

FAITHVEAVER Weaving faith into today's families Weaving faith into today's families



WINTER SUNDAY SCHOOL

GRADES 3&4



FAITHVEAVER Weaving faith into today's families Now **

WINTER SUNDAY SCHOOL

GRADES 3&4
TEACHER GUIDE





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

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, Winter

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^{*} Due to the way Christmas falls, we recommend moving the lessons as needed to line up Lesson 3 with the week of Christmas.

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The future of Sunday school + family ministry is NOW.



o 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 point 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 Achults Voin Schulte

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



Solomon Tells of Jesus' Coming

Psalm 72:1-19

hird- and fourth-graders can point fingers and blame others quite easily. Because of this, they often need a mediator. They may be unfamiliar with the term, but they'll know the concept. You can use this lesson to help kids understand that Jesus, being righteous and just, is the perfect mediator between us and God.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
Getting Started	To the Other Side (about 10 min.) Try to find a mediator to help them get to the other side of the room.	bag of individually wrapped candies	
2 Bible Exploration	Righteous and Just (about 20 min.) Study each section of the Bible passage to learn what it means to be righteous and just.	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, pens, markers, blue tissue paper, sand, glue Teacher Pack: "Bowing King" stickers	Tear out the Lesson 1 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.



►Bible Point
Jesus does great things.

Key Verse
"For there is one God
and one mediator
between God and men,
the man Christ Jesus"
(1 Timothy 2:5).

Weaving Faith Into Life Kids will seek Jesus' help for challenges in their lives.

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LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3	The Perfect Mediator (about 15 min.) Learn how Jesus is the perfect mediator.	Bibles	
Weaving Faith Into Life	What Would Jesus Do? (about 15 min.) Consider how Jesus can be a mediator in various situations.	CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD, "What Would Jesus Do?" poster, "Jesus" stickers	Myos Monty Jesus Do.
4	Daily Challenges (about 5 min.) Commit to praying about a situation they need Jesus to mediate.		
Lasting Impressions	Weaving Faith at Home (about 2 min.) Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	Bible Truth Sleuth	Tear out the letter to parents from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.



Solomon Tells of Jesus' Coming

Psalm 72:1-19



Writing Psalm 72

Some believe that Psalm 72 was written about Solomon and not by him. It is true that some elements of the psalm could well describe Solomon, but many elements describe a king whose actions go far beyond Solomon's capabilities. The early church believed that this psalm was written as a prayer for a king to come in the line of David and Solomon: the Messiah, Jesus. That's the approach taken in today's lesson.

The Psalmist Points Beyond Himself

Some elements of the psalm could indeed describe Solomon. He judged righteously and with great wisdom, as illustrated in the story of the two women who each claimed to be the mother of the same infant (1 Kings 3:16-28). He reigned over a prosperous kingdom, the wealthiest in Israel's history. He expanded the boundaries of the kingdom to encompass more territory than ever before. And he was sought by the queen of Sheba, who came to him bearing gifts.

However, much of this psalm points directly to the Messiah. Only Jesus' kingdom will truly extend to the ends of the earth (Psalm 72:8), and only to Jesus will all rulers eventually bow down (Psalm 72:11). There isn't a lot of biblical evidence that Solomon cared for the needy and afflicted (Psalm 72:12-14), but Jesus' life and ministry were characterized by such caring. And while the statement that all nations would be blessed through him (Psalm 72:17) could possibly refer to Solomon indirectly, it definitely refers to Jesus.

The Works of the Messiah

If Jesus is indeed the subject of Psalm 72, it is easy to answer the question: What does Jesus do? Jesus does amazing things for us! He takes care of the needy and their children, and he defeats oppressors (Psalm 72:4, 12-14). He lives forever, despite the fact that he died on the cross for us (Psalm 72:5). When he returns, Jesus will reign over the entire earth (Psalm 72:8). Surely he deserves from us the same kind of praise and honor given in verses 18 and 19!

The Jesus Connection

We've learned about many different facets of Jesus' life and ministry on earth. But let's never forget what Jesus has done for us. He is worthy of all our praise for that alone.

What's the first thing that comes to mind when you think about Jesus?

Who is Jesus to you? A teacher...a minister...a

last one—savior. Spend two minutes prayerfully considering how Jesus is your Savior. You can write your prayer here.
your prayer nere.

