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

SAY: Let's pray. *“God, we love You! You are such a Good Father, and You love us so much! Let every person in this room and in our school know how much You love them. Prepare our hearts so we can show others Your love. In Jesus' Name, amen.”*

WORSHIP (OPTIONAL)

Worship Transition Talk: _____ (Leader)

SAY: Psalm 113:5 says, *“Who can be compared with the Lord our God, who is enthroned on high?”* No one can compare with our great God! He rules and reigns over everything! There is no one like Him! Let's worship Him and tell Him we love 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	Bethel
Loving God	Fall Like Rain	Passion

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: *“Heavenly Father, You are so good! There is no one like You! No one can compare to You. We thank You for loving us. We want to love You more. As we read Your Word and hear this message, teach us how to love You more. In Jesus' Name, amen.”*

MESSAGE

Scripture: _____ (Leader)

SAY: Our scripture is from First John 2:5, which says, *“But those who obey God's Word truly show how completely they love Him. That is how we know we are living in Him.”*

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. What does it look like to love God?

The greatest way that we can learn about loving God is by reading His Word. First John 2:5 says, *“But those who obey God's Word truly show how completely they love Him. That is how we know we are living in Him.”* This tells us that we show our love for God when we obey His Word. To obey His Word, we need to know what His Word says. There are many people in the Bible who showed their love for God by the way that they lived. Today, we are going to look at two people in the Bible who showed their love for God.

2. Disciples show their love for God by following Jesus.

A “disciple” is a dedicated follower. The Apostle John was a disciple of Jesus. John was a close friend of Jesus and showed his love for Jesus by following Him. John wrote the gospel of John after walking with Jesus, hearing His teachings, and witnessing everything Jesus did during His ministry. Most Bible scholars agree that John also wrote the books of First John (where our verse today comes from), Second John, Third John, and Revelation.

John followed Jesus, even during difficult times. On the night that Jesus was betrayed by one of His followers, the Bible tells us that John sat close to Jesus. John 13:23 says, *“The disciple Jesus loved (John) was sitting next to Jesus at the table.”* Many who have studied this scripture believe that John was so close to Jesus that he actually laid his head on Jesus's heart. John showed his love for Jesus by being near to Him.

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MESSAGE (continued)

We can show our love for Jesus by drawing close to Him. The first part of James 4:8 says, *“Come close to God, and God will come close to you.”* John’s love for Jesus was shown by how he followed Him closely. How are we following Jesus? Can other people look at our lives and see how much we love Jesus? Do our lives show that we are close to Him? If you want to be closer to Jesus, you can tell Him that right now.

3. When we truly love Jesus, we don't care what others think. Another story in the Bible shows us the devotion of a woman who showed a deep love for Jesus. In Luke chapter 7, Jesus goes to dinner at the house of a Pharisee (a religious leader). Luke 7:37-38 says, *“When a certain immoral woman from that city heard He was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. Then she knelt behind Him at His feet, weeping. Her tears fell on His feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing His feet and putting perfume on them.”* This woman showed her love for Jesus by bringing expensive perfume to pour on Him. This perfume would have cost her all the money she made in one whole year of work. Some people in the room actually made fun of her for this. They said that her gift to Jesus was a waste of her money. But she didn’t care what anyone thought. She didn’t care how much it cost. She wanted to show Jesus how much she loved Him.

Jesus tells the people in the room that the woman had shown Him much love. Luke 7:47-48 says, *“I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown Me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.”* Then Jesus said to the woman, *“Your sins are forgiven.”*

The Apostle John followed Jesus no matter the rejection, persecution, or hurt he faced. The woman with the alabaster jar of perfume didn’t care what others thought of her or how much the perfume cost. Can we say that we love God like this? Do we love God so much that we will follow Him with our lives? Do we love God so much that we don’t care if people say that our love for Him is a “waste”? God’s love for us is better than anything we could ever imagine. Let’s commit to love Him with everything we have as we follow Him, no matter what it costs.

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 someone who truly loves God?
2. Can you think of others in the Bible who loved God? Who?
3. Have you ever felt like the woman with the alabaster jar? Has your love for God ever cost you something? What was that like?

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

LEADER TIP: INVITE CARDS can be ordered from the FP AL Office. The printable file can be found in CLUB RESOURCES on the FP AL app.

Announcements: _____ (Leader)

SAY: “During our club time next week, we will be sharing the good news about Jesus! Take an invite card with you to give to someone who needs to hear and respond to the gospel. We will be giving an invitation for anyone to receive Jesus! 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.