



# FAITHWEAVER

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

**SUMMER  
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**ADULT  
LEADER GUIDE**

**Group**

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**SUMMER  
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**ADULT  
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ONE-TIME ACTIVATION CODE:

## 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, Summer

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



No doubt about it, the world is changing. Families used to go to church every week. Kids used to have longer attention spans. Teachers used to have more time to prepare. And didn't our budgets used to be bigger?

Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date. But there's one thing that's never changed: the need to grow families closer to Jesus.

That's why we created FaithWeaver NOW®, and it's different from anything you've ever seen before!

## **It combines Sunday school with family ministry.** ■■■■

Sure, you've seen Sunday school aimed at families. But FaithWeaver NOW actually hits the target by having everyone in the family learning about the same Scripture each week.

## **It's simpler and easier.** ■■■■

Sometimes change is a wonderful thing. Gone are the days when you needed to spend hours preparing your lessons and hunting for supplies. FaithWeaver NOW will have you and your team ready to go in a snap.

## **It's made for NOW.** ■■■■

Life is complicated and full of distractions. FaithWeaver NOW keeps faith on track through even the most frenzied lifestyles.

## **What makes FaithWeaver NOW the perfect curriculum for TODAY's church?**

- Families learn the same Bible passage in age-appropriate ways.
- Kids don't just hear the Word. They experience it.
- Simple and easy lessons fit even the busiest lives.
- Kids see God in their everyday world.
- The Scope & Sequence goes through the Bible every three years.
- You can customize it however you like, with both print and digital versions.



Create a vibrant family ministry that's new...that's wow...that's NOW. FaithWeaver NOW gives you a fresh strategy for being more successful than ever in bringing families closer to Jesus.

*Thom Schultz Joani Schultz*

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





# God Tests Abraham

Genesis 22:1-18

Everything worthwhile comes with a price. For example, everyone in your group who's married has traded a measure of freedom for a new depth of love and commitment. Everyone who has purchased a home has given up instant mobility for the sake of long-term investment. Everyone who has a child has given up sleep and independence for warm smiles and sincere hugs. When talking about obedience to God in this lesson, help people consider the sacrifices they've made that are worth the cost. Obedience to God is always worth the cost that it sometimes requires.



► **Bible Point**  
Obey God.

**Key Verse**  
"So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. Walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess" (Deuteronomy 5:32-33).

**Weaving Faith Into Life**  
Adults will obey God no matter what it costs.

<p><b>1</b> Getting Started</p>	<p><b>Nostalgic Obedience</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Recall stories of obedience and disobedience from childhood and from their adult lives.</p>		
<p><b>2</b> Bible Exploration</p>	<p><b>To-Do List</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Use the verbs in Genesis 22:1-18 to make Abraham's to-do list, and discuss his active obedience.</p>	<p>Bibles, paper, pens</p>	

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT ADULTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Real-Life Obedience</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Examine the Key Verse, draw maps, and discuss how to live out obedience to God.	Bibles, paper, pens	
	<b>Letters of Commitment</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Write letters of commitment to obedience.	paper, pens	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <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)	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <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.*







## 1 GETTING STARTED

### Nostalgic Obedience

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Greet people warmly as they gather. Have adults form pairs. In each pair, ask people to take turns telling stories from their childhood or youth. They'll each tell one story about a time they obeyed though they were tempted not to. Then they'll each tell one story about a time they disobeyed and suffered the consequences. Give two-minute warnings when partners should switch stories. After eight minutes, get everyone's attention.

Say: **Now think of one story where you obeyed and one where you disobeyed in your adult life, and what the consequences were for each event. You'll each have two minutes per story.** Allow time. Again, give two-minute warnings to switch, and gather everyone's attention after eight 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 difference between the consequences of obedience and disobedience in your childhood versus your adult life?
- How does obedience look different now than it did when you were younger?
- What did your experiences teach you about obedience?

Say: **Obedience isn't always easy. When you were a child, you probably didn't obey your parents every time they asked you to do something. As an adult, there aren't as many people you need to answer to and obey, but God still seeks our obedience. The Bible is full of commands—and a lot of them aren't too easy to do! But we need to ► OBEY GOD no matter what the cost. Let's look at a time in the Bible when obedience came with tremendously high stakes.**

## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

### To-Do List

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have everyone open to Genesis 22:1-18. Distribute paper and pens. Say: **Our passage**

#### To-Do List Supplies

Bibles  
paper  
pens

Summer Quarter

Lesson 1 ■ Adult



today focuses on a time God gave Abraham a really hard—and confusing—instruction. Find a couple of other people to read through this passage with. As you read, look for verbs that have Abraham as the subject—basically, actions he took. Record your observations to make a to-do list for Abraham. For example, your list might begin with these tasks: reply to God, get up, load donkey.