Grades 3 & 4 Lesson 1

Winter Quarter



To the Other Side Supplies

bag of individually wrapped candies





To the Other Side

What You'll Do

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

Have kids stand shoulder to shoulder and form a single row across the middle of the room. Ask for two willing children. Send the willing children to opposite sides of the room, with the row of kids forming a wall between them. Give a bag of treats to one of the children at an end of the room.

To the child at the end of the room without the treats, say: The object of the game is for you to get to the other side of the room to the person with the treats. But you must find someone to help you get through to the other person. The person who will help you is the "Mediator." A mediator is a person who helps two other people solve a problem. To find the Mediator, you'll ask someone in the row whether you can get through. If the person says, "No, I'm not the Mediator," you must trade places with that person, and he or she will try to get through by asking someone else. The game is over when someone finds the Mediator and is able to get through the wall.

Walk up to each child in the row, and whisper in his or her ear. To one child whisper, "You are the Mediator." To all of the others, whisper, "You are not the Mediator."

Begin the game, and have kids play until someone finds the Mediator. If you have time, play several times with different Mediators and different people holding the treats. Then have kids sit together in a large group and enjoy their treats as you ask the following questions:

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like when you couldn't get to the person with the treats?
- When have you needed someone as a mediator to help you solve a problem?
- What are some reasons we might need a mediator to help us connect with God?

Say: All of us want to hear and talk to God. But to do that, we need a mediator, or someone who will help us hear God and talk to him. Today we're going to learn more about how Jesus is a mediator between God and us, providing a way for us to communicate with God. We'll learn what a mediator is and how his role as mediator is just one of many ways that ▶ JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS.

Winter Quarter

Lesson 1

Grades 3 & 4







Righteous and Just

What You'll Do

Have kids open their Bibles to Psalm 72:1-4, and ask willing children to each read a verse of the passage aloud to the group.

Say: This is the beginning of a psalm that describes Jesus as righteous and just and tells us some of the things he will do when he returns. To be righteous and just means to do what's right and fair according to God's rules and laws.

Ask:

Tell about some people you expect to be righteous and just.

Have kids turn to the "Righteous and Just" activity in Lesson 1 on their Bible Truth Sleuth page. Ask willing children to read aloud Psalm 72:5-7 to the group.

Say: Look at the picture at the top of your Bible Truth Sleuth page.

Ask:

What do the line of people, the star, the moon, the planet, and the hard candy have in common? Allow time for responses.

Say: All of these things are considered "long lasting." Even the long line of kids waiting to ride the roller coaster seems to last forever when you're in the line! Psalm 72:5 tells us that Jesus will "endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations." That's a long time! Turn to a partner and share with him or her something that you think is long lasting. Then add that thing to the top picture on your Bible Truth Sleuth page.

Have pens and markers available, and give kids several minutes to draw. Then ask a willing child to read aloud Psalm 72:8-11.

Say: Look at the second picture on your Bible Truth Sleuth page. The verses you've just heard tell us that Jesus "will rule from sea to sea." You're going to create a picture of "sea to sea."

Have children place some glue in the center of the picture and then sprinkle a little sand onto the page. After they've finished this, have them place some glue on both sides of the sand and add small pieces of blue tissue paper to each side. They may want to crumple the tissue paper so it looks like ocean waves.

Next, have everyone place a "Bowing King" sticker on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages on the middle picture so that the king bows to the face of Jesus.



Righteous and Just Supplies

Bibles
Bible Truth Sleuth
pens
markers
blue tissue paper
sand
glue
Teacher Pack
"Bowing King" stickers

Righteous and Just Easy Prep

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



Say: This part of the Bible passage tells us that Jesus will rule from sea to sea and that kings will bow down and nations will serve him.

Let's take a look at the next part of the Bible passage to see what Jesus does for people.

Ask for willing children to read aloud Psalm 72:12-14. Have kids look at the third picture on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages. Inside the basket, have kids draw pictures of things they think people who are poor would need.

Ask:

- What do these verses say Jesus will do?
- How do you think Jesus can help you?

Say: The next verses praise Jesus for the things he does. Let's read them together as our praise to Jesus.

Have kids turn to Psalm 72:15-19 and read the verses aloud together.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Looking over your Bible Truth Sleuth pages, what things stand out to you as great things Jesus does?
- Why is it sometimes hard to wait patiently for great things from Jesus?
- What great things has Jesus already done in your life?

Say: These verses tell us many things that Jesus will do for the whole world when he comes. In these verses, Solomon told of Jesus' coming hundreds of years before it actually happened. Jesus does great things for the whole world. And

JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS for us.



