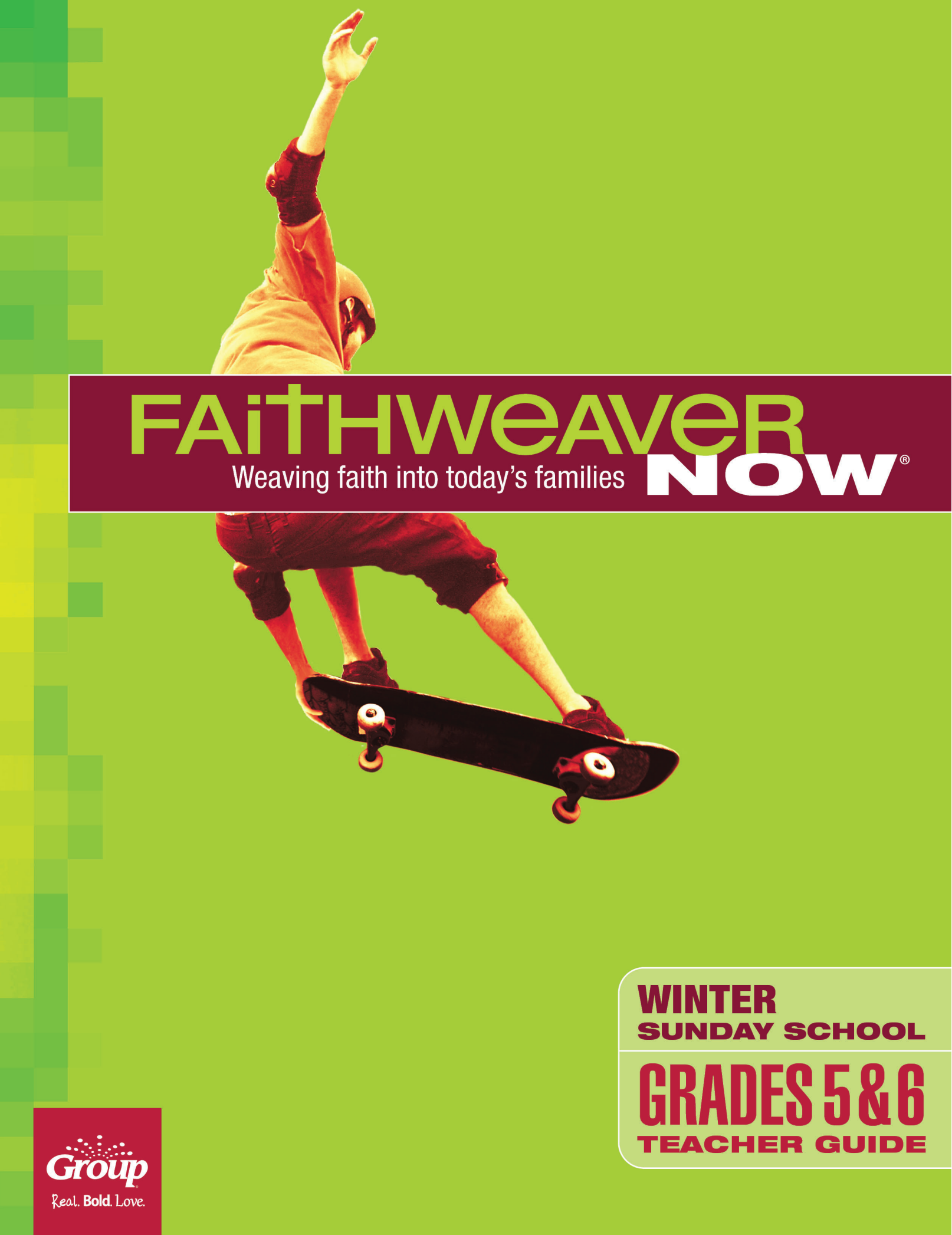




FAITHweaver

Weaving faith into today's families

NOW[®]

**WINTER
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**GRADES 5 & 6
TEACHER GUIDE**

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

**WINTER
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

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TEACHER GUIDE**

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.

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What we experience through action and discussion sticks with us up to 9 times longer than what we simply hear or read.

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Experiences transform the heart, moving faith beyond the walls of church and into everyday life for years to come.

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We know you care about kids...

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FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Grades 5 & 6, 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.

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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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

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



Solomon Tells of Jesus' Coming

Psalms 72:1-19

Your kids probably formed perceptions in their early childhood of who Jesus is and what he does. Although those perceptions may be accurate to a degree, they're probably not complete. Your kids are old enough to look at the Scriptures and develop a more complete understanding of who Jesus is. This lesson will help kids do this as they examine some prophecies about the great things Jesus would do and how he fulfilled those prophecies.

