

A man with short brown hair, wearing a dark brown button-down shirt with a floral pattern on the left chest and dark jeans, stands looking down at a laptop on a white table. A black mug is on the table next to the laptop. The background is a solid green color with a vertical column of lighter green squares on the left side.

FAITHWEAVER

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

**FALL
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**ADULT
LEADER GUIDE**

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**FALL
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Group

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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.

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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.

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FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Adult, Fall

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Contents

Introduction 4

The Lessons

Lesson 1: The Israelites Cross the Red Sea—Exodus 13:17–14:31 5

Lesson 2: God Sends Quail and Manna—Exodus 16:1-26 15

Lesson 3: God Provides Water—Exodus 17:1-7 25

Lesson 4: God Gives the Ten Commandments
(Part 1)—Exodus 19:16–20:21 35

Lesson 5: God Gives the Ten Commandments
(Part 2)—Exodus 19:16–20:21 45

Lesson 6: The Israelites Worship a Golden Calf—Exodus 32:1-25 53

Lesson 7: The Israelites Build the Tabernacle—Exodus 35:4–36:38 63

Lesson 8: Moses Sends Spies Into the Promised Land—
Numbers 13:1–14:23 71

Lesson 9: Balaam’s Donkey Talks—Numbers 22:1-38 79

Lesson 10: Joshua Becomes Leader of Israel—Joshua 1:1-11 87

Lesson 11: Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho—Joshua 2:1-24 95

Lesson 12: The Israelites Cross the Jordan River—Joshua 3:1–4:24 103

Lesson 13: God Gives Victory Over Jericho—Joshua 6:1-27 111



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.





The Israelites Cross the Red Sea

Exodus 13:17–14:31

Experts in human development say that all adults go through stages involving key tasks or crises. Successful resolution of one challenge moves us to the next, and this occurs throughout our lives. Every period of growth involves risk and fear. God teaches us we have no need to fear. He has always cared for his people and continues to do so today. Use this lesson to help adults learn this reality, so that when they face fearful circumstances, they can cling to the truth and know the Lord will fight for them.



► Bible Point

God helps us when we're afraid.

Key Verse

"He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me" (Psalm 23:3-4).

LESSON	WHAT ADULTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Fears in Hindsight <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Discuss how a person's perspective about personal fears can change over time.		
2 Bible Exploration	Faith & Fears <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Explore Exodus and examine how God builds the Israelites' faith in the midst of their fears.	Bibles, paper, pens	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.


Weaving Faith Into Life

Adults will trust God and know peace when they are afraid.



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	Trusting God for Help <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Discuss what they've learned about God's help, and choose ways to increase their trust in God and give up their fears.	Bibles, sticky notes, pens	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Discuss how to apply God's Word.	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.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





The Israelites Cross the Red Sea

Exodus 13:17–14:31

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

God Cares for His People

As the mass of more than 2 million Hebrews left Egypt, God knew that facing the warlike Philistines immediately would likely have made the Hebrews lose hope and turn back to Egypt. The pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night must have been awesome and comforting.

God’s Unusual Strategy

God instructed the Israelites to turn back somewhat toward Egypt and camp at a spot between Migdol and the Red Sea. God had a bigger plan than anyone else could know. Pharaoh would’ve been confident that he could easily defeat the Israelites.

The Israelites were slaves of the Egyptians only days prior to this event. They’d been beaten by the whips of the slave drivers and were familiar with the weapons the Egyptians carried. They must’ve realized that their fighting talents were nothing compared with the Egyptians’. And they were backed against the sea, with mountains on two sides and the Egyptians bearing down on them. The situation must’ve seemed hopeless.

God Shows His Power

We can realize that God had all this planned. He knew that the people would be frightened. He knew that they would doubt him. But he also knew that his power would be remembered forever. God knew that he would prevail, that the Hebrews would be saved from Pharaoh, and that the result would be a people growing greatly in their faith in him.

It may seem odd that no record of this event has been found in Egyptian history. However, it’s likely that all records were wiped from the books because it would’ve been an embarrassment for the world to

know that mighty Egypt had been devastated by its own lowly slaves.

The Jesus Connection

We live in troubled times when it’s easy for people to lose heart and feel hopeless and lost. But a relationship with Jesus can give us peace and joy. Jesus is our light in dark times.

When have you felt out of sorts and desperate to find some control over your situation? Perhaps the Israelites felt these things after they escaped from Egypt. Although they may not have recognized it at the time, eventually they were able to look back and see how God used that time to protect them and bring glory to himself.

What part of your life might God have his hand in now? What can you do to connect with God during times of fear and desperation? Take a few minutes to reflect on God’s hand in your life. Write your reflection here.





1 GETTING STARTED

Fears in Hindsight

What You'll Do

Greet people warmly as they gather. Have everyone form trios.

