



FAITHweAVER

Weaving faith into today's families

NOW[®]

**SPRING
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**INFANTS, TODDLERS
& 2s
TEACHER GUIDE**

**Group**

FAITHWEAVER

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

**SPRING
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**INFANTS, TODDLERS
& 2s
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, Infants, Toddlers and 2-Year-Olds, Spring

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* Due to the way Easter falls, we recommend rearranging the lessons as needed so Lesson 7 lines up with Palm Sunday and Lesson 8 lines up with Easter.

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.





Jesus Teaches His Disciples to Pray

Matthew 6:5-13

When a baby coos, a toddler asks for something by name, or a 2-year-old asks a question, the child gets results. Your warm responses encourage infants and toddlers to reach out and initiate genuine interactions. This cause-and-effect relationship isn't as obvious with prayer, but your responses in typical interactions model for young children how God responds to prayer. Your reactions to a child's effort to reach out to God help the child begin to recognize that God listens. Create a warm atmosphere for interaction and prayer in your room. Tell children often that God loves to hear his little ones pray. This encourages children to continue praying as they mature.

INFANT

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Sing and Celebrate Listen to praise songs.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Bible Exploration	Talking to God Learn about how Jesus taught his friends to pray.		
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Praying in Action Do an action rhyme.		
	Secret Prayers Experience whispering, and hear about prayers.		
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 1 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.



► Bible Point

We pray to God.

.....

Key Verse

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

.....

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will begin to learn that they can pray to God.

.....



TODDLER

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Sing and Celebrate Listen to or sing praise songs.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Bible Exploration	Going Hiking! Climb a “pillow mountain,” and hear how Jesus taught his disciples to pray.	Bible, several pillows, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Look Who’s Talking Watch their mouths move in a mirror.	hand-held mirror	
	A Mouth to Pray Glue a mouth on the handout to remember that we can use our mouths to talk to God.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Mouth to Pray” page (at the end of the lesson), scissors, red construction paper, glue sticks	Remove the Lesson 1 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Cut out red construction paper mouths appropriate for the face on the page.
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their “Growing With Jesus” pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Growing With Jesus” page (at the end of the lesson)	





2-YEAR-OLD

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Sing and Celebrate Listen to or sing praise songs.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Bible Exploration	A Mountain of Prayer Pretend to climb a mountain, and hear how Jesus taught his disciples to pray.	Bible	
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	For the Record Record and listen to their voices.	audio recording device with playback ability	
	Make a Mouth Make a puppet to remember that we can talk to God.	paper lunch sacks, glue sticks, red construction paper, scissors	Cut out a set of lips from red construction paper for each child. The top lip needs to be separate from the bottom.
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 1 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.



Jesus Teaches His Disciples to Pray

Matthew 6:5-13

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

How *Not* to Pray

This passage begins with Jesus instructing his followers how *not* to pray. The religious leaders of that time were accustomed to praying loudly on the street corners so that the people would see them as holy and religious. Instead, Jesus says, prayer is to be between the individual and God—sincere communication that is a direct result of one’s relationship with God.

Two Basic Parts

Jesus gives this prayer as a pattern or a form—an outline for prayer. One way to understand it better is to break his prayer into two basic parts: adoration and petition.

The first verse of the Lord's Prayer expresses praise for God's majesty and acknowledges God's love for us. The single word we translate as "our father" is an intimate word that can be translated as "daddy" or "dearest father." Jesus lets his followers know that they can share in his close relationship with God.

The first petition in the prayer is not related to personal needs. Rather, it addresses seeking what God wants.

After we seek God's will, we turn to asking God to fulfill personal, daily needs for food, forgiveness, and freedom from temptation. Without God working in our lives and our world, there would be no food or forgiveness. And if Satan were not restricted from tempting us, our lives would be nearly unbearable.

Putting God First

Remember that Jesus insisted on putting God first. If God isn't first in our lives, as well as in our prayers, God will not be honored, no matter how eloquently we pray.

The Jesus Connection

Jesus showed us how to pray, but more importantly, he also set the example of putting God first. Everything Jesus did was for God, so it was only natural for his prayer to be focused on praising God and seeking God's will.

