

A man with short brown hair, wearing a dark brown button-down shirt with intricate embroidery on the left chest and dark jeans, stands looking down at a laptop on a light-colored table. A black mug is on the table next to the laptop. The background is white, and a green pixelated pattern is on the left side of the page.

# FAITHWEAVER

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

**SUMMER  
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**ADULT  
HANDBOOK**

**Group**

# FAITHWEAVER

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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, Summer

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#### **Credits**

Contributing Authors: Tim Baker, Cindy Parolini, Gary Wilde

Editors: Erica L. Feucht, Scott Firestone IV, Jennifer Hooks, Stephanie Martin, Jessica Sausto, Ali Thompson, Christine Yount Jones

Copy Editors: Lyndsay Gerwing, Deborah Helmers, Becky Helzer, Andrea Zimmerman

Chief Creative Officer: Joani Schultz

Cover Design and Art Direction: Jeff Spencer

Interior Design Team: Jared Bigham, Jeff Brunacci, Kate Elvin, Suzi Jensen, Randy Kady, Rebecca Swain

Cover Photographer: Rodney Stewart

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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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





# God Tests Abraham

Genesis 22:1-18



## ►Bible Point

ObeY God.

.....

## Key Verse

“So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. Walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess” (Deuteronomy 5:32-33).

.....

## A Preface for Today’s Material

.....

This account may seem horrifying if one doesn’t study it carefully. It’s hard to understand how our good God could command a parent to sacrifice a child. But if we examine the text, we can take comfort in knowing that God never intended for Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. The whole event was designed to test Abraham; it was a chance for him to grow his faith and learn about God’s faithfulness.

## Abraham Obeys God’s Command to Sacrifice His Son

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Isaac was the embodiment of all of God’s promises to Abraham. However, no matter how surprised or saddened Abraham must have been, Abraham obeyed. The Bible says he set out the very next day. When Abraham knew what God wanted him to do, he set out to do it.

Abraham’s faith in God and his willingness to obey are truly amazing. Not only was he willing to sacrifice his son, but he maintained faith in God’s promise about Isaac. He said to his servants, “We will come back to you” (Genesis 22:5). Somehow Abraham was confident that in spite of this recent command, God would preserve Isaac, through whom God had promised to make Abraham’s descendants as numerous as the stars in the heavens!

## Abraham and Isaac Journey to the Place of Sacrifice

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It took Abraham and Isaac three days to travel about 50 miles over rough, mountainous terrain. During the trip, Abraham had time to think. Certainly questions flooded his mind: “What if God really does let Isaac die? What will I tell Sarah? Might this God I’m serving abandon me now





**BIBLE BACKGROUND**



after all these promises?” Abraham could easily have justified disobedience in this case—after all, this was the child God had promised to him and Sarah; maybe the voice he had heard wasn’t God’s after all. But whatever thoughts went through his mind, Abraham never swerved from his steadfast obedience.



**Isaac Also Obeyed God**

The Bible tells us nothing of Isaac’s thoughts or feelings during this trip. He must have noticed that his father was behaving strangely. But Isaac showed faith, too. He submitted to being placed on the altar in obedience to God’s command.

**THE JESUS CONNECTION**

God loves us and he loved Abraham. God’s test helped Abraham realize his own commitment to God, and the tests in our lives can help strengthen and deepen our faith, too.

How can you trust God in the middle of trials and difficulty? Invite God into your decisions and challenges and trust him to lead you no matter what the road ahead looks like.

**You can write your prayer in the space below.**

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## 1 GETTING STARTED

- What did you notice about the difference between the consequences of obedience and disobedience in your childhood versus your adult life?
- How does obedience look different now than it did when you were younger?
- What did your experiences teach you about obedience?

## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

**Read:** Genesis 22:1-18

- What's significant about God asking Abraham to sacrifice his *son*, and not something else?
- What did you notice about all the actions Abraham had to take in order to obey God?
- How many steps do you have on your list before Abraham actually picked up the knife to sacrifice his son? What can you learn from the fact that in all those steps, he never questioned God?
- What action steps do you need to take to obey God?
- Which verse do you think is the most pivotal in this passage? Why?

