

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

**SUMMER
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**ADULT
LEADER GUIDE**

Group

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SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**ADULT
LEADER GUIDE**



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ONE-TIME ACTIVATION CODE:

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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.

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FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Adult, Summer

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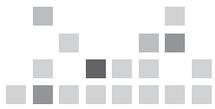
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ISBN 978-1-4707-5904-9

Printed in the United States of America.



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The future of Sunday school + family ministry is NOW.



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

Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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



Elisha Helps a Widow and Her Sons

2 Kings 4:1-7

Adults see many needy people as they go through life. They sit in bus station seats, pass by in the grocery store, and sip coffee in restaurants. They come to work with tears in their eyes and face heartache as their children make wrong choices. Unfortunately, it's all too easy to overlook people who need extra help. It's easy to see them without really seeing who they are and how we can help them. Use this session to help your participants understand how God feels about needy people, and the difference each of us can make on his behalf.



►Bible Point
 God cares for needy people.

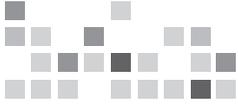
Key Verse
 "He [God] defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing" (Deuteronomy 10:18).

Weaving Faith Into Life
 Adults will look to God to meet their daily needs.

LESSON	WHAT ADULTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	True Confessions <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Discuss their own times of need.		Think of a situation you can share in which you experienced being in need, whether it was a physical, emotional, social, or spiritual need.
2 Bible Exploration	Refilled <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Take away and add to a list of needs as they read the Bible passage.	Bibles, index cards, pens, jar	



LESSON	WHAT ADULTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>3</p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>God Cares <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Consider how they can help with the needs in your community, and talk to God about their own needs.</p>	<p>index cards from the “Refilled” activity, pens, pitchers of water, cups, bowls</p>	
<p>4</p> <p>Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Discuss how to apply God’s Word.</p>	<p>Adult Handbooks or 1 copy per person of the “Digging Deeper” handout (at the end of this lesson)</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to dig deeper into the lesson all week long.</p>		



True Confessions Easy Prep

Think of a situation you can share in which you experienced being in need, whether it was a physical, emotional, social, or spiritual need.

1 GETTING STARTED

True Confessions

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Greet everyone warmly as they gather.

Say: **Today we're going to talk about how ► GOD CARES FOR NEEDY PEOPLE. We've all experienced being in need on some level, whether it was a financial, physical, emotional, social, or spiritual need. I'm going to start by sharing about a situation where I experienced being in need. Then you'll get a chance to share your own experience if you want to.**

Tell about your experience, and then form groups of four. In their groups, have participants share about their own experiences of being in need and how their needs were met. Also have groups discuss these questions.

Ask:

- **Talk about how you saw God differently as a result of your time of need.**
- **Explain whether you think needs in any of those categories (financial, physical, emotional, social, and spiritual) are more or less important than the others.**
- **In which category do you feel the most "needy" now? Explain.**

Allow about 15 minutes for groups to share their experiences and discuss the above questions. Then gather everyone together.

Talk With Adults ■■■■

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

Ask:

- **What were some of the highlights of your group discussion?**
- **What's it like when we have great needs that aren't being met?**
- **If God cares for needy people, why are there people in need at all?**

Say: **We've just shared some difficult situations in which we have had needs. And we've seen how some of those needs were met. Going through times of great need aren't fun, but sometimes they can help us see God more clearly. Today we're going to look at how God used Elisha to help an impoverished widow and her two sons. We'll see how this struggling family learned that ► GOD CARES FOR NEEDY PEOPLE.**



2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Refilled

What You'll Do

Form groups of four or five, and make sure everyone has a Bible. Also distribute index cards and pens. Say: **Let's think of some basic, universal needs. Remember to keep in mind the five categories we discussed earlier: financial, physical, emotional, social, and spiritual. With your group, write as many needs as you can think of with those categories in mind, one need per index card.** Allow about five minutes.

Say: **Now read 2 Kings 4:1-2 aloud with your group. Going through your stack of cards, pull out any needs you can infer weren't being met for the woman, and set them aside.** Allow time.

Have groups discuss the following questions. Participants can find these questions in their Adult Handbooks.

