



# FAITHWEAVER

Weaving faith into today's families **NOW**<sup>®</sup>



**FALL  
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**ADULT  
HANDBOOK**

**Group**

Real. Bold. Love.

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**FALL  
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The logo for the Group, featuring the word "Group" in a white, italicized serif font. Above the text is a decorative graphic of a cluster of small white dots arranged in a roughly circular pattern, resembling a starburst or a group of people.

# FAITHWEAVER NOW

This Group resource incorporates our R.E.A.L. approach to ministry. It reinforces a growing friendship with Jesus, encourages long-term learning, and results in life transformation, because it's



#### **Relational**

Learner-to-learner interaction enhances learning and builds Christian friendships.

#### **Experiential**

What learners experience through discussion and action sticks with them up to 9 times longer than what they simply hear or read.

#### **Applicable**

The aim of Christian education is to equip learners to be both hearers and doers of God's Word.

#### **Learner-based**

Learners understand and retain more when the learning process takes into consideration how they learn best.

## Group

[group.com/sunday-school](http://group.com/sunday-school)

### **FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Adult Handbook, Fall**

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# Contents

<b>Introduction and Welcome</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>The Lessons</b> .....	
<b>Lesson 1: The Israelites Cross the Red Sea</b> Exodus 13:17–14:31 .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Lesson 2: God Sends Quail and Manna</b> Exodus 16:1-26 .....	<b>14</b>
<b>Lesson 3: God Provides Water</b> Exodus 17:1-7 .....	<b>20</b>
<b>Lesson 4: God Gives the Ten Commandments (Part 1)</b> Exodus 19:16–20:21 .....	<b>26</b>
<b>Lesson 5: God Gives the Ten Commandments (Part 2)</b> Exodus 19:16–20:21 .....	<b>32</b>
<b>Lesson 6: The Israelites Worship a Golden Calf</b> Exodus 32:1-25 .....	<b>38</b>
<b>Lesson 7: The Israelites Build the Tabernacle</b> Exodus 35:4–36:38 .....	<b>44</b>
<b>Lesson 8: Moses Sends Spies Into the Promised Land</b> Numbers 13:1–14:23 .....	<b>50</b>



<b>Lesson 9:</b>	<b>Balaam’s Donkey Talks</b> Numbers 22:1-38 .....	<b>56</b>
<b>Lesson 10:</b>	<b>Joshua Becomes Leader of Israel</b> Joshua 1:1-11 .....	<b>62</b>
<b>Lesson 11:</b>	<b>Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho</b> Joshua 2:1-24 .....	<b>68</b>
<b>Lesson 12:</b>	<b>The Israelites Cross the Jordan River</b> Joshua 3:1–4:24 .....	<b>74</b>
<b>Lesson 13:</b>	<b>God Gives Victory Over Jericho</b> Joshua 6:1-27 .....	<b>80</b>





# The future of Sunday school + family ministry is NOW.

No doubt about it, the world is changing. Families used to go to church every week. Kids used to have longer attention spans. Teachers used to have more time to prepare. And didn't our budgets used to be bigger?

Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date. But there's one thing that's never changed: the need to grow families closer to Jesus.

That's why we created FaithWeaver NOW®, and it's different from anything you've ever seen before!

## **It combines Sunday school with family ministry.** ■■■■

Sure, you've seen Sunday school aimed at families. But FaithWeaver NOW actually hits the target by having everyone in the family learning about the same Scripture each week.

## **It's simpler and easier.** ■■■■

Sometimes change is a wonderful thing. Gone are the days when you needed to spend hours preparing your lessons and hunting for supplies. FaithWeaver NOW will have you and your team ready to go in a snap.

## **It's made for NOW.** ■■■■

Life is complicated and full of distractions. FaithWeaver NOW keeps faith on track through even the most frenzied lifestyles.

## **What makes FaithWeaver NOW the perfect curriculum for TODAY's church?**

- Families learn the same Bible passage in age-appropriate ways.
- Kids don't just hear the Word. They experience it.
- Simple and easy lessons fit even the busiest lives.
- Kids see God in their everyday world.
- The Scope & Sequence goes through the Bible every three years.
- You can customize it however you like, with both print and digital versions.



Create a vibrant family ministry that's new...that's wow...that's NOW. FaithWeaver NOW gives you a fresh strategy for being more successful than ever in bringing families closer to Jesus.