LESSON	WHAT STUDENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Occupation Options (about 15 min.) Describe occupations they're interested in.	crayons, paper	
2 Bible Exploration	Jesus' Roles (about 15 min.) Investigate a prophecy about Jesus.	Bibles, Bible Buzz, pens	Tear out the Lesson 1 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.
	Because of What He Does (about 20 min.) Plan and lead a time of worship.	Bible Buzz, CD player, pens, 1 copy per person of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	



► 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 reflect Jesus' actions in their own lives.



LESSON	WHAT STUDENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Mediator Madness (about 10 min.) Play a game in which they discover what a mediator does.	Bible Buzz, paper, markers	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges (about 5 min.) Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz	
	Weaving Faith at Home (about 2 min.) Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	Bible Buzz	Tear out the letter to parents from each Bible Buzz student book.

Solomon Tells of Jesus' Coming

Psalm 72:1-19

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

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 preacher...a martyr...a savior? Concentrate on the last one—*savior*. Spend two minutes prayerfully considering how Jesus is your Savior. You can write your prayer here.

[illegible]



Occupation Options Supplies

crayons
paper

1 GETTING STARTED

Occupation Options

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Then have kids find a partner. Give each person a sheet of paper and some crayons.

Say: **When you were a little kid, you probably had big ideas about what you wanted to be when you grew up. Maybe you wanted to be a princess or a pirate. Take a minute and draw something you wanted to be “when you grew up” when you were a little kid.**

Give kids a few minutes to draw, and then have partners share their drawings with each other. Then gather everyone's attention and invite willing kids to share their drawings with the whole group.

Say: **Let's look at the occupations you're interested in now. Even though you probably won't be a princess or a pirate, there's still a huge variety of different things you can do. Think of an occupation you'd like to have when you become an adult. Turn your pages over and draw and write a description of what a person in that occupation actually does. I'll give you a couple of minutes to draw and write.**

After a couple of minutes, have kids share their chosen occupations with their partners. Encourage kids to be specific about what a person working in that occupation actually does. Then gather everyone's attention and invite willing kids to share their drawings and descriptions with the whole group.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How do you know what the people who work in these occupations actually do?**
- **How important is the work they do for others?**
- **What great things have people in these occupations accomplished?**

Say: **All these people are important, and they accomplish important things, but there's one person who's more important than anyone else, and that's Jesus! Jesus does lots of important things for us. Today we're going to see what Jesus does, and to do that, we're going to look at a part of the Bible that was written before Jesus ever came to earth! Before he was born, people knew that ► JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS, and we're going to see what a difference that makes in our lives.**



2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Jesus' Roles

What You'll Do

Say: **The Bible contains different types of writings. One kind of writing is called *prophecy*, in which God had people write about events that would happen in the future. In a minute we're going to look at a psalm that was most likely written by King Solomon. This psalm is a prophecy about Jesus.**

Distribute Bibles, and have kids look up Psalm 72:1-19. Have kids form pairs, and then give kids pens and have them find the "Digging Into the Bible" section on their Bible Buzz page.

Say: **We're going to imagine we're archaeologists and that we've just uncovered this Scripture. You've never heard of Jesus before, and you're going to carefully examine these verses by following the instructions on your Bible Buzz page.**

Allow kids several minutes to complete this activity, and then gather everyone's attention and ask for insights from each pair.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What were the most common roles we found?
- What surprises you about Jesus' roles?
- How does this list compare to or differ from what you knew about Jesus?

Say: **From this Bible passage, we've learned about some of the many great things that Jesus does, some of which may have even surprised us. Jesus loves us and desires to have a relationship with each of us. We can trust that he has wonderful plans for our lives, and we can look forward to seeing how ► JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS in each of our lives! Knowing that, let's see how we can respond to Jesus.**

Because of What He Does

What You'll Do

Say: **Because Jesus has done so much for us, we can trust him and worship him in all we do.**

Have kids form groups of three or four. Have each group pick one of the things Jesus does that they listed on the Bible Buzz page. Each group will develop a brief worship



Jesus' Roles Supplies

Bibles
Bible Buzz
pens

Jesus' Roles Easy Prep

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

Because of What He Does Supplies

Bible Buzz
CD player
pens
1 copy per person of the
lyrics page (at the end
of this lesson)
Teacher Pack
CD: "Jesus Is All the
World to Me" (track 3)



experience based on that one role Jesus plays. For example, groups could choose to lead the group in a song about Jesus, creatively read a Scripture passage about the ways Jesus cares for the needy, write a prayer and lead the group in it, or create a cheer about the marvelous deeds Jesus does.