Ask:

- **How would you describe the woman's life at this point?**
- **What do you notice about Elisha's interactions with the woman so far?**

Set the jar in the center of the room. Say: **The woman was at the end of her rope. She'd lost her husband, was in financial ruin, and her creditor was coming to take her sons as slaves. She only had enough food for maybe one meal. There were a lot of basic needs she was lacking. Let's see how God met her in her time of need. Read 2 Kings 4:3-7 with your group. After each sentence, pause and have someone from your group bring up one of your index cards, fold it in half, and put it in the jar.** Allow time. If needed, add more folded index cards so your jar fills up.

Have groups discuss the following questions. Participants can find these questions in their Adult Handbooks.

Ask:

- **Consider the way you usually act and think when you are in need. How are you like or unlike the widow?**
- **What can you tell about God from the way he met the widow's needs?**

Gather everyone back together.

Talk With Adults

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

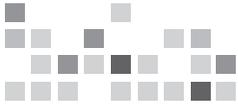
Ask:

- **What discoveries did you make as you read and discussed this passage?**



Refilled Supplies

Bibles
index cards
pens
jar



- If God can make oil multiply, why do people go hungry today?
- How would you describe the widow's attitude toward the way God chose to meet her needs?
- Consider the areas you feel the most need in right now. What is the "oil" you want God to multiply in your life?

Say: We don't really know why God allows some people to go hungry when he had the power to multiply this widow's oil so she could save her family. But we do know that the widow saw God in a way she never would've if she hadn't gone through this time of need. Just when she was at her most hopeless, God showed her his power to provide abundantly for her needs. And God used other people, the widow's neighbors, as part of the process. Let's explore how God can meet our needs and how he might be able to use us when

► **GOD CARES FOR NEEDY PEOPLE.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

God Cares

God Cares Supplies

index cards from the
"Refilled" activity
pens
pitchers of water
cups
bowls

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **God wants us to know that he cares for us in our times of need. Then we can overflow his compassion to help others in need. Let's take some time to pray about that.** Distribute a cup and bowl to each person, and set out the pitchers of water within everyone's reach.

Say: **Look at your dry, empty cup. Hold it as you talk to God about the areas of your life where you feel the greatest need right now. Talk honestly to God about what you're experiencing and how you feel. When you're ready to ask for his help with your needs, grab a pitcher of water and pour into your cup until it overflows into the bowl. Then drink the water and thank God for always showing his love and care in your times of need.** Allow about five minutes for this prayer time.

Say: **We all have needs, but there are people in our community with even more obvious needs. God cares about those. Listen to our Key Verse for today. Read Deuteronomy 10:18 aloud: "He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing" (Deuteronomy 10:18). So how can we show God's care?**

Pull out the index cards from the jar in the "Refilled" activity. Have adults sit in a circle and find partners sitting next to them. Hand each pair one of the index cards and a pen.

Say: **Take a minute to discuss with your partner how you've seen the need on your card reflected in our community. Then write one way someone can help meet that need. Try to think of simple ideas rather than time-consuming commitments. Allow**



a couple of minutes, and then have pairs each pass their card to the right. Repeat the activity, asking pairs to try to think of a new way to help that they will add to what's already written on the card. Continue passing until each pair has discussed four or five cards.

Talk With Adults

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

Ask:

- Which needs stand out to you as the biggest needs in our community?
- Tell about some of the ideas you had or read on the index cards. Which ideas seem like something you could do?
- Think about your prayer and the way God has already met the needs in your life. How does that motivate you to help others who are experiencing needs?
- How can you trust God to meet your own needs this week?

Say: It's true that we've all experienced times of need. But we've also all experienced God meeting needs in our lives. And like the widow's neighbors, we can share what we have with people in need. That's one way to imitate God, because ► **GOD CARES FOR NEEDY PEOPLE.** Let's make a commitment to help someone in need this week.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

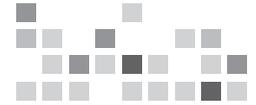
What You'll Do

Say: In this session, we've looked at how ► **GOD CARES FOR NEEDY PEOPLE.** Let's look at how we can show that attitude this week.

