

LOVE

Help Week Leader Guide

Help Week: A time for student leaders to equip their peers to become missionaries to their school, as they plan and pray for the month of campus ministry ahead.

PRE MEETING INSTRUCTIONS:

- Select one student to host this month's Help Week
- Remind students to post on social media and text friends reminding them about First Priority club

INTRODUCTION: 3 minutes

Welcome Students, Prayer and Introduction

- **Help Week Host:** "Welcome to First Priority! This week is Help Week, which is where we help each other become missionaries to our school. This year we're talking about the **FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT**, and this month we are going to talk about **LOVE** and what this means for us as missionaries."
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Introduce Student Leading Discussion:** "Today, my friend, _____, is going to share how understanding the love of God is vital to the mission of reaching our school for Christ."



GROUP TIME: Loved Because He First Loved Us (20 Minutes)

Student Speaker: Hey guys! Today we get to talk about *love*. And not the “I love my NFL team” type of love... or the “I love my favorite band” type, either. We’re talking about the *truest kind of love* – a love more important than any other reality in the world. Love is one of the fruits of the Spirit, actually. Check out these scriptures:

“Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.” (1 John 4:7 NLT)

“You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!” (Matthew 5:43-45 NLT)

Love is a powerful thing. The world around us is desperately looking for something to fill the empty void in their lives where God should be. The signs are everywhere. Bands are singing about this longing. Famous people who “have everything” still can’t seem to find fulfillment. Often, the more we try to fix or forget the problem, the worse the emptiness gets.

We normally care mostly about ourselves! [speaker suggestion: *share an example about how we’re naturally selfish*]

Jesus’ love is different! One time, He came upon a woman who was caught in a big act of selfishness - cheating on her husband. This woman *deserved severe punishment* according to the current law. Can you imagine what she felt like? Probably pretty lonely, guilty, ashamed, and hopeless. But Jesus reaches out to her in love, even when no one else did. And Jesus asks her to follow Him in a better way of life – letting go of selfishness and accepting His way.

You can have the same kind of love!

God calls us to be holy – that is, to look and act like Jesus. He wants the *best* way of life for us. How does this happen? Especially when 99% of the time we think about *us!*



The world around us is desperately looking for something to fill the empty void in their lives where God should be.

LOVE Help Week Leader Guide (continued)

The act of saying “yes” to Jesus causes this “fruit of the Spirit” to begin to grow in our lives. In this case, what begins to sprout in our life is supernatural love. Think of it this way the more we follow the teachings of Jesus, the more we start to look like Jesus. Through Him, we can love our friends even when we don’t want to. Through Him, we can start caring about others (and stop caring so much about just our favorite basketball team or singer!). Today I want to challenge all of us to lay down their selfishness and take on *His love*.

The world around you desperately needs God’s love, so share it! His love is greater, deeper, and stronger than any other love we can know – and His love flows out of us! God loves us enough to take our story of selfishness and change it into a story of love. All we have to do is say “yes” to Him. If we do this, we look more like love.

APPLY IT:

Discussion Option 1: What if someone who isn’t popular needs a friend? What would it look like to love him/her? What if a group of your friends are making fun of someone else behind their back. What would it look like to be loving in that situation?

Discussion Option 2: Think about your favorite team sport. Can they succeed without selflessness? Why/why not? As a Christian, how is love necessary to the success of evangelism (sharing Christ)? Explain.



ACTION CHALLENGE:

- **Group Challenge:** Love Challenge!
 - i. Think of 5 or 6 ways you could show love to somebody – especially those who aren't already your friends.
 - ii. Try it
 - iii. Post about your experience on social media, with a brief picture and explanation! Have fun! Get creative.
 - iv. Dare others to *#PayItForward* and use the hashtags *#FirstPriority* and *#FPGodLoves!*
- **Share Challenge:** Share with someone this week how Christ gives you peace in your life.
- **Prayer Challenge:** Have someone close in prayer for your group to be messengers who bring the good news of the gospel.

WRAP UP: 2 minutes

- Share any FP Club announcements including that next week's meeting is Overcome Week.