Thom and Joani Schultz  
Chairman and Chief Creative Officer  
Group Publishing, Inc.

Welcome to the

# FaithWeaver NOW Adult Handbook!



The fact that you're reading this shows how much you care about your faith. You take your relationship with Jesus seriously. You want to live like him. But it can be hard sometimes, especially amidst the busyness of life, and with **FaithWeaver NOW** we're going to help you grow in your faith.

You'll learn together with—and from—other adults who wrestle with the same issues you do. Together, you'll work through those issues and give each other brand-new insights into how to weave faith into your life. You'll have fun learning together. You'll discover things you never knew about yourself, about each other, and about God. You'll laugh together. You'll probably cry together, too. But most importantly, you'll discover how to weave faith into your life and walk with God for a lifetime.

Here's what you'll find in your FaithWeaver NOW Adult Handbook—including how to use each piece to get the most out of each week:



## **BIBLE BACKGROUND**

This is a more in-depth look at the week's Bible passage. Use it to gain a deeper understanding of God's Word.



## **THE JESUS CONNECTION**

This brief devotion will help you think through how this week's lesson applies to your life and how to pray about this week's point.



## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

These are the questions you'll go through as a group and the specific passages you'll look at. Use this page to follow along during the lesson.





**DAILY CHALLENGES**

Here you'll have some options for how to apply each study to your life. Mark the one you choose as a reminder to live out your faith.



**TALK TOPICS**

Several thought-provoking questions to bring up with your friends, family, or co-workers during the week.



**THROUGH THE WEEK**

Study a passage on this week's point every day! There's even some great questions for you to journal about as you consider what the Bible has to say to you.

So again, welcome to the world of **FaithWeaver NOW!**  
May God bless your journey together—as adults and as faithweavers!





# The Israelites Cross the Red Sea

Exodus 13:17–14:31



## ► Bible Point

God helps us when we're afraid.

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## Key Verse

"He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me" (Psalm 23:3-4).

.....

## God Cares for His People

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As the mass of more than 2 million Hebrews left Egypt, God knew that facing the warlike Philistines immediately would likely have made the Hebrews lose hope and turn back to Egypt. The pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night must have been awesome and comforting.

## God's Unusual Strategy

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God instructed the Israelites to turn back somewhat toward Egypt and camp at a spot between Migdol and the Red Sea. God had a bigger plan than anyone else could know. Pharaoh would've been confident that he could easily defeat the Israelites.

The Israelites were slaves of the Egyptians only days prior to this event. They'd been beaten by the whips of the slave drivers and were familiar with the weapons the Egyptians carried. They must've realized that their fighting talents were nothing compared with the Egyptians'. And they were backed against the sea, with mountains on two sides and the Egyptians bearing down on them. The situation must've seemed hopeless.

## God Shows His Power

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We can realize that God had all this planned. He knew that the people would be frightened. He knew that they would doubt him. But he also knew that his power would be remembered forever. God knew that he would prevail, that the Hebrews would be saved from Pharaoh, and that the result would be a people growing greatly in their faith in him.

It may seem odd that no record of this event has been found in Egyptian history. However, it's likely that all records





BIBLE BACKGROUND



were wiped from the books because it would've been an embarrassment for the world to know that mighty Egypt had been devastated by its own lowly slaves.



THE JESUS  
CONNECTION

We live in troubled times when it's easy for people to lose heart and feel hopeless and lost. But a relationship with Jesus can give us peace and joy. Jesus is our light in dark times.

When have you felt out of sorts and desperate to find some control over your situation? Perhaps the Israelites felt these things after they escaped from Egypt. Although they may not have recognized it at the time, eventually they were able to look back and see how God used that time to protect them and bring glory to himself.

What part of your life might God have his hand in now? What can you do to connect with God during times of fear and desperation? Take a few minutes to reflect on God's hand in your life.

You can write your prayer here.

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### 1 GETTING STARTED

- What did you notice about the different ways to view your scary circumstance?
- How has changing your perspective helped you face scary times before?

### 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

**Read:** Exodus 13:17–14:31

- In what ways was the Exodus a defining moment in the relationship between Israel and God?
- How did the Exodus foreshadow what Jesus does for us?
- Based on this passage, how would you explain what God can do and who God is to people who are burdened with fear, enslaved by sin, or oppressed by circumstances?

