



FAITHWEAVER

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



**SUMMER
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**GRADES 3 & 4
TEACHER GUIDE**

Group

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

**SUMMER
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**GRADES 3&4
TEACHER GUIDE**



YOUR ACTIVATION CODE IS NOW LOCATED INSIDE THE TEACHER PACK!

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

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

group.com/sunday-school

We know you care about kids...

We do, too!

That's why we attempt to ensure that all crafts, toys, and gizmos meet or exceed national safety standards—and are produced by manufacturers that don't use child labor or abuse their labor force. You can order Group resources knowing that in addition to caring for *your* kids, you're also caring for children elsewhere.

Let's keep kids safe!

We strive to provide products that are mechanically reliable and hold together during normal, intended usage. Items are also checked for flammability, and both paint and surface coatings are checked for heavy metals—including lead.

You can help your children stay safe by seeing that toys and gizmos are used as designed, for the purposes designed, and that any broken pieces are disposed of promptly and properly. We value your feedback. If you become aware of a problem affecting the safety of any of our products, please inform us immediately.

FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Grades 3 & 4, Summer

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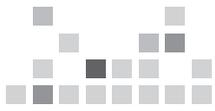
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The future of Sunday school + family ministry is NOW.



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.

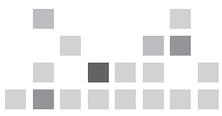


Create a vibrant family ministry that's new...that's wow...that's NOW. FaithWeaver NOW gives you a fresh strategy for being more successful than ever in bringing families closer to Jesus.

Thom Schultz Joani Schultz

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

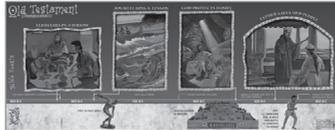


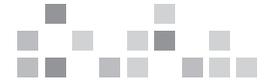


Elisha Helps a Widow and Her Sons

2 Kings 4:1-7

Third- and fourth-graders want things to be fair, and they may have a hard time accepting that some people are in great need while others have way more than they need. Use this lesson to help kids understand that God was in control of the entire situation involving Elisha and the widow and that God worked through people to care for the widow, just as he works through people to care for those in need today.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Trading Places <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Trade shoes with a partner and perform different actions.	a box of plastic baggies in a size big enough to cover kids' feet	
2 Bible Exploration	Mr. Nice Guy <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Make their own clay jars, and act out today's Bible passage in a dubbed, foreign-movie style.	Bibles, CD player, 1 small paper cup per child, modeling clay, markers, bottle of vegetable oil (optional) Teacher Pack: CD, Bible Timeline 	



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

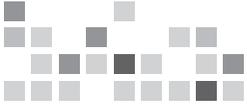
Key Verse
"He [God] defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing" (Deuteronomy 10:18).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will extend God's care to others by caring for someone in need in a specific way.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>3</p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>God Will Meet My Needs <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Write their needs and place the lists in the jars they made earlier, and sing a song about God's goodness.</p>	<p>CD player, jars made in previous activity, 1-inch strips of paper (3 per child), scissors, pens, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
	<p>Caring Acts <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Draw or write one way they will care for someone this week.</p>	<p>Bible Truth Sleuth, pens or markers</p>	<p>Tear out the Lesson 1 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.</p>
	<p>Alien Ideas <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and brainstorm caring acts.</p>	<p>Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, tape, pens, 1 pad of sticky notes per 2 children Teacher Pack: "Alien Love" poster</p> 	
<p>4</p> <p>Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Commit to caring for someone in need in a specific way.</p>	<p>Bible Truth Sleuth</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>	<p>Bible Truth Sleuth</p>	<p>Tear out the letter to parents from the back of each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.</p>





Trading Places Supplies

a box of plastic baggies
in a size big enough to
cover kids' feet

1

GETTING STARTED

Trading Places

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Say: **Sometimes people say things like “I’d hate to be in his shoes” or “I wonder what it’s like to walk in her shoes.” What that means is that we understand other people better when we live like them—even if only briefly. But for now, we’re going to discover what it’s like to be in someone else’s shoes—literally!**

Ask kids to each find a partner and trade shoes with that person. If kids aren’t wearing socks, give them plastic baggies to put on their feet instead. Tell kids not to worry if the shoes don’t fit, but tell them not to force their feet all the way into shoes that don’t quite fit. Kids can still play the game without the shoes completely on their feet. Help kids line up on one side of the room and place their partners’ shoes on their own feet. Ask kids to walk backward to the other side of the room and back. Have kids repeat this several times and perform different actions each time, such as skipping, clapping their hands while walking, or hopping on one foot.

