



FAITHweaver

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

**WINTER
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**ADULT
LEADER GUIDE**

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**WINTER
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**ADULT
LEADER GUIDE**

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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

Person-to-person interaction enhances spiritual growth and builds Christian friendships.

Experiential

What we experience through action and discussion sticks with us up to 9 times longer than what we simply hear or read.

Applicable

The aim of ministry is to equip people to be both hearers and doers of God's Word.

Lifelong

Experiences transform the heart, moving faith beyond the walls of church and into everyday life for years to come.

Group

FaithWeaver NOW™ Bible Curriculum, Adult, Spring

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ISBN 978-1-4707-6860-7

Printed in the United States of America.

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* Due to the way Christmas falls, we recommend rearranging lessons as needed so Lesson 3 lines up with Christmas.

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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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



Solomon Tells of Jesus' Coming

Psalms 72:1-19

God used many inspired writers of Scripture to prophetically reveal details of Jesus' coming and his future rule over all people. The Scripture for this lesson, Psalm 72, is one of these passages. But why is it so important for us to read what Solomon foretold about Jesus' coming? One reason is that passages such as this bring us hope in this less-than-perfect world. Adults need assurance that **► JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS**. Jesus brings genuine justice. He will right all wrongs. He will cause righteous people to flourish. He rescues the needy and the weak. He came to earth to take our sins upon himself on the cross, and he will come again to bless all people who have put their trust in him.

LESSON	WHAT ADULTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	What Do We Wait For? (about 15 min.) Answer three questions about what they hope for in the waiting for Jesus.	Adult Handbooks or 1 copy per person of the "Waiting for Christmas" handout (at the end of this lesson), pens	
2 Bible Exploration	Prophecies Fulfilled (about 20 min.) Explore the prophecies about Jesus and compare them with the New Testament account of Jesus.	Bibles, paper, pens	
	The Great Mediator (about 10 minutes) Look at the meaning of the Key Verse.		



► Bible Point

Jesus does great things.

Key Verse


"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Adults will celebrate the great things that Jesus has done in their own lives daily.



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	Great Things <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Reflect on and record specific great things Jesus has done in their lives.	pens, sticky notes	
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.		



Solomon Tells of Jesus' Coming

Psalm 72:1-19

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Writing Psalm 72

Some believe that Psalm 72 was written about Solomon and not by him. It is true that some elements of the psalm could well describe Solomon, but many elements describe a king whose actions go far beyond Solomon's capabilities. The early church believed that this psalm was written as a prayer for a king to come in the line of David and Solomon: the Messiah, Jesus. That's the approach taken in today's lesson.

The Psalmist Points Beyond Himself

Some elements of the psalm could indeed describe Solomon. He judged righteously and with great wisdom, as illustrated in the story of the two women who each claimed to be the mother of the same infant (1 Kings 3:16-28). He reigned over a prosperous kingdom, the wealthiest in Israel's history. He expanded the boundaries of the kingdom to encompass more territory than ever before. And he was sought by the queen of Sheba, who came to him bearing gifts.

However, much of this psalm points directly to the Messiah. Only Jesus' kingdom will truly extend to the ends of the earth (Psalm 72:8), and only to Jesus will all rulers eventually bow down (Psalm 72:11). There isn't a lot of biblical evidence that Solomon cared for the needy and afflicted (Psalm 72:12-14), but Jesus' life and ministry were characterized by such caring. And while the statement that all nations would be blessed through him (Psalm 72:17) could possibly refer to Solomon indirectly, it definitely refers to Jesus.

The Works of the Messiah

If Jesus is indeed the subject of Psalm 72, it is easy to answer the question: What does Jesus do? Jesus does amazing things for us! He takes care of the needy and their children, and he defeats oppressors (Psalm 72:4, 12-14). He lives forever, despite the fact that he died on the cross for us (Psalm 72:5). When he returns, Jesus will reign over the entire earth (Psalm 72:8). Surely he deserves from us the same kind of praise and honor given in verses 18 and 19!

The Jesus Connection

We've learned about many different facets of Jesus' life and ministry on earth. But let's never forget what Jesus has done for us. He is worthy of all our praise for that alone.

What's the first thing that comes to mind when you think about Jesus?

Who is Jesus to you? A teacher...a minister...a preacher...a martyr...a savior? Concentrate on the last one—*savior*. Spend two minutes prayerfully considering how Jesus is your Savior. You can write your prayer here.

[illegible]



What Do We Wait For? Supplies

Adult Handbooks 1
copy per person
of the “Waiting for
Christmas” handout (at
the end of this lesson)
pens

1

GETTING STARTED

What Do We Wait For?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Greet everyone warmly as they gather.

Say: **It's the first week of December! Many of us are already busy with shopping for good deals on Christmas presents, decorating, baking cookies, and so on. Turn to a partner and share one of your family traditions during the Christmas season.**

Allow a few minutes for pairs to share. Ask people to share some of their traditions.

