



FAITHweaver

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

**SPRING
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**ADULT
LEADER GUIDE**

Group

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Group resources really work!

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

FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Adult, Spring

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* Due to the way Easter falls, we recommend rearranging lessons as needed to make Lesson 7 line up with Palm Sunday and lesson 8 with Easter.



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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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





Jesus Teaches His Disciples to Pray

Matthew 6:5-13

Some adults may feel uncomfortable admitting they struggle with prayer or have a very limited prayer life. To make this topic less threatening, be willing to share your own struggles with prayer. All Christians have struggled with prayer at one time or another—including Jesus’ adult disciples. Also encourage discussion about prayer in terms of what participants could do, rather than what they have done.

LESSON	WHAT ADULTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Remember When I Said Amen (about 15 min.) Discuss their past experiences with prayer.		
2 Bible Exploration	Lord, Teach Us to Pray (about 20 min.) Read and experience key prayer principles from the text.	Bibles, index cards, pens, streamers, washable markers, bowl, coins, paper, spray bottle of water, balloons, permanent markers	



► 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).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Adults will grow more comfortable talking to God.



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	Prayer Journals <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Create prayer journals to help them remember the Lord's Prayer this week.	paper, staplers, pens, markers	
	Prayer Partners <i>(about 15 min.)</i> In pairs, pray for each other's needs.		
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> 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 <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to dig deeper into the lesson all week long.		



Jesus Teaches His Disciples to Pray

Matthew 6:5-13

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

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.

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.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.



1 GETTING STARTED

Remember When I Said Amen

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Greet everyone warmly as they gather.

Say: **Today we're going to talk about prayer. Prayer can be tough. Sometimes it doesn't come easily. Sometimes we say something embarrassing. Sometimes we pray and pray but nothing seems to happen.** Share your own prayer experience that fits one of those categories.

Form groups of four. Say: **Now it's your turn. I'm going to ask you to think about your own prayer life. Share as much as you're willing to with your group. Remember that this is a safe space, so keep whatever you hear confidential.** Ask the following questions, allowing several minutes for discussion after each one.

Ask:

- Tell a funny or embarrassing story about something you've prayed.
- Tell about a time you just didn't know what to pray.
- Tell about a time you felt frustrated with prayer.
- Tell about some things that make it hard for you to pray.
- Tell about a time you saw an answer to prayer.

Talk With Adults ■■■■

Gather everyone back together, and lead them in this discussion. Participants can find these questions in their Adult Handbooks.

Ask:

- 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?

Say: **Almost everyone in this room has been affected or knows of someone who has been touched by other people's prayers. There is definitely power in prayer! But we may also have had some not-so-great experiences with prayer. Or there may be questions we have about what prayer really is. As an adult, it can be embarrassing to admit that you haven't figured out prayer. But you're not alone! Jesus' disciples—grown men—needed help with their prayer lives, too. Let's dig into our Scripture, called the Lord's Prayer, and see what they learned about how**
► **WE PRAY TO GOD.**



2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Lord, Teach Us to Pray

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give everyone a Bible, a pen, and a few index cards. Say: **In one version of the Lord's Prayer, found in Luke 11, Jesus' disciples came to him and asked how to pray. Think about some questions you have about prayer. Write each question on an index card, and then hand it in to me. We'll read the questions aloud, but no one will know who wrote which question.** Allow time. Once you've collected questions, read a few aloud and open it up for discussion if people have possible answers to the questions.

Say: **The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' example of how to pray. He didn't say it so we'd know the exact words to use. Rather, his prayer shows us the kinds of elements we can include in our prayer. So let's use his example!**

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name." Jesus started his prayer with praise. Let's have a praise party to celebrate Jesus. Pass out the streamers, and have each adult take a small piece. Also pass around the markers. Have adults write a word of praise to God on their streamers. Then on the count of three, have everyone throw their streamers in the air and shout out what they wrote.

"Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." A lot of us might keep checklists of the things we want to do each day or week. Let's use that as a model to think about praying for God's will in our lives. Make a "honey do" list from God to you. Pass out additional index cards if necessary, and allow time. Then have willing adults share some of the things they wrote. They can hold on to their checklists as prayer reminders this week.

"Give us today our daily bread." This prayer is for a basic need. Gather adults around the bowl, and give each person a coin. If you don't have enough coins, some people can take them out of the bowl after others have had turns. Each person will drop their coin in the bowl as they pray for a need in their lives. People can pray aloud or silently.

"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." Forgiveness is a beautiful thing to pray about—and to offer. Hand out paper and washable markers. Use several different colors to write something you need to forgive or be forgiven for. Talk to God silently about it. When you're ready, come to this spray bottle and spray your paper to make a beautiful color palette. Allow time. You may want to put extra paper under the place where adults spray to catch any marker drips.