Allow about eight minutes for groups to read and make their lists.

### Talk With Adults

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

Ask:

- What's significant about God asking Abraham to sacrifice his *son*, and not something else?
- What did you notice about all the actions Abraham had to take in order to obey God?
- How many steps do you have on your list before Abraham actually picked up the knife to sacrifice his son? What can you learn from the fact that in all those steps, he never questioned God?
- What action steps do you need to take to obey God?
- Which verse do you think is the most pivotal in this passage? Why?

Say: It's amazing that the Bible doesn't record Abraham questioning God. Abraham simply obeyed God without wondering or questioning God's request. Throughout all the tasks he did to prepare to sacrifice his son, he obeyed God, moving one step closer to God's command. It's a great example of what our attitude can be when we ► **OBEY GOD**. Let's take a look at what obedience really looks like in our lives.

## **3** WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

### Real-Life Obedience

#### What You'll Do

Distribute paper, and make sure everyone still has a pen. Have groups read the Key Verse, Deuteronomy 5:32-33: "So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. Walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess."

Say: **Our Key Verse describes a steadfast, focused approach to obedience—not turning to the right or left. It's the way Abraham approached obedience. But what kinds of things can cause us to turn to the right or left? Abraham's temptation would've been his love for his son—not a bad thing! But when our love for**



#### Real-Life Obedience Supplies

Bibles  
paper  
pens



something trumps our desire to obey God, it becomes a bad thing. So let's consider what can distract us from obedience. Draw a straight path on your paper. Pause. At one end of the path, write your name or draw a stick figure self-portrait. At the other end, write a way you want to obey God. Pause. Now draw four signposts on each side of your path—eight total. Make sure there's room to write on each sign. Pause.

Say: I'm going to read eight different topics of things that could cause you to turn to the right or left. Fill in your answer for each one on a signpost. Read the following list, pausing after each item for adults to consider their answers and write them on their signs.

- something you're proud of
- something you waited a long time for
- something you spend a lot of time doing
- something you get easily distracted by
- something you would never sell at a yard sale
- something you're passionate about
- something you'd cry if you lost
- something you've always dreamed of

After everyone has filled in all their signs, have adults return to their pairs from the first activity. Say: **With your partner, talk about the destination of your path—the thing you wrote about how you want to obey God. Then consider how some of your signposts have caused you to get distracted or turn from God's commands.** Allow time.

### 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:

- What did you discover about your own distractions from obedience?
- Are any of the things on your signs truly bad things? If not, is it really a problem that they've distracted you from your goal of obedience? Explain.
- How can we discern God's voice from others to know we're truly on the right path?

Say: Abraham obeyed God with total focus. We all live busy lives, and it can be hard to obey God. We set out on the right path, but we find ourselves turning to the right or left. The fact is, it's important to ► **OBEY GOD**. It might mean sacrifice—sacrifice of our own desires, our time, our money, or our popularity—but if Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son to obey God, we can make sacrifices, too.

## Letters of Commitment

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Distribute paper, and instruct each person to reflect on today's lesson and discussion. Ask adults to write letters to God about obedience in their lives. They can write about areas where they need help with obedience and areas where they need forgiveness for a lack of obedience. Have them include several specific goals for how they want to obey

### Letters of Commitment Supplies

paper  
pens





better. Ask each person to conclude the letter with a one-sentence commitment using the theme of the Key Verse. For example, someone might write, “I commit to obey God and walk in his ways regardless of how crazy it might look to others.”

### Talk With Adults

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

Ask:

- **Talk about the goals you made in your letter. Why did you choose them?**
- **What do you think might be the challenges to following through on those goals? How can you overcome those challenges?**
- **What was your final commitment in your letter?**

Say: **Sometimes it’s risky to ► OBEY GOD. For people who don’t believe in God, simple obedience must seem strange. God wants us to obey him, not because God can get us to do crazy things, but because God knows what’s best for us. Even in Abraham’s case, God knew that Abraham needed to have his focus on what mattered most— God. He knew Abraham might be tempted to idolize his son, and that wouldn’t be good for either of them. God knows that if we obey him, we’ll be safe and in the center of his will.**

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## **4** LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You’ll Do

Say: **In this session, we’ve seen what it really takes to ► OBEY GOD no matter what it costs. Let’s think about how we can make sacrifices to obey 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.