Say: **Today we're going to explore fears and worries from a biblical perspective. To get started, think of a time you were afraid. Perhaps you were afraid of physical harm, or maybe it was something emotional you feared. Maybe you were anxious about your circumstances or about unmet needs. Share your experience with your trio.**

Allow about six minutes for trios to share, alerting them to switch who's sharing every two minutes.

Say: **Often when we are removed from a situation, we see it differently. With that in mind, take turns sharing your views on the stories you heard.** Allow about two minutes.

Say: **Even our own perspective on situations can change as time goes by. Now answer the following question with your trio.**

Ask:

- **With hindsight you've gained over time, how do you view that circumstance now? Is it still scary? Explain.**

Allow about two minutes.

Talk With Adults

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

Ask:

- **What did you notice about the different ways to view your scary circumstance?**
- **How has changing your perspective helped you face scary times before?**

Say: **When we're afraid, it isn't easy to control our emotions. Sometimes we're so overwhelmed, we can't think straight or act with wisdom. In today's lesson, we're going to look at God's faithfulness and how he took care of the Israelites. We're going to explore how ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE AFRAID.**

2

BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Faith & Fears

What You'll Do 

Distribute Bibles. Have everyone open to Exodus 13:17–14:31, and have adults form groups of four. Give each group a piece of paper and a pen. Alternatively, have them turn to the “Faith & Fears” section in the back of their Adult Handbooks.

Say: **As we read this passage, we'll look at how the Israelites showed fear and how they showed faith. Make two columns, one titled “Signs of Faith” and the other “Signs of Fear.” Take turns reading one paragraph at a time in your group. After each paragraph, consider what the Israelites did in that paragraph and list their actions in the appropriate column. Allow about eight minutes.**

Ask:

- Which column is longer? What does that tell you about the overall sense the Israelites had about God?

Say: **Now let's look at this same passage from a different perspective and see how it lines up with how the Israelites viewed things. Flip your paper over or turn to the next page in your Adult Handbook. Make two columns again—one that says “Positive Faith Builders” and one that says “Negative Faith Builders.” God uses miracles and scary situations in this passage to build the Israelite's faith. We'll call the miracles “Positive Faith Builders” since they're more positive to experience. Fear isn't so fun, so we'll call those “Negative Faith Builders.” But both of them work to build faith.**

Read the passage again with your group, one paragraph at a time, and this time focus on what God did. Consider how his actions can work to build faith in the Israelites, and write your observations in the appropriate columns. Allow about eight minutes.

Ask:

- What observations did you have about God's faith-building actions? How did they line up with your first chart?

Talk With Adults 

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

Ask:

- In what ways was the Exodus a defining moment in the relationship between Israel and God?

Faith & Fears
Supplies

Bibles
paper
pens



- How did the Exodus foreshadow what Jesus does for us?
- Based on this passage, how would you explain what God can do and who God is to people who are burdened with fear, enslaved by sin, or oppressed by circumstances?

Say: **No doubt we can all identify with the Israelites' sense of being trapped. On one side, a vast sea with no way around it. On the other, powerful enemies. They had no control over the outcome of this situation. But it was precisely their lack of control and the fears that surrounded them that enabled them to see God's mighty hand at work. And no matter what fears seem to surround us, ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE AFRAID.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Trusting God for Help

Trusting God for Help Supplies

Bibles
sticky notes
pens

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Just as God took care of the Israelites as they fled Egypt and faced many fears, God takes care of us during fearful times. But sometimes that's hard to see—so let's do an exercise to help us see God's hand at work.**

Form two groups, and give each group some sticky notes and a pen. Tell one group to list as many adult fears as they can think of. They'll write each one on a sticky note and stick it to the wall. Tell the other group to list lessons they can learn from the account of the crossing of the Red Sea. Examples may include:

- God leads and guides us.
- God influences circumstances.
- God fights battles for us.
- God gives us his constant presence.
- God is faithful to help those whom he loves.

They'll write each idea on a sticky note and stick it to a different section of the wall. As everyone works, write the Key Verse, Psalm 23:3-4, on five sticky notes, divided as shown here:

“He restores my soul.
He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me” (Psalm 23:3-4).

Set your sticky notes aside for later.

After about seven minutes, get everyone's attention. Say: **Now let's consider how God answers our fears.** Have the “fear” group read one of the fears they wrote. Have the



other group think of a lesson they wrote that could respond to that fear, and stick their note on top of the fear. Continue until all the fears are covered. Sometimes, a response may apply to more than one fear; in this case, just make a bigger stack with the response on top and multiple fears behind it.

Say: **Our Key Verse gives more ways God responds to our fears.** Read each sticky note from the Key Verse in order, sticking each on one of the sets of sticky notes after you read it.

Talk With Adults

Have people get in groups of four and discuss the following questions. Participants can find these questions in their Adult Handbooks.

Ask:

- Which response to a fear hit you most personally? Talk about that.
- How can faith in God affect how we experience fearful times?
- How does being familiar with the account of God’s deliverance of the Israelites affect how you want to respond to your fears this week?
- How can the biblical truths we’ve discovered today help us as we face hard, desperate times and situations that paralyze us with fear?

