

A man in a dark, patterned button-down shirt and jeans is standing and looking down at a laptop on a table. A black mug is on the table next to the laptop. The background is white, and there is a green pixelated pattern on the left side of the page.

FAITHWEAVER

Weaving faith into today's families **NOW**[®]

**SPRING
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**ADULT
HANDBOOK**

Group

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**SPRING
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**ADULT
HANDBOOK**

Group
Real. Bold. Love.

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

FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Adult Handbook, Spring

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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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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!



Jesus Teaches About Commitment

Mark 8:31-38



► **Bible Point**
Commit to follow
Jesus.

.....

Key Verse

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile" (Romans 1:16).

.....

Jesus Rebuked Peter

.....

The disciples were likely counting on a great earthly kingdom in which Jesus would lead the Jews in overthrowing the Romans and would place his disciples in important positions. Jesus' statements didn't go along with those expectations! Peter wanted Jesus to change his mind and forget all this talk about dying.

Peter's thinking was based on wrong assumptions because he saw things from a purely human point of view. Here we see a clear statement about what it means to follow Jesus. Too often we think of God as a powerful being who can help us advance our own agendas. Instead, truly following Jesus means listening to what he says, discovering his will for our lives, and then obediently following, no matter how attractive or repulsive that may seem to us at the time.

Jesus Challenged the Crowd

.....

A crowd had apparently gathered to hear Jesus, and he wanted to clarify his meaning. This is not a description of what some call "easy believism." Instead, Jesus points out how denying oneself means turning away from selfish, self-protective attitudes and seeking the true humility and faith God wants to see in us.

What does it mean to take up your cross? For Jesus' disciples to each take up his own cross didn't mean just to endure suffering. It meant to accept fully the suffering they would face because of their faith in Christ. Jesus wanted his disciples to know that their faith came with a cost.





BIBLE BACKGROUND



Stand Firm in Faith

As he spoke of what it means to follow him, Jesus knew that many in the crowd around him wouldn't be followers he would recognize as his own when he returns. Our generation is much like that of Jesus' day. People who claim to be religious—or even Christian—often shy away from bold witnessing for Jesus. It's easy to say you believe in God, but it's much more difficult to confess you're a Jesus-following Christian.



THE JESUS CONNECTION

Humans are willing to sacrifice a lot for the sake of those they love. Your relationship with Jesus *will* require sacrifice, risk, and loyal commitment—but it's all worth it!

How can you take up your cross? Try living out the “Joy” acronym: Pray about one specific way you'll put *Jesus* first (such as spending time with him first thing each day), put others second (such as washing a friend's car), and put *yourself* last (such as giving up time watching TV in order to help someone else).

You can write your prayer here.





DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 GETTING STARTED

- How did you decide whether to stick with your original number or switch?
- Why did it seem like a better choice to switch?
- Tell about a time you made a decision but then got more information and changed your mind.

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

- What are some costs to being a Christian?
- Why is it worth it to follow Jesus if it means denying ourselves, giving up the things of this world, and enduring hard times?
- Based on all Jesus said, why is it important to have a strong commitment to following him, rather than being on the fence?

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Not Ashamed

Read: Romans 1:16

- Which column seems like a stronger list? Why?
- How does someone who's ashamed of the gospel live?
- How does someone who's *not* ashamed of the gospel live?

My Priorities

- How did you decide what's most important to you? Would other people who know you well be able to guess that order from the way you live?
- In what ways can following Jesus influence the other things you wrote on your cards?
- How can we live in such a way that it's obvious we've denied ourselves and put Jesus first?



**DIGGING
DEEPER**

Daily Challenges ■■■■■■

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

- Each day, pick one card from your priority stack and consider what it means to deny yourself and follow Jesus in that area.
- Pray about any big decisions this week, and journal about them as God answers. Deny your own desires, and let God lead you.
- Give up something that distracts you from following Jesus, just for the week.

Talk Topics ■■■■■

- Why is it important to live for Jesus?
- Talk about a time you really blew it and didn't keep following Jesus as a priority.
- Discuss what you feel it means to take up your cross.
- Discuss a time you were able to follow Jesus in a difficult situation.





Through the Week

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

Monday—Psalm 111:10

- What does it mean to fear the Lord? How does following God show that you have wisdom and good understanding?