Say: **Use the “Worship Experience” section on your Bible Buzz page to outline what you want to do to lead the rest of the group in worship.**

Give kids about five minutes to prepare their style of worship, and then have everyone participate in each group’s worship style.

Pass out copies of the lyrics, and play “Jesus Is All the World to Me” (track 3 on the CD). After they listen once, have kids sing along and do the motions if they are comfortable doing so.



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.)

“Jesus Is All the World to Me” by Will L. Thompson.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What did you learn about worship in the experiences?**
- **Why is Jesus worthy of worship?**
- **What can we do to increase our desire to worship?**

Say: **Jesus is worthy of our praise, because ► JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS.** That’s something to celebrate and thank him for. As Christmas approaches, we tend to hear a lot about people worshipping Jesus as a baby, but we’ve had a chance to worship him here today for who he is now and for all he does for us.



3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Mediator Madness

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Jesus does a lot of different things—great things—for us, just as Solomon prophesied he would. One of the biggest things he does for us is the one mentioned in our Key Verse.**

Have kids find the Key Verse, 1 Timothy 2:5, on their Bible Buzz page, and read it aloud together: **“For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”**

Say: **We’re going to play a game right now to explore what it means to be a mediator.**

Have kids form trios. Within each trio, have kids choose a Creator, an Artist, and a Mediator. Send all the Artists to one end of the room, and give them paper and markers. Send the Creators and Mediators to the opposite end of the room.

Say: **Each of you has a task. Creators, think of a picture you’d like your Artist to draw. Tell your Mediator one step at a time what the Artist should draw on the paper. Then your Mediator will run and deliver the news to your Artist and tell him or her one thing to draw. Mediators, after giving one instruction to your Artist, return to your Creator for another instruction. Then repeat the process. You’ll have three minutes to complete your picture.**

After about five minutes, have groups show what they’ve created.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **In this game, what did the Mediators do?**
- **How is this like what Jesus does as a mediator?**
- **How is what Jesus does different from what the Mediators did in this game?**
- **What makes Jesus’ role as a mediator important?**

Say: **Jesus is the only mediator between God and us. Jesus came to earth as a baby, lived a sinless life, preached and taught about God, and died for our sins. Because he died for our sins, we can receive forgiveness and have a relationship with God through Jesus. ► JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS, and one of those great things mentioned in today’s psalm is his role as mediator between humans and God.**



Mediator Madness Supplies

Bible Buzz
paper
markers





Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Buzz

4

LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think about how we can remember that ► JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS this week this week.**

Ask kids to find this week's Daily Challenges on their Bible Buzz page and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Set aside time this week to reflect upon the great things Jesus is doing in your life. Commit to making it the first thing you think about in the morning and the last thing you think about at night.**
- **Make some time each day to simply talk to Jesus. Ask him for the things that are on your heart, and ask Jesus to help you see the great things he has planned for your life.**
- **Come up with a way you can give Jesus thanks for his love for you. Journal, write a poem, talk to yourself—whatever you want—just reflect for an hour or so on Jesus' love for you. Then take time to thank him for his incredible love.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the kids what 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 Daily Challenge? Share a time, a place, or other ideas. Allow time.**

Say: **Today we've looked at how ► JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS. Many years before Jesus was born, Solomon gave several prophecies about all the great things Jesus would do. Let's follow through with our Daily Challenges to see for ourselves the great things Jesus does in our lives.**

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 Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how Jesus does great things. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Buzz 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 Jesus for the great things he did while he was on earth. Ask him to open your kids' eyes to the great things he's doing today.



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

.....
Bible Buzz

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

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

**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.)

"Jesus Is All the World to Me" by Will L. Thompson.

 **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	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.

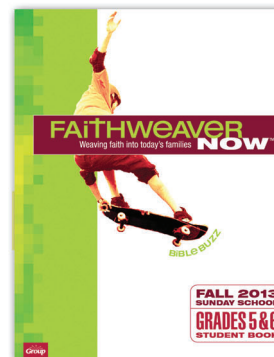
* Due to the way Christmas falls, we recommend moving the lessons as needed to line up Lesson 3 with the week of Christmas.

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, age-appropriate student book for every child! Each week, you'll get...**

- Engaging activities that bring the Bible to life for every child
- Easy faith conversation-starters 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.

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