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

**Real-Life Obedience**

**Read:** Deuteronomy 5:32-33

- What did you discover about your own distractions from obedience?
- Are any of the things on your signs truly bad things? If not, is it really a problem that they've distracted you from your goal of obedience? Explain.
- How can we discern God's voice from others to know we're truly on the right path?



### Letters of Commitment

- Talk about the goals you made in your letter. Why did you choose them?
  - What do you think might be the challenges to following through on those goals? How can you overcome those challenges?
  - What was your final commitment in your letter?
- 



### Daily Challenges ■■■■■■

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

- Through journaling, reflect on a recent time of testing. Identify both the test and your response. Take an honest look at yourself, and ask if you responded with obedience. If not, consider why. What can you do to allow the testing to bring change in your life? Prayerfully write goals, and put them where you'll see them again in a month, or several months, so you can evaluate how you're doing.
- Each morning, read your letter of commitment, and choose one goal from your letter to focus on that day.
- Be especially mindful of God's commands throughout one full day. Ask yourself: How does God want me to drive, do my work, act toward my neighbor, handle my finances, and so forth? Say to yourself frequently, "I will choose to do what pleases God."

### Talk Topics ■■■■■■

- Why is our obedience important to God?
- Discuss a time you didn't obey God and how that impacted your relationship with God and others. Then talk about a time you obeyed God and the impact that had.
- Consider the acts of disobedience that most bother you—then take a hard look at yourself and talk about how you might disobey in those ways.





## Through the Week

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

### Monday—Exodus 23:22

- When has obedience helped you feel more like God is on your side? What other benefits are there to obedience?

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### Tuesday—Deuteronomy 4:9-10

- What do you need to do to be more careful not to forget God's commands? How can you help pass on a spirit of obedience to people you influence?

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### Wednesday—1 Samuel 12:24

- What great things has God done for you? How does that motivate you to give back in obedience?

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**Thursday—Psalm 119:33-35**

- How well does this psalm match your own attitude about seeking and obeying God’s commands? What would it take for you to delight in obedience?

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**Friday—James 1:22-25**

- How well are you living out what you read in the Bible? Why do we sometimes forget to obey what we read?

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**Saturday—Matthew 6:24**

- What other masters might be competing for obedience in your life? How has that caused you to disobey God?

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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	God Tests Abraham (Genesis 22:1-18)	"So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. Walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess" (Deuteronomy 5:32-33).	ObeY God.
WEEK 2	Isaac Marries Rebekah (Genesis 24)	"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5).	Pray for God's direction.
WEEK 3	Jacob Deceives Esau and Isaac (Genesis 25:27-34; 27:1-40)	"The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful" (Proverbs 12:22).	Honesty is important to God.
WEEK 4	Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel (Genesis 29:15-30)	"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).	God uses hard times to help us grow.
WEEK 5	Joseph Dreams Disturbing Dreams (Genesis 37:1-11)	"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34).	Show Jesus' love in our families.
WEEK 6	Joseph's Brothers Sell Him Into Slavery (Genesis 37:12-36)	"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth" (1 John 3:18).	God wants us to do what's right.
WEEK 7	Pharaoh Puts Joseph in Charge (Genesis 39:20-41:49)	"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23).	We can serve God anywhere.
WEEK 8	Joseph Forgives His Brothers (Genesis 42-45)	"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13).	God wants us to forgive.
WEEK 9	God Protects Moses (Exodus 1:1-2:10)	"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).	God protects us.
WEEK 10	Moses Meets God at the Burning Bush (Exodus 2:11-3:20)	"I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13).	God can use us.
WEEK 11	The Israelites Receive Cruel Treatment (Exodus 5:1-6:1)	"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:31).	God wants us to hope in him.
WEEK 12	God Sends Plagues on Egypt (Exodus 7:8-10:29)	"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).	God uses his power to help us.
WEEK 13	The Israelites Escape From Egypt (Exodus 11:1-12:36)	"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36).	Jesus sets us free.



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

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