After kids have made two or three trips across the room and back, have them return their partners’ shoes.

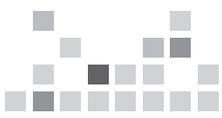
Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was it like to walk across the room in your partner’s shoes instead of your own?**
- **If you were to trade places for a day in the life of your partner, what do you think it would be like?**
- **Who (outside of our group) would you not want to trade places with or “walk in that person’s shoes”? Why?**

Say: **Sometimes people go through hard things in their lives, and we wouldn’t want to be in their shoes. But God will always be there for people no matter what they’re going through. God often uses people to help other people in need. Today we’re going to see how God used the prophet Elisha to help some people in need. Let’s learn about this Bible passage as we discover how ► GOD CARES FOR NEEDY PEOPLE.**



2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Mr. Nice Guy

What You'll Do

Say: **In today's Bible passage, jars play an important role. So before we look at our Bible passage, let's make our own jars to use during our time together today.**

Give each child a small paper cup, and have kids write their names on the bottoms of the cups with markers so they'll be sure to get their own cups back later in the lesson.

Then give each person enough modeling clay to make a "rope" to coil around the cup. Have each child roll the modeling clay into a long rope. Then show kids how to wrap the clay around their paper cups until they've covered the cups.

Gather kids in a circle on the floor, and have each child hold his or her jar.

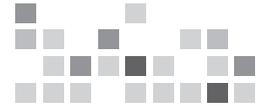
Say: **We all need God in our lives, no matter who we are or where we live. ► GOD CARES FOR NEEDY PEOPLE. But not everyone knows that God cares for him or her. God can use people like you and me to share God's love with those living in really hard times. Let's see how God used Elisha to help a widow in need.**

Show kids the "Elisha Helps a Widow" picture on the Bible Timeline, and after making sure everyone has a Bible, ask them to open their Bibles to 2 Kings 4:6 and have them follow along as you read the verse.

Ask one child to be the widow, another child to be Elisha, and two others to be the widow's sons. The rest of the group will be the widow's neighbors. Explain to the actors that they will act along with the CD as it plays, moving their mouths with the voices in the style of a dubbed foreign movie in which the mouth movements don't match the spoken words. It would be best if you demonstrate this before beginning the activity.

Play a small portion of the "Mr. Nice Guy" segment (track 2 on the CD), and really ham it up. Get kids laughing! Let kids see that they can have fun with their roles. Then, restart the CD at the beginning of the track, and encourage the actors to listen for their roles.

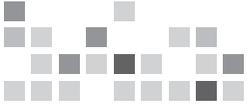
At the appropriate time in the track, have the widow and her sons walk all around the circle collecting the jars from each of the children in the circle and placing them in the middle of the circle. Optionally, provide a plastic bottle of vegetable oil with the lid screwed on tightly for the widow to use as a prop.



Mr. Nice Guy Supplies

- Bibles
- CD player
- 1 small paper cup per child
- modeling clay
- markers
- bottle of vegetable oil (optional)
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Mr. Nice Guy" (track 2)
- Bible Timeline





Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What can you learn about God as you think about your role in acting out this Bible passage?
- What does this Bible passage tell about how God cares for people in need?
- Think about how God used others to care for the widow in need. What might that look like today?

Say: Sometimes people find themselves in desperate situations as the widow did. She knew she needed to pay her debts, but she didn't have any money. God used Elisha and her neighbors to care for her in her tough situation. ► **GOD CARES FOR NEEDY PEOPLE.** And one way he cares for others is through us. God wants us to help one another the way Elisha helped the widow.

Let's make something to help us understand that God always cares for needy people, no matter what the needs are.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

God Will Meet My Needs

What You'll Do

Have kids get the jars they made earlier. Then give each child three strips of paper and a pen.