Say: **This is also the period in our church year when we look forward to the coming of Jesus. It's an opportunity for us to experience a bit of what the Jews experienced for hundreds of years as they looked forward to the coming of the Messiah. Let's get into the Christmas season by answering three questions.**

Have adults turn to page 86 in their Adult Handbooks, or give each person a copy of the “Waiting for Christmas” handout and a pen.

Say: **Here are the questions on your handout: First, what do you hope for this time of year? Second, how easy or difficult is it for you to wait for something good? Third, what good things does Jesus bring to the world? All of your responses are welcome. Write your answers on your own, and then you'll come back together with your partner to discuss your answers.**

Give everyone a few minutes to write their answers. Then say “stop,” and ask them to share their responses with their partners. After a few minutes, gather the whole group's attention.

Talk With Adults ■■■■■■

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

Ask:

- **What insights about Christmas came out of your writing and talking with your partner?**
- **What new things did this activity reveal to you about Jesus?**
- **Why is Jesus such a significant person in history and today?**

Say: **This time of year, some churches study the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah. Today we're going to look at a prophetic psalm that was written hundreds of years before Jesus was born. This psalm describes in detail Jesus' person and his deeds. Today's lesson will help us discover that ► JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS.**



2

BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Prophecies Fulfilled

What You'll Do

Hand out Bibles, paper, and pens.

Say: **Many people in the Old Testament made prophecies about the future based on what God told them would happen. Solomon did this, and we're going to read about it in Psalm 72. This prophecy focuses on Jesus doing great things.**

Form five groups. Number each group, and tell them to look up their group's passages as listed below:

- Group 1: Psalm 72:1-2; John 8:1-11
- Group 2: Psalm 72:3, 7; Matthew 14:13-21
- Group 3: Psalm 72:4-6; Matthew 15:21-28
- Group 4: Psalm 72:8-11; John 12:12-16
- Group 5: Psalm 72:12-14; Mark 2:1-12

Say: **As a group, read your two passages. Your verses from Psalm 72 will give you Solomon's prophecies about Jesus. Your verses from Matthew, Mark, or John will be an event in Jesus' life. Compare your prophecy with what really happened, and see how the two line up. Then list the good things that happened because Solomon's prophecy was fulfilled.**

Allow about 10 minutes for groups to read their passages and make their lists. Then have groups share their lists in order to show the prophecy and how it was fulfilled.

Say: **Jesus has done great things! He did them in the New Testament, and he's still doing them today. Let's read Psalm 72:17-19 aloud together in response to the great things Jesus has done.** Read Psalm 72:17-19 aloud with everyone.

Talk With Adults

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

Ask:

- What do these prophecies reveal about who Jesus is? what he is like?
- What do these prophecies indicate about how the world would be different because of Jesus?
- What great things do you need Jesus to do for you?

Say: **Solomon lived long before Jesus was born. The two never met face-to-face on earth. And yet Solomon knew it would be true that ► JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS. The same great things Solomon predicted for the people during Jesus'**



Prophecies Fulfilled Supplies

Bibles
paper
pens



day can be true in our lives. Let's look at another verse that will help us understand why we need Jesus to do great things.

The Great Mediator

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Ask everyone to stand up and form three single-file lines parallel to each other. You'll have two outside lines and a middle line. Have lines stand an arm's length from each other.

Say: **Touch the shoulder of the person next to you. The people in the middle line are to touch the shoulders of the person on their left and on their right. Pause. Please put your arms back down to your sides. Pause. Now, without moving your bodies, the people in the outside lines are to reach out and try to touch hands with each other. No leaning or moving feet. People in the middle, keep your arms at your sides and don't move.**

The people in the outside lines won't be able to touch hands.

Say: **People in the outside lines, reach toward the middle again. People in the middle, reach out to receive the reaching hands of both people on the outside. Gently move the hands of the outside people toward each other until they can shake hands. It's okay to move now.**

Have everyone return to their seats.

Say: **Here's today's Key Verse, which is from 1 Timothy 2:5: "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." Let's talk about another great thing about Jesus: his role as mediator between God and humans.**

Talk With Adults ■■■■■■

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

Ask:

- What was it like as people on the outside lines to be reaching toward each other but knowing it was impossible to connect?
- What was it like when the middle people were able to join the hands of the outside people?
- How is Jesus' role of mediator a fulfillment of prophecies made in Psalm 72?
- How has Jesus mediated a positive difference in your life?

Say: **For hundreds of years, God's followers like Solomon looked forward to a Messiah who would do great and mighty deeds. They awaited a Messiah who would be an advocate for the needy, a mediator for the criminal, and a savior for**



the enslaved. We can know that Messiah, who is Jesus. ► **JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS.** Let's look at some of those great things.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Great Things

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Find a fairly blank spot on the wall. Say: **Let's see if we can fill this wall with a collage of great things Jesus has done in our lives. You have five minutes to complete this challenge. Write one great thing per sticky note, and we'll all work together to stick as many sticky notes to the wall as we can.**

Allow five minutes for the group to fill the wall with a collage of the great things Jesus has done in their lives.