Say: **There’s no fear we could have that God can’t respond to. His power was strong enough to build a wall of fire to stop an army. His power was strong enough to part a sea of water for his people to pass through—and then bring the waters crashing down on the enemies. Sometimes our fears have a tendency to sit at the top of our mind. But when that happens, we can remember this exercise and how ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE’RE AFRAID.**

.....

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do

Say: **In this session, we’ve seen how ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE’RE AFRAID. Let’s think about how we can give our fears to God 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.



Daily Challenges Supplies

.....

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



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 handbook or your Digging Deeper page to further reflect on faith and fears this week.

Close with prayer. Have adults visualize their fears parting like the Red Sea as they commit to trust God with those fears.





DIGGING
DEEPER

The Israelites Cross the Red Sea—Exodus 13:17–14:31

► **Bible Point**—God helps us when we're afraid.

Key Verse—"He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me" (Psalm 23:3-4).

Daily Challenges

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

- **Take time to thank God for all the ways you've seen him care for you. By remembering his faithfulness, you can face what is ahead with renewed courage.**
- **Fear can paralyze. Through prayer and practice, change your perspective from being hemmed in by fear to walking with boldness through confident faith in God's protection and provision. Do the thing God is calling you to do that you've been too scared to begin.**
- **Do you know someone plagued by fear? Pray for that person and send him or her a card of encouragement.**

Through the Week

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

Monday—Luke 12:22-24

- **How much of a worrier are you? Explain. What's the point in worrying? How do worry and fear go hand-in-hand?**

Tuesday—Psalm 94:16-19

- **How have you seen God's love support you in your fears? How has he brought joy in the midst of your anxiety?**

Wednesday—Psalm 27:1

- **How does a nightlight help kids with fear of the dark? In what ways is that like how God helps us with our fears?**

Thursday—Hebrews 13:5-6

- **How does God's presence help you combat fear?**

Friday—John 14:25-27

- **In what ways has fear robbed you of peace? How can you rely on the Holy Spirit to bring peace in the midst of fear?**

Saturday—1 John 4:18

- **What does it mean that fear has to do with punishment? How is that true for you? How can love combat fear?**

Talk Topics

- **Think about a time you were truly scared. How did your reaction show faith—or a lack of faith?**
- **What does it mean when God doesn't deliver us out of a scary situation?**
- **Talk about a need you have these days, related to fear.**
- **Talk about a time when God helped you cope with—or overcome—a fear.**

! **OK**
■ **TO COPY**



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:

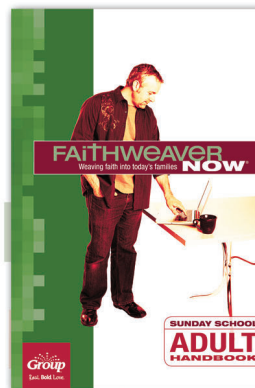
	BIBLE CONTENT/SCRIPTURE	KEY VERSE	BIBLE POINT
WEEK 1	The Israelites Cross the Red Sea (Exodus 13:17-14:31)	"He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me" (Psalm 23:3-4).	God helps us when we're afraid.
WEEK 2	God Sends Quail and Manna (Exodus 16:1-26)	"You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever" (Psalm 23:5-6).	God gives us what we need.
WEEK 3	God Provides Water (Exodus 17:1-7)	"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters" (Psalm 23:1-2).	God is patient with us.
WEEK 4	God Gives the Ten Commandments (Part 1) (Exodus 19:16-20:21)	"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts" (Deuteronomy 6:5-6).	Honor God by obeying him.
WEEK 5	God Gives the Ten Commandments (Part 2) (Exodus 19:16-20:21)	"Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 19:18-19).	God tells us how to respect others.
WEEK 6	The Israelites Worship a Golden Calf (Exodus 32:1-25)	"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).	Only God deserves our worship.
WEEK 7	The Israelites Build the Tabernacle (Exodus 35:4-36:38)	"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Colossians 3:17).	We all can serve God.
WEEK 8	Moses Sends Spies Into the Promised Land (Numbers 13:1-14:23)	"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58).	Be brave for God.
WEEK 9	Balaam's Donkey Talks (Numbers 22:1-38)	"Come and see what God has done, how awesome his works in man's behalf!" (Psalm 66:5).	Pay attention to God.
WEEK 10	Joshua Becomes Leader of Israel (Joshua 1:1-11)	"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).	God is with us.
WEEK 11	Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho (Joshua 2:1-24)	"And without faith it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11:6).	We can have faith that God will do big things in our lives.
WEEK 12	The Israelites Cross the Jordan River (Joshua 3:1-4:24)	"Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done" (1 Chronicles 16:8).	Remember what God has done.
WEEK 13	God Gives Victory Over Jericho (Joshua 6:1-27)	"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:6-7).	God's power works for good.

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.

