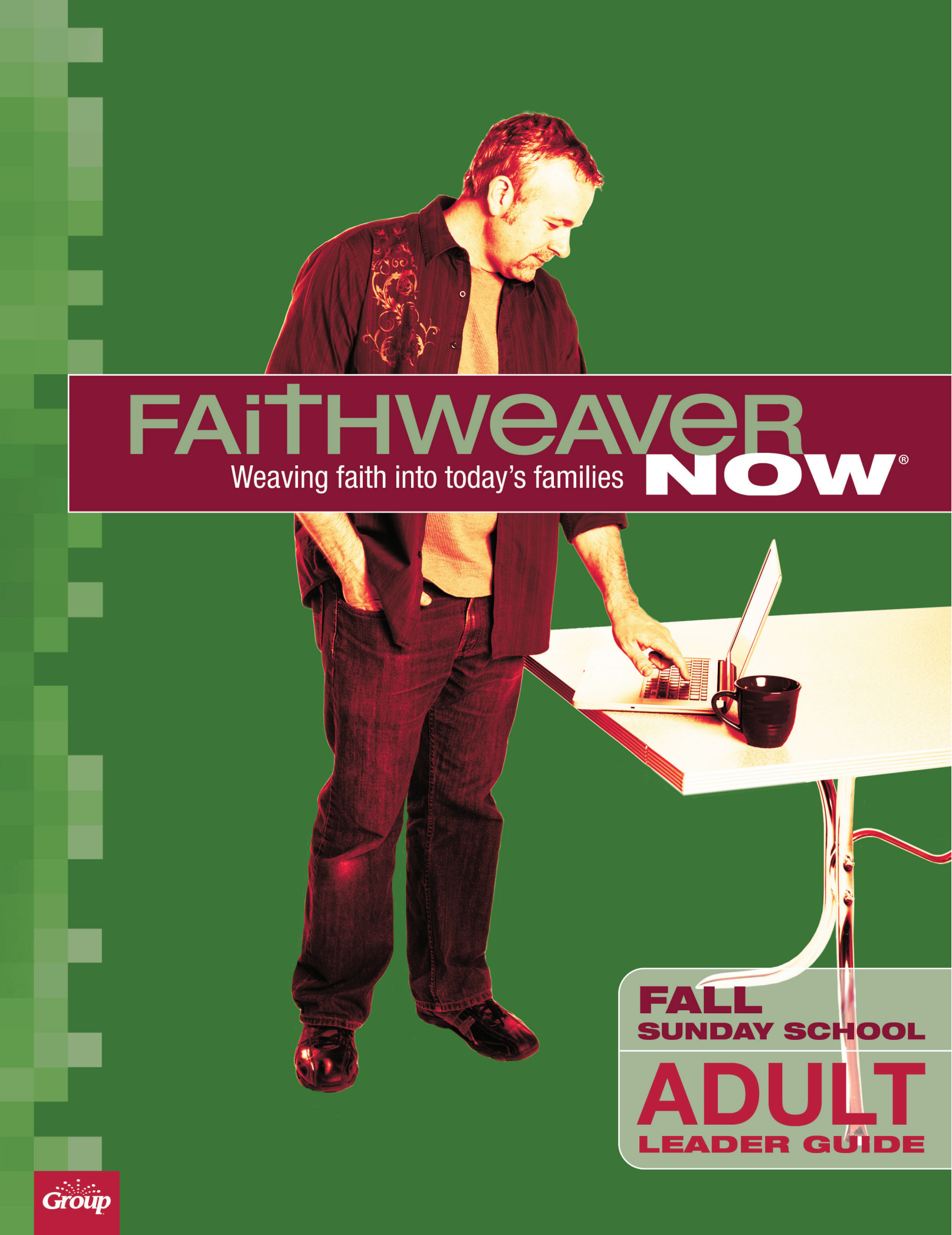

FAITHWEAVER NOW®

Weaving faith into today's families

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL

ADULT LEADER GUIDE

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FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL ADULT LEADER GUIDE

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ISBN 978-1-4707-6803-4

Printed in the United States of America.

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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?

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- You can customize it however you like, with both print and digital versions.

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

David Becomes King

2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37

Most adults today face stressful difficulties—financial uncertainties, family challenges, issues with children, job changes, strained relationships, and so on. And they must make a key choice: Will they attempt to face their difficulties on their own, or will they turn to God and rest in God's promises? In our culture, there is great emphasis on individualism—solving problems ourselves, rising to the challenge. But God wants us to rely on him. God's character doesn't change. God's promises hold true always. As adults learn that ▶ **WE CAN RELY ON GOD**, they'll be better equipped to handle life's stresses and will grow in their faith.