Have participants turn to the Daily Challenges section of their Adult Handbooks, or distribute the "Digging Deeper" handouts. Have everyone choose one idea from the "God Cares" activity and write it in the Daily Challenges section as a commitment to act on that idea 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.

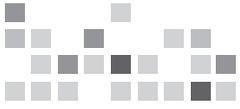
Weaving Faith at Home

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 consider God's care for the needy.



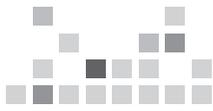
Daily Challenges Supplies

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



Close the group in prayer, asking God for his hand of blessing over the people in your group. Ask God to provide for them as abundantly as he provided for the widow, and to help them find ways to show his care for the needy.





Elisha Helps a Widow and Her Sons—2 Kings 4:1-7

► **Bible Point**—God cares for needy people.

Key Verse—“He [God] defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing” (Deuteronomy 10:18).

DIGGING DEEPER



Daily Challenges

Choose one or more of the ideas from “God Cares” to do this week.

Through the Week

Use the following passages and questions to explore additional biblical insights about God’s care for the needy.

Monday—Jeremiah 49:11

- How does this passage help you think about people in need who no one seems to care about? Is God really telling us to step back and just let him do all the work? Explain.

Tuesday—James 1:27

- Why would these things be the keys to “pure and faultless” religion? Based on this evaluation, how well is your faith showing?

Wednesday—Exodus 22:25-26

- What kind of special treatment do people in need get today? Explain whether you agree or disagree with that kind of special treatment.

Thursday—1 Timothy 6:17-19

- Based on this passage, what is your responsibility to help meet the needs of others? Even if you’re not rich financially, what are some areas where you feel rich? What are the benefits of helping people in need?

Friday—1 Samuel 2:8

- What does this verse mean to you? Why would the poor be given honor? Do you think it’s talking about honor here on earth, or in the future? Explain.

Saturday—Psalm 40:17

- What are the things in your life that make you feel “poor and needy”? How can you rely on God to help you with those things?

Talk Topics

- Discuss why many people today talk as if things are hopeless, as if God doesn’t care about their needs.
- Think about two people who have the same needs; one person is a Christian, the other isn’t. How might each one view the topic of God’s care and the hope it provides?
- What are some things that make it hard for you to believe God really cares for the needy? What things make it obvious that he does?
- Talk about ways God meets people’s needs. What’s the balance between what we do for people and what God does for them?

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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	Elisha Helps a Widow and Her Sons (2 Kings 4:1-7)	"He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing" (Deuteronomy 10:18).	God cares for needy people.
WEEK 2	God Heals Naaman's Leprosy (2 Kings 5:1-16)	"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time" (1 Peter 5:6).	God wants us to be humble.
WEEK 3	Jonah Learns a Lesson (Jonah 1-3)	"The ways of the Lord are right; the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them" (Hosea 14:9).	Following God is always the right choice.
WEEK 4	Jonah Complains About God's Compassion (Jonah 3:10-4:11)	"The Lord is not slow in his promise as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).	God wants us to love everyone.
WEEK 5	God Calls Isaiah (Isaiah 6:1-8)	"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker" (Psalm 95:6).	God is holy.
WEEK 6	Josiah Promises to Follow the Lord (2 Chronicles 34)	"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).	God's Word changes our lives.
WEEK 7	Daniel's Friends Are Safe in the Fiery Furnace (Daniel 3)	"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong" (1 Corinthians 16:13).	Stand strong for God.
WEEK 8	God Protects Daniel in the Lions' Den (Daniel 6:1-23)	"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).	God protects us.
WEEK 9	God Promises to Restore Israel After the Exile (Jeremiah 29:4-14)	"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).	We seek God no matter what happens.
WEEK 10	Nehemiah Seeks God's Forgiveness for Israel (Nehemiah 1:1-2:9)	"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).	We seek God's forgiveness.
WEEK 11	Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall (Nehemiah 2:11-6:19)	"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23).	God helps us face challenges.
WEEK 12	Esther Saves Her People (Esther 2-9)	"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10).	Everyone can serve God.
WEEK 13	Job Remains Faithful in Suffering (Job 1:1-2:10; 42:1-6, 10-17)	"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 brings us hope when we're hurting.

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.

