



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

**WINTER  
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**ADULT  
LEADER GUIDE**

**Group**

Real. Bold. Love.

# FAITHWEAVER

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

**WINTER  
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**ADULT  
LEADER GUIDE**



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**Group**

## 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, Winter

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# Contents

**Introduction** ..... 4

## **The Lessons**

**Lesson 1: Prophets Foretell Jesus’ Coming**—Jeremiah 33:14-16 ..... 5

**Lesson 2: Zechariah Prophecies About Jesus**—Luke 1:68-79 ..... 15

**Lesson 3: John Prepares People for Jesus’ Coming**—Luke 3:7-18 ..... 23

**\*Lesson 4: The Son of God Is Born!**—Luke 1:26-45; 2:1-20 ..... 33

**Lesson 5: Jesus Grows Up**—Luke 2:39-52 ..... 41

**Lesson 6: The Word Became Flesh**—John 1:1-18 ..... 49

**Lesson 7: Satan Tempts Jesus**—Luke 4:1-13 ..... 57

**Lesson 8: Jesus Performs His First Miracle**—John 2:1-11 ..... 65

**Lesson 9: Jesus Teaches in a Synagogue**—Luke 4:14-21 ..... 73

**Lesson 10: Jesus Is Rejected in His Hometown**—Luke 4:22-30 ..... 81

**Lesson 11: Moses and Elijah Appear With Jesus**—Luke 9:28-36 ..... 89

**Lesson 12: Jesus Teaches About Rewards**—Luke 6:17-26 ..... 97

**Lesson 13: Jesus Teaches About Loving Enemies**—Luke 6:27-38 ..... 105

\*We recommend rearranging the lessons so that Lesson 4 aligns with the week of 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 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.



# Prophets Foretell Jesus' Coming

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The adult world of business is filled with promises. In fact, the only way the business world can proceed is through mutual trust among those who give and receive promises. Integrity, or lack of it, will make or break a deal—or a career. Realize that some of your participants may have been “burned” in their workplaces by unscrupulous people who’ve made promises but not delivered on them. Show them that God is different—he always fulfills his promises.



### ► Bible Point

Jesus fulfilled God's promise.

### Key Verse

“All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ‘The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel’—which means, ‘God with us’ ” (Matthew 1:22-23).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Adults will recognize that Jesus fulfilled God's promise and will look for ways God is with them.

LESSON	WHAT ADULTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Disaster Dramas</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Create plots for a new kind of disaster film.	paper, pens	
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Promises? What Promises?</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Explore Old Testament prophecies and their fulfillment in Christ.	Bibles, 1 copy of the “Promises, Promises” handout (at the end of this lesson), scissors	Cut the “Promises, Promises” handout apart so that each Scripture reference is on a separate slip of paper.

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



*Every activity incorporates the FaithWeaver NOW Adult Handbook—make sure each participant has one!*



LESSON	WHAT ADULTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>God With Me—Really?</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Create and visit prayer stations, and discuss what difference God's presence makes in each place.	paper, marker, tape	
<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.*









## Disaster Dramas Supplies

paper  
pens

# 1 GETTING STARTED

## Disaster Dramas

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Greet people warmly as they gather. Begin by quickly brainstorming the names of a few well-known disaster movies of the past decades. Point out that these films—about plane crashes, volcanoes, earthquakes, or meteors, for example—usually emphasize the terrible things that can happen either in nature or because of human error.

Have adults form groups of no more than four. Distribute paper and pens. Ask each group to create a plot for a new kind of disaster film in which dependable laws of nature suddenly go haywire. For example, a group might base its plot on the sun not coming up or the seasons not changing or water not keeping things afloat. Have groups each choose a failed law of nature as the basis for their movie plot. Have them jot down their basic plot points, including the rescue or resolution to the disaster.

Allow about seven minutes for each team to form a movie plot. Then have teams report.

### Talk With Adults ■■■■

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

Ask:

- **Have you ever experienced a “disaster” when something you depended on broke down or went wrong? How did you respond?**
- **In what ways is this similar to experiencing a broken promise?**
- **What kinds of promises do you depend on in your daily life?**

Say: **Today we'll be discussing the prophetic promises of Jesus' entry into human history. We'll be exploring the ways that ► JESUS FULFILLED GOD'S PROMISE, and how he was the rescuer and resolution to the disaster we found ourselves in.**



## 2

 BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

## Promises? What Promises?

### What You'll Do

Point out that the Old Testament contains more than 300 Messianic references that were fulfilled by Jesus. Explain that adults will have the opportunity to check out some of these promises.

Distribute Bibles. Ask three willing adults to each read one of the following passages aloud as others follow along in their own Bibles: today's Scripture, Jeremiah 33:14-16; Isaiah 7:14; the Key Verse, Matthew 1:22-23.