LESSON	WHAT ADULTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**A Look at Life's Pressures** *(about 10 min.)* Discuss the difficulties that people often face.	"Life's Pressures" handout (at the end of this lesson), scissors	Copy the "Life's Pressures" handout, and cut apart the cards. You'll need 1 card per 3 people.
2 Bible Exploration	**What Does Relying on God Look Like?** *(about 15 min.)* Read and discuss 2 Samuel 5:1-5 and Psalm 37.	Bibles, paper, pens or pencils	

Bold text *within the lesson is spoken text.*

▶Bible Point

We can rely on God.

Key Verse

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Adults will rely on God every day.

Every activity incorporates the FaithWeaver NOW Adult Handbook—make sure each participant has one!

LESSON	WHAT ADULTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Relying on God** *(about 10 min.)* Reflect on their concepts of God and what it means to rely on him.	Bibles, paper, pens or pencils, index cards, small box	
4 Lasting Impressions	**Daily Challenges** *(about 5 min.)* Discuss how to apply God's Word.	Adult Handbooks or 1 copy per person of the "Digging Deeper" handout (at the end of this lesson)	
	Weaving Faith at Home *(about 2 min.)* Talk about how to dig deeper into the lesson all week long.		

Bold text *within the lesson is spoken text.*

David Becomes King

2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37

BIBLE BACKGROUND FOR LEADERS

David Mourns King Saul

We begin this quarter of Old Testament studies with the anointing of David as king of Israel. Many years earlier, Israel's first king, Saul, had turned from the Lord, and God had selected David to succeed Saul. For years after that, Saul sought to have David killed. However, David had refused to act against Saul or to become king until he was certain of God's timing. He had lived a difficult life, almost as an outlaw. Now Saul was dead; after being wounded in battle, he had taken his own life. In fact, Saul and three of his sons, including David's friend Jonathan, had died in the same battle (1 Samuel 31:1-6). So the door was wide open for David to become king of Israel.

David didn't rejoice when he learned of the deaths. Instead he and all his men mourned and wept the entire day (2 Samuel 1:1-12). David even wrote a song in honor of Saul and Jonathan, which can be found in 2 Samuel 1:19-27. He was truly saddened that their lives had ended as they did.

Uniting the Kingdom

David was made king of Judah. Israel followed Abner, the commander of Saul's army, who made Ish-Bosheth, a son of Saul, king over Israel (2 Samuel 2:1-9). After years of much fighting, intrigue, and bloodshed, Ish-Bosheth was murdered, and the leaders of Israel came to David to make him king over them.

David Leads Israel

David was 37 when he became king over all Israel. He had first been anointed to succeed Saul many years earlier, while still in his teens. After his long, patient wait, David was able to lead Israel to great prosperity, fend off the Philistines, and expand the boundaries of Israel during his reign. David wasn't perfect, but as he relied on God, God rewarded him and Israel with prosperity.

David wrote Psalm 37, which describes his trust in God even when he was surrounded by enemies. In this psalm, David says to "delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart" (Psalm 37:4). This could have been the theme of David's life.

The Jesus Connection

Through Jesus, God showed us how to take every step of life relying on him. Because of Jesus' courage, we can believe that trusting God will always be worth it!

What past experience has God used to teach you how to rely on him?

God has a wonderful way of not letting teachable moments in our lives go to waste. What is God using to teach you right now?

Ask God for wisdom to see and strength to move forward with faith, knowing that he'll always have everything you need. You can write your prayer here.

A Look at Life's Pressures
Supplies

"Life's Pressures" handout (at the end of this lesson)
scissors

A Look at Life's Pressures
Easy Prep

Copy the "Life's Pressures" handout, and cut apart the cards. You'll need 1 card per 3 people.

1 GETTING STARTED

A Look at Life's Pressures

What You'll Do

Form groups of three. Hand one of the "Life's Pressures" cards to each group. Have each group discuss its question for two minutes. Then regain the entire group's attention. Ask a few willing adults to share highlights of their discussions with the whole group.

Say: **It's hard to imagine exactly how our lives will go, but today we'll look at some important keys in making sure they're headed in the right direction.**

Talk With Adults

Lead everyone in this discussion. Participants can find these questions in their Adult Handbooks.

Ask:

- **What did you discover about difficulties other people face—and how they handle them?**
- **When pressures arise in your own life, how do you rely on other people?**

Say: **All of us face challenging difficulties, and our culture emphasizes that we should be strong and face them head-on. Yet we often feel that our difficulties seem to be more than we can bear. Our session today will help us recognize how ▶ WE CAN RELY ON GOD. God alone can meet our greatest needs and calm our deepest fears.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

What Does Relying on God Look Like?
Supplies

Bibles
paper
pens or pencils

What Does Relying on God Look Like?