### 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

- Which response to a fear hit you most personally? Talk about that.
- How can faith in God affect how we experience fearful times?
- How does being familiar with the account of God's deliverance of the Israelites affect how you want to respond to your fears this week?
- How can the biblical truths we've discovered today help us as we face hard, desperate times and situations that paralyze us with fear?



DIGGING  
DEEPER

**Daily Challenges** ■■■■■■

Choose one or more of these Daily Challenges to do this week.

- Take time to thank God for all the ways you've seen him care for you. By remembering his faithfulness, you can face what is ahead with renewed courage.
- Fear can paralyze. Through prayer and practice, change your perspective from being hemmed in by fear to walking with boldness through confident faith in God's protection and provision. Do the thing God is calling you to do that you've been too scared to begin.
- Do you know someone plagued by fear? Pray for that person and send him or her a card of encouragement.

**Talk Topics** ■■■■■

- Think about a time you were truly scared. How did your reaction show faith—or a lack of faith?
- What does it mean when God doesn't deliver us out of a scary situation?
- Talk about a need you have these days, related to fear.
- Talk about a time when God helped you cope with—or overcome—a fear.





# Through the Week

Use the following passages and questions to explore additional biblical insights about fear and faith.

## Monday—Luke 12:22-24

- How much of a worrier are you? Explain. What's the point in worrying? How do worry and fear go hand-in-hand?

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## Tuesday—Psalm 94:16-19

- How have you seen God's love support you in your fears? How has he brought joy in the midst of your anxiety?

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## Wednesday—Psalm 27:1

- How does a nightlight help kids with fear of the dark? In what ways is that like how God helps us with our fears?

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**Thursday—Hebrews 13:5-6**

- How does God’s presence help you combat fear?

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**Friday—John 14:25-27**

- In what ways has fear robbed you of peace? How can you rely on the Holy Spirit to bring peace in the midst of fear?

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**Saturday—1 John 4:18**

- What does it mean that fear has to do with punishment? How is that true for you? How can love combat fear?

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The FaithWeaver NOW Adult Handbook weaves transformative experiences into every lesson and includes activities that make the Bible unforgettable.

*This quarter you'll explore these Bible passages:*

	BIBLE CONTENT/SCRIPTURE	KEY VERSE	BIBLE POINT
WEEK 1	The Israelites Cross the Red Sea (Exodus 13:17-14:31)	"He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me" (Psalm 23:3-4).	God helps us when we're afraid.
WEEK 2	God Sends Quail and Manna (Exodus 16:1-26)	"You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever" (Psalm 23:5-6).	God gives us what we need.
WEEK 3	God Provides Water (Exodus 17:1-7)	"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters" (Psalm 23:1-2).	God is patient with us.
WEEK 4	God Gives the Ten Commandments (Part 1) (Exodus 19:16-20:21)	"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts" (Deuteronomy 6:5-6).	Honor God by obeying him.
WEEK 5	God Gives the Ten Commandments (Part 2) (Exodus 19:16-20:21)	"Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself' " (Matthew 19:18-19).	God tells us how to respect others.
WEEK 6	The Israelites Worship a Golden Calf (Exodus 32:1-25)	"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:2-3).	Only God deserves our worship.
WEEK 7	The Israelites Build the Tabernacle (Exodus 35:4-36:38)	"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Colossians 3:17).	We all can serve God.
WEEK 8	Moses Sends Spies Into the Promised Land (Numbers 13:1-14:23)	"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58).	Be brave for God.
WEEK 9	Balaam's Donkey Talks (Numbers 22:1-38)	"Come and see what God has done, how awesome his works in man's behalf!" (Psalm 66:5).	Pay attention to God.
WEEK 10	Joshua Becomes Leader of Israel (Joshua 1:1-11)	"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).	God is with us.
WEEK 11	Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho (Joshua 2:1-24)	"And without faith it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11:6).	We can have faith that God will do big things in our lives.
WEEK 12	The Israelites Cross the Jordan River (Joshua 3:1-4:24)	"Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done" (1 Chronicles 16:8).	Remember what God has done.
WEEK 13	God Gives Victory Over Jericho (Joshua 6:1-27)	"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" (Luke 11:9).	God's power works for good.



**THIS IS A SAMPLE**  
**The number of pages is limited.**

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