Ask:

- **In what ways does our Key Verse, Matthew 1:22-23, demonstrate a fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies we looked at?**

Randomly distribute the slips you cut out from the "Promises, Promises" handout; make sure that you distribute both the promise slips and the corresponding fulfillment references. Give each adult one slip, and exclude extra slips along with their matches. If you have an uneven number of adults, you can participate so that everyone can be part of a pair. Tell adults to look up the passages and then walk around the room looking for the person whose slip matches up with theirs, a prophecy with a fulfillment.

Once the pairs have found one another, have them talk for a moment about how their prophecies were fulfilled. Then have them find another pair and share with each other about their promise and its fulfillment. Allow time for each pair to share with at least four other pairs.

### Talk With Adults

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

Ask:

- **How important are biblical prophecies of the Messiah?**
- **What advice would you give a new Christian about understanding such prophecies?**
- **What would you say to a critic of Christianity who makes a statement similar to this: "It was easy for Jesus to fulfill prophecies; all he had to do was read the Old Testament and then do what the prophets said the Messiah would do"?**
- **In your opinion, which promise is the most amazing of God's fulfilled promises? Why?**
- **In a general, overall sense, how did Jesus fulfill God's promise?**



### Promises? What Promises? Supplies

Bibles  
1 copy of the "Promises, Promises" handout (at the end of this lesson)  
scissors

### Promises? What Promises? Easy Prep

Cut the "Promises, Promises" handout apart so that each Scripture reference is on a separate slip of paper.



### God With Me—Really? Supplies

paper  
marker  
tape

Say: ► **JESUS FULFILLED GOD'S PROMISE** in Jeremiah to send a Savior. He became God with us. And as we've just discovered, Jesus fulfilled so many of God's promises about the Messiah. We can be confident in who Jesus is because of the prophecies he fulfilled. And we can be confident that he is God with us.

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

### God With Me—Really?

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Our Key Verse, Matthew 1:22-23,** tells us that Jesus was called Immanuel, which means "God with us." What an amazing promise! Jesus is God with us, even today. Let's take a few minutes to brainstorm some areas of our lives where we really need to know God is with us.

Have adults call out ideas, and write each one on a different piece of paper. When you have five or six signs, hang each one on the wall, making sure to spread them apart.

Say: **Pick one area where you most need to feel God's presence, and go to that sign now.** Allow time. Make sure there are at least two people at each sign. Have groups at each sign discuss ways they've seen God in that area already and how they'd like to continue to see God with them. Also have them discuss the difference God's presence makes in that place. After a few minutes of discussion, have groups pray together to experience God's presence in that area.

Then have adults choose a new sign to go to and repeat the discussion and prayer. Repeat until you have about five minutes left for this activity, and then proceed to the discussion questions below.

#### Talk With Adults ■■■■

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

Ask:

- **What are some ways we can live differently knowing that Jesus is the fulfillment of the promise of God's presence?**
- **If you truly seek to live in the promise of God's presence with you through Jesus, how will your life this week look different from last week?**

Say: **Jeremiah prophesied that God would send a Savior. And God didn't send just any Savior to keep that promise—he sent his own Son to be God with us.**

► **JESUS FULFILLED GOD'S PROMISE,** and we can count on him to show us God's presence in our lives.



## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do

Say: In this session, we've seen how ► **JESUS FULFILLED GOD'S PROMISE. Let's think about how Jesus can help us experience God's presence 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 handbook or your Digging Deeper page to further reflect on God's promises this week.

Close with prayer. Pray: **Jesus, thank you that you fulfilled God's promise to be our Savior, God with us. Help us see your presence this week. In your name, amen.**



#### Daily Challenges Supplies

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

## Promises, Promises



Prophetic Promise	Messianic Fulfillment
Isaiah 7:14—Virgin Birth	Luke 1:26-27; 2:7
Micah 5:2—Birthplace	Matthew 2:1
Psalms 72:10—Presented with gifts	Matthew 2:1, 11
Isaiah 40:3—Preceded by a messenger	Luke 1:13, 17
Malachi 3:1—Enters the Temple	Matthew 21:12
Zechariah 9:9—Enters Jerusalem on a donkey	Luke 19:35-37
Psalms 16:10—Resurrection	Mark 16:6
Psalms 68:18a—Ascension	Acts 1:9
Psalms 41:9—Betrayed by a friend	John 13:21, 30
Zechariah 11:12—Sold for 30 pieces of silver	Matthew 26:15
Zechariah 13:7—Forsaken by disciples	Mark 14:50
Psalms 35:11—Accused by false witnesses	Matthew 26:59-61
Psalms 22:16—Hands and feet pierced	Luke 23:33
Isaiah 53:12—Crucified with robbers	Matthew 27:38
Isaiah 53:12—Intercedes for persecutors	Luke 23:34
Psalms 69:4—Hated without cause	John 15:25
Psalms 22:18—Garments parted and lots cast	John 19:23-24
Psalms 69:21—Vinegar offered	Matthew 27:34
Psalms 34:20—Bones not broken	John 19:33
Zechariah 12:10—Side pierced	John 19:34
Amos 8:9—Darkness over land	Matthew 27:45
Isaiah 53:9—Buried in rich man's grave	Matthew 27:57-60