### 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 further reflect on obeying God this week.**

Close with prayer. Have adults talk to God silently about what they wrote in their letters of commitment.



#### Daily Challenges Supplies

---

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

**God Tests Abraham**—Genesis 22:1-18

► **Bible Point**—Obey God.

**Key Verse**—“So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. Walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess” (Deuteronomy 5:32-33).

DIGGING  
DEEPER



## Talk Topics

- Why is our obedience important to God?
- Discuss a time you didn't obey God and how that impacted your relationship with God and others. Then talk about a time you obeyed God and the impact that had.
- Consider the acts of disobedience that most bother you—then take a hard look at yourself and talk about how you might disobey in those ways.

## Daily Challenges

Choose one or more of these Daily Challenges to do this week.

- **Through journaling, reflect on a recent time of testing. Identify both the test and your response. Take an honest look at yourself, and ask if you responded with obedience. If not, consider why. What can you do to allow the testing to bring change in your life? Prayerfully write goals, and put them where you'll see them again in a month, or several months, so you can evaluate how you're doing.**
- **Each morning, read your letter of commitment, and choose one goal from your letter to focus on that day.**
- **Be especially mindful of God's commands throughout one full day. Ask yourself: How does God want me to drive, do my work, act toward my neighbor, handle my finances, and so forth? Say to yourself frequently, "I will choose to do what pleases God."**

## Through the Week

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

### Monday—Exodus 23:22

- **When has obedience helped you feel more like God is on your side? What other benefits are there to obedience?**

### Tuesday—Deuteronomy 4:9-10

- **What do you need to do to be more careful not to forget God's commands? How can you help pass on a spirit of obedience to people you influence?**

### Wednesday—1 Samuel 12:24

- **What great things has God done for you? How does that motivate you to give back in obedience?**

### Thursday—Psalm 119:33-35

- **How well does this psalm match your own attitude about seeking and obeying God's commands? What would it take for you to delight in obedience?**

### Friday—James 1:22-25

- **How well are you living out what you read in the Bible? Why do we sometimes forget to obey what we read?**

### Saturday—Matthew 6:24

- **What other masters might be competing for obedience in your life? How has that caused you to disobey God?**

! **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:*

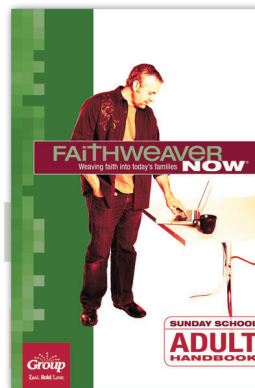
	BIBLE CONTENT/SCRIPTURE	KEY VERSE	BIBLE POINT
WEEK 1	God Tests Abraham (Genesis 22:1-18)	"So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. Walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess" (Deuteronomy 5:32-33).	Obey God.
WEEK 2	Isaac Marries Rebekah (Genesis 24)	"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).	Pray for God's direction.
WEEK 3	Jacob Deceives Esau and Isaac (Genesis 25:27-34; 27:1-40)	"The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful" (Proverbs 12:22).	Honesty is important to God.
WEEK 4	Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel (Genesis 29:15-30)	"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).	God uses hard times to help us grow.
WEEK 5	Joseph Dreams Disturbing Dreams (Genesis 37:1-11)	"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34).	Show Jesus' love in our families.
WEEK 6	Joseph's Brothers Sell Him Into Slavery (Genesis 37:12-36)	"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth" (1 John 3:18).	God wants us to do what's right.
WEEK 7	Pharaoh Puts Joseph in Charge (Genesis 39:20-41:49)	"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23).	We can serve God anywhere.
WEEK 8	Joseph Forgives His Brothers (Genesis 42-45)	"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13).	God wants us to forgive.
WEEK 9	God Protects Moses (Exodus 1:1-2:10)	"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).	God protects us.
WEEK 10	Moses Meets God at the Burning Bush (Exodus 2:11-3:20)	"I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13).	God can use us.
WEEK 11	The Israelites Receive Cruel Treatment (Exodus 5:1-6:1)	"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:31).	God wants us to hope in him.
WEEK 12	God Sends Plagues on Egypt (Exodus 7:8-10:29)	"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).	God uses his power to help us.
WEEK 13	The Israelites Escape From Egypt (Exodus 11:1-12:36)	"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36).	Jesus sets us free.

**PLUS...**

**Access all these FREE FaithWeaver NOW digital resources at [group.com/digital](http://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.

