



# FAITHWEAVER

Weaving faith into today's families

# NOW<sup>®</sup>

**SPRING  
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**ADULT  
HANDBOOK**

**Group**

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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](http://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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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 Schultz Joani Schultz*

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 His Disciples to Pray

Matthew 6:5-13



## ► Bible Point

We pray to God.

## Key Verse

“This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one’ ” (Matthew 6:9-13).

## How Not to Pray

This passage begins with Jesus instructing his followers how *not* to pray. The religious leaders of that time were accustomed to praying loudly on the street corners so that the people would see them as holy and religious. Instead, Jesus says, prayer is to be between the individual and God—sincere communication that is a direct result of one’s relationship with God.

## Two Basic Parts

Jesus gives this prayer as a pattern or a form—an outline for prayer. One way to understand it better is to break his prayer into two basic parts: adoration and petition.

The first verse of the Lord’s Prayer expresses praise for God’s majesty and acknowledges God’s love for us. The single word we translate as “our father” is an intimate word that can be translated as “daddy” or “dearest father.” Jesus lets his followers know that they can share in his close relationship with God.

The first petition in the prayer is not related to personal needs. Rather, it addresses seeking what God wants.

After we seek God’s will, we turn to asking God to fulfill personal, daily needs for food, forgiveness, and freedom from temptation. Without God working in our lives and our world, there would be no food or forgiveness. And if Satan were not restricted from tempting us, our lives would be nearly unbearable.





BIBLE BACKGROUND



## Putting God First

Remember that Jesus insisted on putting God first. If God isn't first in our lives, as well as in our prayers, God will not be honored, no matter how eloquently we pray.



### THE JESUS CONNECTION

Jesus showed us how to pray, but more importantly, he also set the example of putting God first. Everything Jesus did was for God, so it was only natural for his prayer to be focused on praising God and seeking God's will.

Think of the last prayer you prayed. Maybe it was a quick "God, help me impress my boss" or "Lord, give me patience with my child." There's nothing wrong with quick prayers seeking God's help. But these quick prayers can reveal our real view of God. Consider the motivations behind your last prayer. Did you want to impress your boss or have patience with your child so the other person could see Jesus living in you? Stop and pray now for God to be the center of your life—and your prayers.

**You can write your prayer here.**

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## 1

GETTING  
STARTED

- If you're willing, share one of the prayer experiences you shared in your group.
- What makes prayer worthwhile?
- What do you wish was different about your own prayer life?

## 2

BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

Read: Matthew 6:5-13

- When you consider Jesus' prayer, which part is most powerful to you? Explain.
- Which section or sections of Jesus' prayer are the smallest parts of your own prayers. Why do you think that is?
- How does Jesus' prayer challenge you to grow in your own prayer life?
- What are some other things you can think of that would be *bad examples* of how to pray?
- Explain whether you think there's ever a prayer God won't hear.

## 3

WEAVING FAITH  
INTO LIFE

## Prayers Journals

- What experience do you have with writing out prayers?
- What other different ways have you used to communicate with God?
- In what ways do you think keeping a prayer journal could be useful to you?
- What do you hope to gain in your prayer life by using this journal?

## Prayers Partners

- In what ways was your discussion with your partner like or unlike the way you talk to God?
- What was it like to pray for someone else using this guide? to be prayed for?
- In what ways do you see the elements of the Lord's Prayer incorporated into typical prayer today? In what ways is today's prayer different?





## DIGGING DEEPER

### Daily Challenges ■■■■■■

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

- Use your prayer journal every day, adding to it throughout the day based on the theme of that day. Let each phrase be a guide for how you can “pray without ceasing” that day.
- Go on a “prayer walk” around your neighborhood. As you walk, pray for the people living in each dwelling. Even if you don’t know people, you can still pray for them. Often as we pray, God will prompt our hearts to pray specific things.
- Search online for other prayers in Scripture, and pray through one each day.

### Talk Topics ■■■■■■

- How would you define *prayer*?
- How has your culture or upbringing shaped your view of prayer?
- What are some things that hinder you from praying? How can you manage those obstacles?
- Find out prayer needs for your friends, family, or co-workers, and pray for them.





# Through the Week

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

## Monday—Psalm 150:1-6

- What do you do to praise God? What reminds you of his power and greatness? What songs help you praise him?

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## Tuesday—James 1:5-6

- In what areas of your life do you feel like you're lacking wisdom? What specific questions or doubts do you need God to give you wisdom for?

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## Wednesday—Psalm 86:6-7

- What trouble have you cried out to God to help you with? Be open to the variety of ways that God can help you, including reading Scripture, the counseling of trusted Christian friends, and worship.

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### Thursday—Matthew 5:44

- Who do you consider an enemy? Pray for that person, and ask God to help you extend forgiveness for any way they've hurt you.

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### Friday—2 Chronicles 7:14

- What wrong things have you not turned away from yet? Seek God's power, strength, hope, and forgiveness.

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### Saturday—Luke 18:1

- What's something you've been asking God for, but haven't yet received an answer about? What's it like for you to keep on praying without results? Why do you think that's important to do?

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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	Jesus Teaches His Disciples to Pray (Matthew 6:5-13)	"This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one!' " (Matthew 6:9-13).	We pray to God.
WEEK 2	Jesus Feeds Thousands (John 6:1-15)	"And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).	God meets our needs.
WEEK 3	Jesus Explains Eternal Life to Nicodemus (John 3:1-17)	"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 gives us eternal life.
WEEK 4	Jesus Talks With the Samaritan Woman (John 4:5-42)	"He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life" (1 John 5:12).	Jesus loves everyone.
WEEK 5	Jesus Tells About the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)	"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32).	Jesus says to love others as ourselves.
WEEK 6	Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead (John 11:1-45)	"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 gives us hope.
*WEEK 7	Crowds Welcome Jesus to Jerusalem (Psalm 118:19-29; Matthew 21:1-11)	"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" (Revelation 5:12).	We praise Jesus.
*WEEK 8	Jesus Comes Back to Life (Matthew 27:27-56; 28:1-10)	"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).	Jesus is alive.
WEEK 9	Peter Explains Belief in Jesus (1 Peter 1:3-9)	"Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope" (Romans 5:3-4).	Have faith in Jesus.
WEEK 10	Jesus Returns to Heaven (Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:1-11)	"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 others about Jesus.
WEEK 11	Christians Care for One Another (Psalm 23; Acts 2:42-47)	"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24-25).	God's family takes care of each other.
WEEK 12	Stephen Forgives His Accusers as They Stone Him (Acts 6:8-7:60)	"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15).	We stand up for Jesus.
WEEK 13	Paul Teaches in Athens (Acts 17:16-31)	"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth" (Isaiah 40:28).	God created heaven and earth.

\* Due to the way Easter falls, we recommend rearranging the lessons as needed so Lesson 7 lines up with Palm Sunday and Lesson 8 lines up with Easter.



**THIS IS A SAMPLE**

**The number of pages is limited.**

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