WEAVING FAITH

INTO LIFE

The Perfect Mediator Supplies

Bibles

The Perfect Mediator

What You'll Do

Have kids turn in their Bibles to 1 Timothy 2:5, and read the verse aloud together: "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

Say: This verse tells us that Jesus is a mediator. We're going to play a game to help us understand a little better what a mediator is.

Winter Quarter

Lesson 1

Grades 3 & 4



Have kids form trios. Send one child from each trio to one side of your room. These children will be the "Ones." Send the other two from each group to the other side of the room. Have them decide who will be the "Twos" and who will be the "Threes."

First, give direction to the Ones, speaking quietly so the other group can't hear.

Say: You're going to send a message to your teammates, asking them to perform a certain task like standing on one foot, raising their arms in the air, spinning around three times, or something like that. But there is a slight catch. You may only whisper your message, and you can't use body motions.

Go over and speak to the Twos and Threes.

Say: Twos, your teammate over there will give you a command. You'll have to listen very closely. You can't go over to him or her; you have to stand right where you are. Threes, you'll stand with the Twos and try to help them figure out what they're supposed to do. Go!

Make sure kids aren't "whispering" so loudly that they can be heard. Encourage them to really whisper. The object is for their teammates to hear them whisper but not understand what they are saying. Have all the Ones whisper quietly while trying to get the Twos to perform specific actions. After a minute, have the Ones stop whispering.

Say: We're going to play again, but this time the Threes can run over to the Ones and listen to the instructions for the Twos. Then the Threes will run back to the Twos and tell them what to do. Let's go!

Have the Ones begin whispering their commands again, and have the Threes run over to them to get the commands. Then have the Threes run back to the Twos and tell the Twos what they're supposed to do. When all kids are performing their actions, have them stop and sit down.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Ones, why was it hard to get the Twos to do what you wanted?
- Twos and Threes, why was it hard to know what you were supposed to do?
- Why was it easier to know what to do the second time we played?
- How was the communication in the game like Jesus helping us hear from and talk to God?

Say: Mediators help two people communicate with each other when they wouldn't normally be able to. Jesus is our mediator with God because he's perfect and we aren't. If we didn't have Jesus as our mediator, it would be like us trying to hear God whispering to us. Jesus makes it possible for us to see what God is like and have a relationship with God. Jesus showed us how to obey God because he lived it out in front of people!

JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS for us, and his role as mediator is one of the greatest things he does for us!



What Would Jesus Do? Supplies

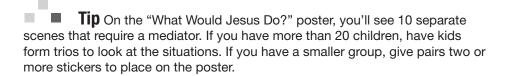
CD player copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson)

Teacher Pack

CD: "Jesus Is All the World to Me" (track 2) "What Would Jesus Do?" poster "Jesus" stickers

What Would Jesus Do?

What You'll Do



Give kids a chance to study the poster up close, and then have them sit down.

Ask:

- What are some of the things you see on this poster that require someone to help?
- How do you think someone could help in some of these situations?

Have kids find partners and again look at the poster. Ask them to discuss the situations in which they think people need Jesus. Then have each person place a sticker of Jesus on each of those spots on the poster.

Say: JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS. And one of those great things is to help people resolve problems like the ones shown on this poster. Look at the poster with your partner again. Think about one of these things that's like something that happens in your life. Maybe you have trouble sharing with your sister, or you fight a lot with your brother. Maybe you can't seem to get along with your friend when you play basketball. Find something on the poster that reminds you of a situation in your life; then tell your partner how you'll work hard to get along with a person in that situation. Allow time.

Say: Jesus wants us to let him do great things in our lives. Let's sing a song about that now.

Pass out copies of the lyrics, and play "Jesus Is All the World to Me" (track 2 on the CD). After they listen once, have kids sing along and do the motions.

Jesus is all the world to me: (raise hands)
My life, my joy, my all. (hug yourself)
He is my strength from day to day; (flex arm muscles)
Without him I would fall. (arms fall to side)
When I am sad, to him I go. (sad face)
No other one can cheer me so. (happy face)
When I am sad, (sad face)
He makes me glad; (happy face)
He's my friend. (hug yourself)

(Repeat 2x.)

Winter Quarter

Lesson 1

Grades 3 & 4

[&]quot;Jesus Is All the World to Me" by Will L. Thompson.



Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What made you decide to put your stickers where you put them on the poster?
- How do you know when you need Jesus to step in and help with your problems?
- How have you experienced some of the great things Jesus does that we sang about?
- What are ways that Jesus can do great things in your life?