Tuesday—Ecclesiastes 11:9

- What can happen when people follow the ways of their own hearts? Why do these things ultimately disappoint?

Wednesday—John 12:26

- What's the connection between serving and following Jesus? How can you live it out this week?





Thursday—Romans 15:5

- What would be different about your life if you really had the same attitude as Jesus? What can you do to model after the way he lived?

Friday—1 Corinthians 11:1

- Could you honestly say this verse to someone? Why or why not?

Saturday—Revelation 14:13

- What's the ultimate benefit of following Jesus? Why is it worth the difficult commitment?





A Big Commitment

STATION 1

With your partner, read Mark 8:31-33. Then choose one person to sit in a chair and name bad things that can happen to Christians. The other partner will hold an index finger against the seated partner's forehead. Then the seated person will try to stand. If time allows, switch roles. Then discuss these questions:

- Which of these pressures have you personally faced as a Christian?
- What do you think of the fact that Jesus was so open to bad things happening to him?
- How might you view these pressures differently if you focused on the "concerns of God" rather than "merely human concerns"?

STATION 3

With your partner, read Mark 8:36-37. Then create scales (or use scales another group has already created) by taping the ends of a piece of string inside two paper bags. Have one partner stand with one arm extended and the string draped over this arm so the bags hang evenly. Together, brainstorm things that the world values. The other partner will write each one on a separate slip of paper and place it in one bag. Finally, place a ball in the second bag and see what happens to your scale. Then discuss these questions:

- Why do you personally value some of the things you placed in the first bag?
- Why would it seem beneficial for people to chase after those things?
- Why is our soul more valuable than anything the world values?

STATION 2

With your partner, read Mark 8:34-35. Then you'll each tape your hands together in front of your body as if you're handcuffed. You'll need to help each other with the tape, and you may wish to put it sticky-side out so it's easier to remove later on. Keep the tape handcuffs on as you visit other stations and as you discuss these questions:

- The cross was a symbol of punishment for criminals, similar to our handcuffs only much more serious. What do you make of the fact that Jesus was telling his disciples to take up something that was the result of lawbreaking?
- In what ways have you had to go against what people expected of you in order to follow Jesus?
- What risks are there to being a Christian?

STATION 4

With your partner, read Mark 8:38. Have one partner write *heaven* several times on one side of a piece of paper. Have the other partner write reasons people might be ashamed of God on the other side of the paper, making sure they line up with the word *heaven*. Then take turns cutting out the reasons to be ashamed. Take a look at both sides of the paper. Then discuss these questions:

- In what ways did all those excuses change the original message of our paper?
- Jesus' statement is pretty strong. What does it mean for your own personal faith journey?



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	Jesus Teaches About Commitment (Mark 8:31-38)	"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile" (Romans 1:16).	Commit to follow Jesus.
WEEK 2	Jesus Clears Merchants From the Temple (John 2:13-22)	"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker" (Psalm 95:6).	God wants sincere worship.
WEEK 3	Jesus Explains Why God Sent Him (John 3:12-21)	"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).	Jesus came to save us.
WEEK 4	Jesus Notices a Widow's Giving (Mark 12:41-44)	"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).	Give cheerfully to God.
WEEK 5	People Rejoice as Jesus Enters Jerusalem (Mark 11:1-11)	"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:10-11).	Jesus is our king.
WEEK 6	Jesus Is Alive! (Mark 16:1-8)	"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies' " (John 11:25).	Jesus is alive.
WEEK 7	Jesus Appears to His Disciples (John 20:19-31)	"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1).	Believe in Jesus.
WEEK 8	Paul Teaches About Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:4-27)	"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10).	God gives us gifts to serve him.
WEEK 9	Peter Tells the Sanhedrin About Jesus (Acts 4:5-14)	"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).	Trusting God makes us brave.
WEEK 10	Philip Tells the Ethiopian About Jesus (Acts 8:26-40)	"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5-6).	Follow where God leads.
WEEK 11	Peter Visits Cornelius (Acts 10:1-44)	"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).	Tell everyone about Jesus.
WEEK 12	Barnabas Encourages Christians in Antioch (Acts 11:19-26)	"But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness" (Hebrews 3:13).	Encourage each other to believe in Jesus.
WEEK 13	Jesus Sends Power From God (Acts 2:1-21)	"But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you" (John 14:26).	God gives us the Holy Spirit.



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