Lord, Teach Us to Pray Supplies

Bibles
index cards
pens
streamers
washable markers
bowl
coins
paper
spray bottle of water
balloons
permanent markers



“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” We all face temptation. But prayer can help us fight it. Give adults each an uninflated balloon, and have them write a temptation on it with permanent marker. Say: **Blow up your balloon as you silently talk to God about things that make your temptation grow. Then use a pen or your foot to pop the balloon as you ask God to deliver you from your temptation.** Allow time.

Read some of the index cards with prayer questions and ask adults to share answers based on Jesus’ prayer.

Talk With Adults

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

Ask:

- 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?

Say: **Jesus also gave some instructions on how *not* to pray.** Read Matthew 6:5-6.

Ask:

- 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.

Say: **God doesn’t expect perfectly rehearsed prayers. In fact, Jesus spoke against prayers that are all about showing off. God wants to hear from our hearts. When ► WE PRAY TO GOD, we can use Jesus’ example to think of things to pray about, and then simply pray from our hearts. Let’s look at how we can do that this week.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Prayer Journals

What You’ll Do

Say: **One way to help focus prayers is by keeping a prayer journal. We’re going to make prayer journals to use this week, based on the Lord’s Prayer.**

Give people each four sheets of paper, and have them fold them in half and staple along the crease to make an 8-page booklet. Allow time for adults to decorate the cover. Then have each person write the sections of the Lord’s Prayer across the top of each page.

Prayer Journals Supplies

paper
staplers
pens
markers

You may want to recommend this breakdown.

Monday: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."

Tuesday: "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Wednesday: "Give us today our daily bread."

Thursday: "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

Friday: "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

Saturday: Weekend Review

Say: **Each day of this week, focus on one section of the Lord's Prayer to guide your prayer. On that page, write your own personal prayers that go along with that section. For example, you might write different expressions of praise on Monday, and for guidance about God's will on Tuesday. When you get to Saturday, revisit your other days. See what God has shown you, and reiterate the prayers you wrote on those days. You can also use the Scripture passages on your Digging Deeper page as a guide.**

Talk With Adults

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

Ask:

- 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?

Say: **There are a lot of ways to talk to God. We can sit quietly and listen to him, pray with others, use the Bible as a prayer guide, keep a journal like this one, paint a picture as a prayer, or any other ways you can think of. The important thing is that when ► WE PRAY TO GOD, our hearts are in the right place.**

Prayer Partners

What You'll Do

Have adults form pairs. Say: **We've looked at what Jesus' prayer means for our own prayer life. Now let's put it into practice with a partner. Spend the next five minutes taking turns talking about what's going on in your life right now. What things are you praising God for? In what areas do you need God's guidance? Talk about anything you think is relevant to prayer. I'll let you know when five minutes is up, and then we'll have a prayer time.**

Allow five minutes for partners to share. Then allow a few more minutes for partners to take turns praying for each other based on the Lord's Prayer. Encourage participants to include praise, requests for guidance, requests for needs, and something about forgiveness and temptation.





Daily Challenges Supplies

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

Talk With Adults

Gather everyone back together, and lead them in this discussion. Participants can find these questions in their Adult Handbooks.

Ask:

- 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?

Say: Remember, Jesus wasn’t giving us specific words to pray. He gave us a guide so we’d know what kinds of things to pray about. And just as your conversation with your partner involved speaking and listening, so does prayer. When ► **WE PRAY TO GOD**, we need to remember to listen to him and praise him—not just give him our wish list. That will help make our relationship with him more vibrant.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do

Say: In this session, we’ve looked at how ► **WE PRAY TO GOD**. Let’s look at how that can shape our prayer lives this week.

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 share the specifics of how they plan to do 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 own Digging Deeper page to continue to explore prayer this week.

Close the group in prayer, leading everyone in saying the Lord’s Prayer together. (You may want to allow time for adults to turn to the passage first so they can read it.)



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).

Daily Challenges

Choose one or more of these activities 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.**

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?**

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?**

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.**

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.**

Friday—2 Chronicles 7:14

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

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?**

DIGGING DEEPER

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.**

**OK
TO COPY**

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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	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.

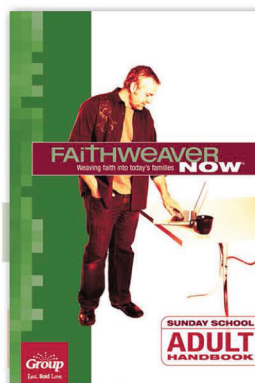
* Due to the way Easter falls, we recommend rearranging the lessons as needed so Lesson 7 lines up with Palm Sunday and Lesson 8 lines up with Easter.

PLUS...

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

- **FREE digital copies of Leader Guides** in Word and PDF format so you can easily customize any lesson to 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.**



THIS IS A SAMPLE
The number of pages is limited.

Purchase the item for the complete version.