Say: Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, King Solomon predicted the kinds of great things Jesus would do. Jesus is still doing great things, and wants to help us. I encourage you to believe and trust that ▶ JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS.



ASTING

IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: Let's think about how we can see how JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS this week. Instead of choosing a Daily Challenge, think of a situation that you need Jesus to mediate for you. Turn to a partner and share that situation with each other. Make a commitment to praying for the situation your partner tells you about.

Give kids time to make their commitments, and then ask them to pray silently for each other to follow through on this Daily Challenge this week. Have kids pray specifically for the commitments they made.

Make sure you make a commitment to pray for a situation, and tell the kids about the situation you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids

Ask:

■ What's a practical way you're going to do your act of kindness? Share a time, a place, or other ideas. Allow time.

Say: > JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS. One of the great things he does to help us is to be a mediator in the tough challenges of our lives. But we have to be open to letting him work in our lives. Let's follow through with our Daily Challenge as a way to letting Jesus do great things in our lives.





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.

Weaving Faith at Home

Send the parent letters home with your kids or give them 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 pray about a situation they need Jesus to mediate and what they learned about how Jesus does great things. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth page 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 that Jesus helps us resolve problems with others and that we can talk to each other and listen to each other because of him.





Lyrics

Jesus Is All the World to Me

Jesus is all the world to me:
My life, my joy, my all.
He is my strength from day to day;
Without him I would fall.
When I am sad, to him I go.
No other one can cheer me so.
When I am sad,
He makes me glad;
He's my friend.

(Repeat 2x.)





[&]quot;Jesus Is All the World to Me" by Will L. Thompson.



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.

WINTER SUNDAY SCHOOL GRADES 384

This quarter you'll explore these Bible passages:

	BIBLE CONTENT/SCRIPTURE	KEY VERSE	BIBLE POINT
WEEK 1	Solomon Tells of Jesus' Coming (Psalm 72:1-19)	"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5).	Jesus does great things.
WEEK 2	An Angel Appears to Joseph (Isaiah 7:13-14; Matthew 1:18-25)	"'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).	Trust God's plans.
*WEEK 3	Jesus Is Born (Luke 2:1-20; Hebrews 1:1-4)	"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me'" (John 14:6).	Jesus was born to be our Savior.
WEEK 4	Foreign Visitors Worship Jesus (Matthew 2:1-12)	"For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved'" (Romans 10:12-13).	Anyone can worship Jesus.
WEEK 5	Joseph Takes His Family to Safety in Egypt (Matthew 2:13-23)	"The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him" (Nahum 1:7).	God guides us.
WEEK 6	Jesus Is Baptized (Matthew 3:13-17)	"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).	Jesus is God's Son.
WEEK 7	Peter and Andrew Meet Jesus (John 1:35-42)	"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).	Jesus is our friend.
WEEK 8	News About Jesus Spreads (Matthew 4:12-25)	"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).	Jesus wants everyone to follow him.
WEEK 9	Jesus Gives the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12)	"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things" (Philippians 4:8).	God blesses us when we choose his ways.
WEEK 10	Jesus Teaches That We Are to Be Salt and Light (Matthew 5:13-16)	"In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).	Help others see Jesus.
WEEK 11	Jesus Walks on Water (Matthew 14:22-33)	"If we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself" (2 Timothy 2:13).	Jesus helps us believe.
WEEK 12	Zacchaeus Climbs a Tree to See Jesus (Luke 19:1-10)	"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20).	Jesus accepts everyone.
WEEK 13	Jesus Blesses the Children (Mark 10:13-16)	"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Mark 10:14).	Everyone is important to Jesus.

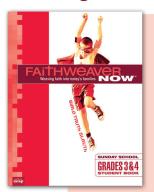
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PLUS...

Access all these FREE FaithWeaver NOW digital resources at group.com/digital:

- FREE digital copies of Teacher Guides in PDF format so you can easily download any lesson for your ministry. Sharing lessons with busy volunteers couldn't be easier! Look inside kit box 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...



- *Get a colorful, ageappropriate student book for every child! Each week, you'll get...
- Engaging activities that bring the Bible to life for every child
- Easy faith conversationstarters for kids to take home
- Meaningful at-home activities for families to dig into Scripture

*You'll need one per child. Sold separately.



THIS IS A SAMPLE The number of pages is limited.

Purchase the item for the complete version.