Say: **God continues to care about our individual needs. Take a minute to think about needs you may have. They can be things you've been struggling with for a while or something that's just come up. They can be really big problems or just little things that are bugging you. For example, maybe you need someone to help your family get along. Or maybe you need someone to listen to you when you're sad. When you've thought of your needs, write each need on a separate slip of paper.**

Give kids a few minutes to think of their needs and write them down, and play "He Is Good" (Nahum 1:7) (track 3 on the CD) while kids work.

Have kids form pairs and pray for each other's needs. After they've finished praying, remind them to pray at home, too.

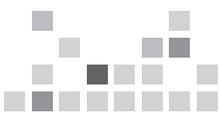
Say: **Fold your slips of paper, and place them inside your jar. Take them home today as a reminder of how God took care of the widow's needs by providing oil to fill all the jars she'd gathered—and how God will take care of your needs, too! Anytime**

God Will Meet My Needs Supplies

CD player
jars made in previous activity
1-inch strips of paper (3 per child)
scissors
pens
copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson)

Teacher Pack

CD: "He Is Good" (Nahum 1:7) (track 3)



you have a need, write the need on a slip of paper, and place it in your jar. When you place your written need in the jar, pray that God will show you how he'll meet your need.

Have kids fold their slips of paper and place them in their jars.

Say: God is good and we can count on him to meet our needs. Let's listen to a song that talks about how God is good.

Pass out copies of the lyrics, and play "He Is Good" (Nahum 1:7) (track 3 on the CD). After they listen once, have kids sing along and do the motions if they're comfortable doing so.



(Verse)

The Lord is good, (point finger to heaven)
A refuge in times of trouble. (arms over head like an "O")
He cares for those who trust in him. (clasp hands in prayer)
The Lord is good, (point finger to heaven)
A refuge in times of trouble. (arms over head like an "O")
He cares for those who trust in him. (clasp hands in prayer)

(Chorus)

The Lord is good, good, good, good, good. (point finger to heaven)
He's good, good, good, good, good. (point finger to heaven)
He's good, good, good, good, good. (point finger to heaven)
He's good, good, good, good, good. (point finger to heaven)

(Repeat from the beginning; then repeat from the beginning again, singing verse and chorus simultaneously.)

He's good.

"He Is Good" (Nahum 1:7) by Jay Stocker. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

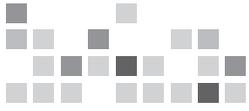
Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was it like to list your needs and have someone pray for your needs?**
- **When you need something, how quick are you to bring God your needs?**
- **How can you know God cares about your needs?**

Say: We know that ► GOD CARES FOR NEEDY PEOPLE. God is good because he meets the needs of desperate widows like the one in the Bible as well as desperately needy people today. Let's see how we can share that truth with others.





Caring Acts Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth
pens or markers

Caring Acts Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 1
pages from each Bible
Truth Sleuth student
book.

Alien Ideas Supplies

Bibles
Bible Truth Sleuth
tape
pens
1 pad of sticky notes
per 2 children

Teacher Pack

“Alien Love” poster

Caring Acts

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **God can use us in many ways to care for people in need everywhere. We can save allowance money to send to various organizations that provide clothes and food for those in need. We can donate clothes to those who need clothing. We can help serve meals at a soup kitchen. Maybe when you get older you'll want to be a missionary and travel to tell people in need about God's love. You can do many things for God to care for those in need.**

Distribute today's Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids find the “My Caring Act” section. Have kids draw a picture or write about one thing they'll do this week to care for someone in need—whether it's caring for someone in a country far away or someone in their very own neighborhood or home.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What are some of the things you'll do to help people who are in need?**
- **What are other ways you've seen people help those in need?**

Say: **We know that ► GOD CARES FOR NEEDY PEOPLE. We saw that today in our Bible passage when God met the needs of the widow and her sons through the prophet Elisha. God can use us like he used Elisha to care for needy people.**

Alien Ideas

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

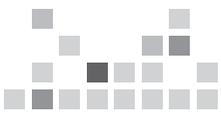
Open your Bible to Deuteronomy 10:18, and read the verse aloud: **“He [God] defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing” (Deuteronomy 10:18).** Have kids repeat the verse with you several times.