Talk With Adults ■■■■

Have everyone survey the wall of sticky notes, and then lead adults in this discussion. Participants can find these questions in their Adult Handbooks.

Ask:

- What are some of the greatest things you saw on the wall?
- How can you respond to Jesus in light of the great things he's done for you?
- How does seeing this wall give you confidence that Jesus will continue to do great things in your life?

Say: **Solomon accurately prophesied many of the great things Jesus would do while he was here on earth. But Jesus' greatness didn't stop when he came back to life and went to heaven. He's still working in our lives. This wall is proof that ► JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **In this session, we've looked at how ► JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS. Let's look at how we can apply that truth in our daily lives.**



Great Things Supplies

pens
sticky notes

Daily Challenges Supplies

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



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 Jesus this week.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.

Encourage each person to commit to putting into practice at least one of the ideas that was suggested and discussed.

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



Psalm 72:1-19

► Bible Point—Jesus does great things.

Key Verse—“For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5).

DIGGING DEEPER



Daily Challenges

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

- **Set aside time this week to reflect upon God's blessings in your life.** Commit to making it the first thing you think about in the morning and the last thing you think about at night.
- **Come up with a way you can give God thanks for his love for you.** Journal, write a poem, talk to yourself—whatever you want—just reflect for an hour or so on God's love for you. Then take time to thank God for his incredible love.
- **Keep a journal of the things Jesus does this week, and try to match each one up with the “He will...” statements from Psalm 72.** Look at your list several times during the week, and thank him for the great things he is doing. Then pray in hope for a great thing you would like Jesus to do in your future.

Through the Week

Use the following passages to explore additional biblical perspectives to help you continue to think about Jesus.

Monday: Psalm 72:1-4

- What great things does Jesus do to help the afflicted?

Tuesday: Psalm 72:5-7

- How is Jesus enduring and refreshing?

Wednesday: Psalm 72:8-11

- Why will all people someday bow to Jesus? What will Jesus' rule be like?

Thursday: Psalm 72:12-14

- How does Jesus bring deliverance and salvation?

Friday: Psalm 72:15-17

- How are all nations blessed through Jesus?

Saturday: Psalm 72:18-19

- Add your words of praise to the ones in this passage.

Talk Topics

- What would you say to someone who thinks that Jesus isn't alive today and therefore isn't doing anything in the world today?
- Talk about why many people today don't think they need Jesus. For example, they don't believe in Jesus, don't understand what sin is, or have no understanding that Jesus will one day judge them.
- Talk about what Jesus is doing right now and how things will change when he comes again.

**OK
TO COPY**

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Waiting for Christmas

1. What do you hope for this time of year?
2. How easy or difficult is it for you to wait for something good?
3. What good things does Jesus bring to the world?



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	Solomon Tells of Jesus' Coming (Psalm 72:1-19)	"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5).	Jesus does great things.
WEEK 2	An Angel Appears to Joseph (Isaiah 7:13-14; Matthew 1:18-25)	"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).	Trust God's plans.
* WEEK 3	Jesus Is Born (Luke 2:1-20; Hebrews 1:1-4)	"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me'" (John 14:6).	Jesus was born to be our Savior.
WEEK 4	Foreign Visitors Worship Jesus (Matthew 2:1-12)	"For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved'" (Romans 10:12-13).	Anyone can worship Jesus.
WEEK 5	Joseph Takes His Family to Safety in Egypt (Matthew 2:13-23)	"The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him" (Nahum 1:7).	God guides us.
WEEK 6	Jesus Is Baptized (Matthew 3:13-17)	"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).	Jesus is God's Son.
WEEK 7	Peter and Andrew Meet Jesus (John 1:35-42)	"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12).	Jesus is our friend.
WEEK 8	News About Jesus Spreads (Matthew 4:12-25)	"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).	Jesus wants everyone to follow him.
WEEK 9	Jesus Gives the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12)	"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things" (Philippians 4:8).	God blesses us when we choose his ways.
WEEK 10	Jesus Teaches That We Are to Be Salt and Light (Matthew 5:13-16)	"In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).	Help others see Jesus.
WEEK 11	Jesus Walks on Water (Matthew 14:22-33)	"If we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself" (2 Timothy 2:13).	Jesus helps us believe.
WEEK 12	Zacchaeus Climbs a Tree to See Jesus (Luke 19:1-10)	"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20).	Jesus accepts everyone.
WEEK 13	Jesus Blesses the Children (Mark 10:13-16)	"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Mark 10:14).	Everyone is important to Jesus.

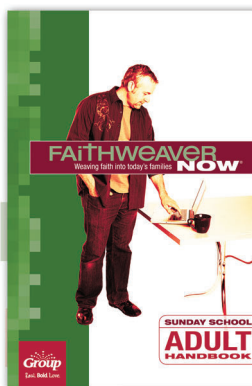
* Due to the way Christmas falls, we recommend moving the lessons as needed to line up Lesson 3 with the week of Christmas.

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.**



THIS IS A SAMPLE
The number of pages is limited.

Purchase the item for the complete version.