What You'll Do

Form three groups. Assign each group the number 1, 2, or 3. Provide Bibles for those who need them. Distribute paper and a pen or pencil to each group. Have one person in each group read aloud 2 Samuel 5:1-5, and then have each group discuss the following questions.

Talk With Adults

Lead everyone in this discussion. Participants can find these questions in their Adult Handbooks.

Ask:

- **What do these verses reveal about David's relationship with God?**
- **What do the verses reveal about David's responsibilities to God?**
- **David was cast into a big role. Tell about a role you have that seems too big to handle on your own.**

Following the small-group discussions, have each group turn to Psalm 37, a psalm attributed to David. Ask people in Group 1 to read Psalm 37:1-13; Group 2, to read Psalm 37:14-26; and Group 3, to read Psalm 37:27-40. After reading the verses, have each group list ways that David expressed his reliance on God based on the verses they read. Have one person in each group record his or her group's ideas on paper.

Give the groups time to read, discuss the verses, and record their ideas; then invite the group to come back together.

Ask:

- **What specific things did David say about God in your verses?**
- **Based on these verses, how well do you think David handled the difficulties he faced?**
- **As you read these verses, which particular ones stood out to you?**
- **What verse best relates to your life right now?**

Say: **These ancient verses from Psalm 37 aren't just for David and the people of his time. They're timeless reminders of God's promise to be with us in times of trouble and discouragement. Let's look at practical ways that ▶ WE CAN RELY ON GOD.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Relying on God

What You'll Do

Be sure everyone has a Bible.

Say: **In the New Testament, Paul wrote about God's strength and protection. Let me read a few verses he wrote.**

Read aloud Philippians 4:13; 1 Timothy 1:12; and Ephesians 3:14-19.

Lead everyone in this discussion. Participants can find these questions in their Adult Handbooks.

Ask:

- **What do these verses reveal about God's reliability in your life?**
- **What roles do faith and trust in God play in times when God doesn't provide what we pray for?**

Relying on God
Supplies

Bibles
paper
pens or pencils
index cards
small box

Read aloud Psalm 46:1, and then discuss the following questions.

Ask:

- **Why is it sometimes hard for us to rely on God as our refuge and strength?**
- **How does our concept of who God is influence our ability to rely on God?**

Say: **Let's work on truly understanding that God is completely reliable.** Hand out paper and pens or pencils. Have each person draw a picture or write words that represent God as completely reliable; for example, perhaps someone will draw a picture of a sturdy bridge over a deep canyon. Then have each person draw a picture or write words that represent what he or she needs to do to rely on God; for example, perhaps the person who drew the bridge will draw a picture of a person walking across the bridge.

Give the group a couple of minutes to draw or write. Then have people find partners, share what they drew or wrote, and talk about what they need to do to rely on God. Give the pairs about a minute to share.

Say: **Now let's talk about relying on God in the circumstances we're facing in our lives right now or in the circumstances those around us are facing.**

Give each person an index card, and place a small box or basket on a table or chair.

Say: **Move away from one another, and then think about a time you struggled to rely on God. Be sure to choose a situation that you don't mind sharing with the group. Write down the situation on the index card, but don't add your name or reveal how the situation was resolved. When you're done writing, place the card in this box.**

When group members have finished, ask them to get into groups of four. Have one person from each group take four index cards from the box.

Say: **Look at one card at a time. As you brainstorm about how you'd respond to the situation, discuss specific examples of how ▶ WE CAN RELY ON GOD.** Allow time for discussion.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

Daily Challenges
Supplies

Adult Handbooks or 1 copy per person of the "Digging Deeper" handout (at the end of this lesson)

What You'll Do

Say: **In this session, we've looked at how ▶ WE CAN RELY ON GOD. Let's look at how we can apply that truth in our daily lives.**

Have participants turn to the Daily Challenges section of their Adult Handbooks, or distribute the "Digging Deeper" handouts. Have everyone read the Daily Challenges and choose at least one to do this week. Have participants each turn to a partner and say what challenge they'll do this coming week and the specific way they plan to follow through with it.

Weaving Faith at Home

Say: **If you have kids in Sunday school, they should have a take-home paper from this week's lesson to show you. It has their Daily Challenges for this week and ideas for weaving faith at home as a family. Please help your kids follow through with their Daily Challenges. If you don't have kids in Sunday school, you can still use your handbook or your Digging Deeper page to further reflect on relying on God this week.**

Close in prayer, asking God to help each of you follow through on your commitments and weave faith into your day-to-day life.

Life's Pressures

What is your hardest challenge right now? Why?

Which difficulty do you think most people face?

What have you learned from difficulties you've faced?

