



# FAITHWEAVER

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



**SUMMER  
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, Summer**

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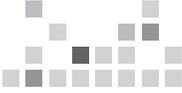
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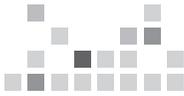
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## The future of Sunday school + family ministry is NOW.

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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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

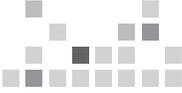
## ■ ■ THE JESUS CONNECTION

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!



# Elisha Helps a Widow and Her Sons

2 Kings 4:1-7



## ► Bible Point

God cares for needy people.

.....

## Key Verse

“He [God] defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing” (Deuteronomy 10:18).

.....

## Elisha the Prophet

.....

Elisha was a prophet who ministered in Israel during the time of the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah. Elisha's ministry spanned the reigns of four kings: Joram, Jehu, Jehoahaz, and Jehoash. And he was even consulted by Jehoshaphat, a king of Judah.

In 2 Kings 4:1-7, it is interesting to note that the husband who died had been from “the company of the prophets.” During this time in Israel in which few people followed God, groups of people gathered to promote the worship of God, with older prophets acting as spiritual mentors to younger ones. Thus it is quite possible that Elisha was familiar with the widow and her sons.

## It Seems Cruel, But...

.....

Apparently the man who died had left significant debt. Though it seems cruel, Mosaic law provided that a creditor could force debtors or the children of debtors into slavery in exchange for unpaid debt. And even though the widow had just lost her husband, a creditor was apparently threatening to take her two sons.

The oil the woman possessed wasn't even enough to cook with. The Hebrew word for *oil* used here indicates that she had only a small flask of oil that was used for anointing, not cooking.

## God's Creative Plan

.....

God didn't respond to the widow's need by having Elisha produce a bag of gold coins that would enable her to pay her debt. Instead, knowing that they had only a tiny bit of oil, Elisha asked her and her sons to gather jars from their







## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### 1

#### GETTING STARTED

- What were some of the highlights of your group discussion?
- What's it like when we have great needs that aren't being met?
- If God cares for needy people, why are there people in need at all?

### 2

#### BIBLE EXPLORATION

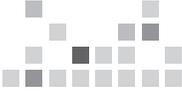
**Read:** 2 Kings 4:1-2

- How would you describe the woman's life at this point?
- What do you notice about Elisha's interactions with the woman so far?

**Read:** 2 Kings 4:3-7

- Consider the way you usually act and think when you are in need. How are you like or unlike the widow?
- What can you tell about God from the way he met the widow's needs?
- What discoveries did you make as you read and discussed this passage?
- If God can make oil multiply, why do people go hungry today?
- How would you describe the widow's attitude toward the way God chose to meet her needs?
- Consider the areas you feel the most need in right now. What is the "oil" you want God to multiply in your life?





### 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

#### God Cares

**Read:** Deuteronomy 10:18

- Which needs stand out to you as the biggest needs in our community?
- Tell about some of the ideas you had or read on the index cards. Which ideas seem like something you could do?
- Think about your prayer and the way God has already met the needs in your life. How does that motivate you to help others who are experiencing needs?
- How can you trust God to meet your own needs this week?



#### Daily Challenges ■■■■■■

Choose one or more of the ideas from the “God Cares” activity to do this week.

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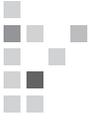


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#### Talk Topics ■■■■■■

- Discuss why many people today talk as if things are hopeless, as if God doesn’t care about their needs.
- Think about two people who have the same needs; one person is a Christian, the other isn’t. How might each one view the topic of God’s care and the hope it provides?
- What are some things that make it hard for you to believe God really cares for the needy? What things make it obvious that he does?
- Talk about ways God meets people’s needs. What’s the balance between what we do for people and what God does for them?





## Through the Week

Use the following passages and questions to explore additional biblical insights about God's care for the needy.

### Monday—Jeremiah 49:11

- How does this passage help you think about people in need who no one seems to care about? Is God really telling us to step back and just let him do all the work? Explain.

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### Tuesday—James 1:27

- Why would these things be the keys to “pure and faultless” religion? Based on this evaluation, how well is your faith showing?

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### Wednesday—Exodus 22:25-26

- What kind of special treatment do people in need get today? Explain whether you agree or disagree with that kind of special treatment.

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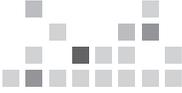


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**Thursday—1 Timothy 6:17-19**

- Based on this passage, what is your responsibility to help meet the needs of others? Even if you're not rich financially, what are some areas where you feel rich? What are the benefits of helping people in need?

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**Friday—1 Samuel 2:8**

- What does this verse mean to you? Why would the poor be given honor? Do you think it's talking about honor here on earth, or in the future? Explain.

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**Saturday—Psalm 40:17**

- What are the things in your life that make you feel "poor and needy"? How can you rely on God to help you with those things?

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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	Elisha Helps a Widow and Her Sons (2 Kings 4:1-7)	"He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing" (Deuteronomy 10:18).	God cares for needy people.
WEEK 2	God Heals Naaman's Leprosy (2 Kings 5:1-16)	"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time" (1 Peter 5:6).	God wants us to be humble.
WEEK 3	Jonah Learns a Lesson (Jonah 1-3)	"The ways of the Lord are right; the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them" (Hosea 14:9).	Following God is always the right choice.
WEEK 4	Jonah Complains About God's Compassion (Jonah 3:10-4:11)	"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).	God wants us to love everyone.
WEEK 5	God Calls Isaiah (Isaiah 6:1-8)	"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker" (Psalm 95:6).	God is holy.
WEEK 6	Josiah Promises to Follow the Lord (2 Chronicles 34)	"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).	God's Word changes our lives.
WEEK 7	Daniel's Friends Are Safe in the Fiery Furnace (Daniel 3)	"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong" (1 Corinthians 16:13).	Stand strong for God.
WEEK 8	God Protects Daniel in the Lions' Den (Daniel 6:1-23)	"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).	God protects us.
WEEK 9	God Promises to Restore Israel After the Exile (Jeremiah 29:4-14)	"'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'" (Jeremiah 29:11).	We seek God no matter what happens.
WEEK 10	Nehemiah Seeks God's Forgiveness for Israel (Nehemiah 1:1-2:9)	"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).	We seek God's forgiveness.
WEEK 11	Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall (Nehemiah 2:11-6:19)	"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23).	God helps us face challenges.
WEEK 12	Esther Saves Her People (Esther 2-9)	"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).	Everyone can serve God.
WEEK 13	Job Remains Faithful in Suffering (Job 1:1-2:10; 42:1-6, 10-17)	"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 brings us hope when we're hurting.



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

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