Ask:

- **What do you think it means that God “defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow”?**
- **Who do you think an “alien” is?**
- **Why is giving an alien food and clothing important?**

Say: **An alien is someone who's not in his or her own home. This person probably feels out of place and uncomfortable. God wants aliens to be loved and cared for. Let's take a look at what we can do to help aliens feel that way.**

Tape the “Alien Love” poster where everyone can see it. Help kids form pairs, and direct them to turn to the “Alien Love” section on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages. Have them



look at the pictures on the poster and discuss in their pairs ways God can use each of us to care for the people in need. Instruct kids to write their ideas on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages during their discussions. While kids are discussing, give each pair a pad of sticky notes. When kids have finished discussing,

Say: **With your partner, write on your sticky notes the ideas you came up with. Write one idea on each sticky note. When you've finished writing, come up to the poster with your partner and stick your ideas all over the poster. When you've all finished sticking your ideas to the poster, we'll see what kind of impact we can make on the world.**

Give kids time to work and put their sticky notes on the poster.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What feelings do the pictures on the poster bring out in you? Explain.**
- **What are your thoughts as you look at the sticky notes and think about the kind of impact we can have on the lives of people in need?**
- **If you were to dream big, what would you want our church to accomplish to help needy people?**

Say: ► **GOD CARES FOR NEEDY PEOPLE.** Our Key Verse reminds us of that: the widows, the fatherless, and the aliens, like the widow in our Bible passage. The people on our poster are aliens because they don't have a home. You came up with lots of great ideas to fill our poster. Can you imagine how much caring could happen if we just did the things we wrote down? God's caring can stretch to a lot of people in need!

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

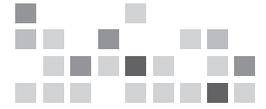
Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how ► GOD CARES FOR NEEDY PEOPLE this week.**

Tell kids that their Daily Challenge this week will be to follow through with the action they chose to do on the "My Caring Act" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages.

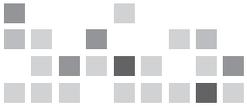
Be sure to commit to a specific act as well, and tell kids what you've decided to do. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.



Daily Challenges
Supplies

.....
Bible Truth Sleuth





Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

.....
Bible Truth Sleuth

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

.....
Tear out the letter to parents from the back of each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Share a time, a place, or other ideas.** Allow time.

Say: ► **GOD CARES FOR NEEDY PEOPLE.** The way God cared for the widow in the Bible shows us that every need is important to God. Let's show God that we care for people too by following through with our Daily Challenges.

Weaving Faith at Home

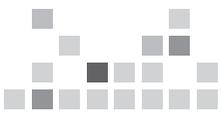
Send the letter to parents home with your kids or give it to parents when they pick up their children. This is a great way to show families they're important to your church and to support their role as spiritual leaders to their children.

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the commitment they made to caring for someone in need in a specific way and what they learned about God's care of needy people. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

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

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God for caring about people in need and asking him to help us find ways to show God's love to people in need.





Lyrics ■■■■

He Is Good (Nahum 1:7)

(Verse)

The Lord is good,
A refuge in times of trouble.
He cares for those who trust in him.
The Lord is good,
A refuge in times of trouble.
He cares for those who trust in him.

(Chorus)

The Lord is good, good, good, good, good.
He's good, good, good, good, good.
He's good, good, good, good, good.
He's good, good, good, good, good.

(Repeat from the beginning; then repeat from the beginning again, singing verse and chorus simultaneously.)

He's good.

"He Is Good" (Nahum 1:7) by Jay Stocker. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



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:

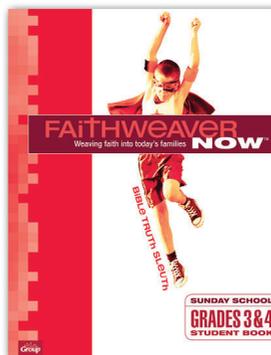
	BIBLE CONTENT/SCRIPTURE	KEY VERSE	BIBLE POINT
WEEK 1	Elisha Helps a Widow and Her Sons (2 Kings 4:1-7)	"He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing" (Deuteronomy 10:18).	God cares for needy people.
WEEK 2	God Heals Naaman's Leprosy (2 Kings 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 keeping 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.

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