How do you respond when you face great stress? Why?

What's the greatest difficulty you've faced so far?

Why does God allow us to face difficulties?

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David Becomes King—2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37
▶**Bible Point**—We can rely on God.
Key Verse—"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

DIGGING DEEPER

Daily Challenges

Choose one or more of these activities to do this week.

- **Look up other Scripture passages that highlight God's ability and willingness to provide protection, strength, and hope. Think about how you can apply these passages in your daily life.**
- **Think of ways you can invite God further into your everyday life—your work, your home, your relationships. Then start making it happen.**
- **Share with a friend or family member how relying upon God has changed your life. Let God help you with what to say, then trust God with whatever happens.**

Through the Week

Use the following passages to explore additional biblical perspectives on relying on God.

Monday: Psalm 37:5-6

- **How can you "commit your way to the Lord"?**

Tuesday: Psalm 37:18

- **According to this verse, why should you rely on God?**

Wednesday: Psalm 37:23-24

- **What is an example of one way the Lord holds you up when life gets difficult?**

Thursday: Psalm 37:30-31

- **How can you be this kind of person this week?**

Friday: Psalm 37:39

- **How has the Lord been a stronghold in your life?**

Saturday: Psalm 37:4

- **How has God helped you recently?**

Talk Topics

- Tell about a time you learned a lesson about relying on God.
- Talk about why it's important for us to rely on God and not just on ourselves or our friends.
- Discuss the kinds of difficulties in which God can provide help.
- Talk about how you can trust God more when difficulties arise.

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FAITHWEAVER NOW®
Weaving faith into today's families

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL ADULT LEADER GUIDE

FaithWeaver NOW is for today's Sunday school teachers. It's developed by real Sunday school teachers, examined by real ministry leaders, and tested and approved by thousands of churches so you get great lessons that work with today's families.

This quarter you'll explore these Bible passages:

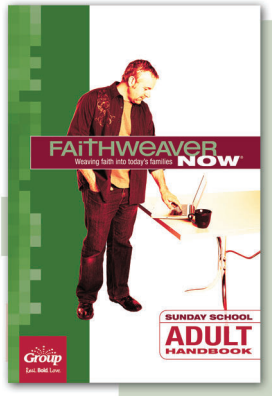
	BIBLE CONTENT/SCRIPTURE	KEY VERSE	BIBLE POINT
WEEK 1	David Becomes King (2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37)	"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).	We can rely on God.
WEEK 2	David Is Merciful to Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9)	"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves" (Romans 12:10).	Being kind honors God and others.
WEEK 3	God Forgives David (2 Samuel 11:1–12:10; Psalm 51:1-12)	"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).	God wants us to repent when we sin.
WEEK 4	Absalom Rebels and Is Defeated (2 Samuel 15:1-12; 17:1-12; 18:1-18)	"He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).	A self-centered attitude hurts God and others.
WEEK 5	Solomon Asks for Wisdom (1 Kings 2:1-4; 3:3-28)	"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).	God gives us wisdom.
WEEK 6	Solomon Writes Many Proverbs (1 Kings 4:29-34; Proverbs 1:1-7)	"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding" (Proverbs 9:10).	We become wise by following God's Word.
WEEK 7	Solomon Turns Away From God (1 Kings 11:1-13)	"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).	Be devoted to God.
WEEK 8	The Kingdom Divides (1 Kings 11:28–12:24)	"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).	Choose to follow God.
WEEK 9	Elijah Helps a Widow (1 Kings 17:7-24)	"So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all those things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:31-33).	Trust God completely.
WEEK 10	Elijah Challenges the Prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:16-40)	"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).	Choose to serve God.
WEEK 11	God Speaks to Elijah in a Whisper (1 Kings 19:9-18)	"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).	When we feel alone, God is with us.
WEEK 12	God Takes Elijah to Heaven (2 Kings 2:1-15)	"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).	God wants us to be faithful.
WEEK 13	Jehoshaphat Trusts God for Victory (2 Chronicles 20:1-30)	"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).	God helps us with our problems.

PLUS...

Access all these FREE FaithWeaver NOW digital resources at group.com/digital:

- **FREE digital copies of Leader Guides** in PDF format so you can easily download any lesson for your ministry. Sharing lessons with busy volunteers couldn't be easier! *See inside for activation code.*
- **A FREE downloadable Director Manual** to help you structure your program for maximum effectiveness.
- **FREE weekly FamilyConnect pages** you can print out or email to parents to help families grow together in faith throughout the week.

Don't forget...



Adult Handbook*

This handbook gives participants a guide to the "Adult Talk Topics" used during class. It also provides a list of Scripture readings for daily devotions and a space for journaling throughout the week.

Optional—get one for each participant.

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