**Prophets Foretell Jesus' Coming**—Jeremiah 33:14-16

► **Bible Point**—Jesus fulfilled God's promise.

**Key Verse**—"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel'—which means, 'God with us' " (Matthew 1:22-23).

## DIGGING DEEPER

## Daily Challenges

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

- **Look up all of the promises on the "Promises, Promises" page in the back of your Adult Handbook. Thank God for keeping his promises by sending Jesus.**
- **Sing at least one Christmas carol a day to celebrate the gift of God's Son.**
- **Look for evidence of God with you this week. Thank Jesus for fulfilling God's promise and being his presence here on earth.**

## Through the Week

Use the following passages and questions to explore additional biblical insights about God's promises.

### Monday—Philippians 4:19

- **What does this promise mean to you right now? Why do you or don't you believe God is keeping it for you?**

### Tuesday—2 Corinthians 12:9

- **What does this promise mean to you right now? Why do you or don't you believe God is keeping it for you?**

### Wednesday—1 Corinthians 10:13

- **What does this promise mean to you right now? Why do you or don't you believe God is keeping it for you?**

### Thursday—Romans 8:28

- **What does this promise mean to you right now? Why do you or don't you believe God is keeping it for you?**

### Friday—John 10:28

- **What does this promise mean to you right now? Why do you or don't you believe God is keeping it for you?**

### Saturday—Hebrews 13:5

- **What does this promise mean to you right now? Why do you or don't you believe God is keeping it for you?**

## Talk Topics

- **What does it mean to you to believe—or to doubt—God's promises?**
- **Talk about a time someone kept an important promise to you.**
- **Talk about how God's promises are trustworthy.**
- **Discuss ways you can remember that God is with you every day.**

**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:*

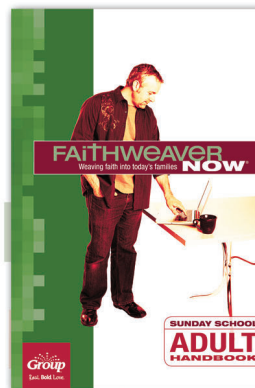
	BIBLE CONTENT/SCRIPTURE	KEY VERSE	BIBLE POINT
WEEK 1	Prophets Foretell Jesus' Coming (Jeremiah 33:14-16)	"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel'—which means, 'God with us'" (Matthew 1:22-23).	Jesus fulfilled God's promise.
WEEK 2	Zechariah Prophesies About Jesus (Luke 1:68-79)	"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him" (John 3:17).	The world needs Jesus.
WEEK 3	John Prepares People for Jesus' Coming (Luke 3:7-18)	"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).	Repenting prepares us for Jesus.
WEEK 4	The Son of God Is Born! (Luke 1:26-45; 2:1-20)	"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).	Celebrate Jesus' birth.
WEEK 5	Jesus Grows Up (Luke 2:39-52)	"I and the Father are one" (John 10:30).	Jesus is special.
WEEK 6	The Word Became Flesh (John 1:1-18)	"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).	We can be God's children.
WEEK 7	Satan Tempts Jesus (Luke 4:1-13)	"Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted" (Hebrews 2:18).	Jesus helps us resist temptation.
WEEK 8	Jesus Performs His First Miracle (John 2:1-11)	"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31).	Jesus can do miracles.
WEEK 9	Jesus Teaches in a Synagogue (Luke 4:14-21)	"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost" (Luke 19:10).	Jesus came for all people.
WEEK 10	Jesus Is Rejected in His Hometown (Luke 4:22-30)	"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:5).	Believe in Jesus.
WEEK 11	Moses and Elijah Appear With Jesus (Luke 9:28-36)	"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).	Jesus is God's Son.
WEEK 12	Jesus Teaches About Rewards (Luke 6:17-26)	"Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things" (Colossians 3:2).	Jesus blesses people who have faith.
WEEK 13	Jesus Teaches About Loving Enemies (Luke 6:27-38)	"Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31).	Jesus says to treat others as we want to be treated.

**PLUS...**

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