Think of the last prayer you prayed. Maybe it was a quick “God, help me impress my boss” or “Lord, give me patience with my child.” There’s nothing wrong with quick prayers seeking God’s help. But these quick prayers can reveal our real view of God. Consider the motivations behind your last prayer. Did you want to impress your boss or have patience with your child so the other person could see Jesus living in you? Stop and pray now for God to be the center of your life—and your prayers. You can write your prayer here.

[illegible]

INFANT

1


GETTING STARTED

Tip Don't know the melodies to the songs in this guide? Download the 99-cent Kids Songs app by Alkeo and play the tunes for 200+ common children's songs.

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "Top of the Hill" to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell" to babies (track 10 on the CD) anytime during the lesson. Rock baby side to side as you sing. On the words "Pray when you're up," lift baby up while holding him or her securely. On "Pray when you're down," gently swing baby low.


 **Jesus took his friends,
He showed them how to pray.
He marched them up to the top of the hill
And taught them what to say.**

**Pray when you're up.
Pray when you're down.
We can always talk to God
Whatever comes around.**

(Repeat from the beginning.)

After singing, say: ► **WE PRAY TO GOD.**

Sing "Talk to God" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Three Blind Mice" as a lullaby to calm a fussy baby.

 **Talk to God, talk to God.
Every day, every day.
Use all the words you learn to say,
Thanking God as you eat or play.
God will hear you whenever you pray.
Just talk to God, talk to God.**

Afterward, say: ► **WE PRAY TO GOD.**



Sing and Celebrate Supplies Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Top of the Hill"
(track 10)



2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Talking to God

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Jesus and his friends climbed a big mountain.** (*walk your fingers up baby's arm from the wrist to the shoulder*)

Jesus said, "My friends, let me show you how to pray. (*hold baby's palms together between your hands*)

God in heaven, you are wonderful! (*pat baby's hands on his or her knees*)

Please give us food to eat. (*rub baby's hands around his or her tummy*)

Keep our hearts clean. (*pat baby's hand on heart*)

We belong to you. (*hold baby's arms up*)

Amen." (*clap baby's hands together twice*)

Say: I'm so happy that ► **WE PRAY TO GOD!**

.....

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Praying in Action

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Place a baby on his or her back in front of you. Say the following action rhyme. On the word "pray," gently bring the baby's hands together to make praying hands. On the word "talk," bring baby's hands to his or her mouth.

Say: **Jesus shows us how to pray,**

How to pray, how to pray.

Jesus shows us how to pray.

Oh, we talk to God.

Say: It's good that ► **WE PRAY TO GOD!**

Secret Prayers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Jesus said ► WE PRAY TO GOD.** Whisper softly in baby's ear: **Jesus loves to hear us pray.** If the baby seems to enjoy the sensation of whispering, continue to



whisper affirmations about prayer, such as “God likes it when we pray. God hears all our prayers.”

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their “Growing With Jesus” pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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

TODDLER

1


GETTING STARTED

Tip Don’t know the melodies to the songs in this guide? Download the 99-cent Kids Songs app by Alkeo and play the tunes for 200+ common children’s songs.

Sing and Celebrate

What You’ll Do

Sing “Top of the Hill” (track 10 on the CD) to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell,” and hold a toddler’s hands as you walk in a circle.

 **Jesus took his friends,
He showed them how to pray.
He marched them up to the top of the hill
And taught them what to say.**

Pray when you’re up. (*raise arms in air*)
Pray when you’re down. (*bend down*)
**We can always talk to God
Whatever comes around.**

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Afterward, say: ► **WE PRAY TO GOD.**

Sing “Talk to God” (not on the CD) to the tune of “Three Blind Mice” with toddlers as you follow the motions.



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1
copy per child of the
“Growing With Jesus”
page (at the end of the
lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

Remove the lesson 1
pages from each My
Bible Snuggles student
book.



Going Hiking! Supplies

Bible
several pillows
CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: "Top of the Hill"
(track 10)

Look Who's Talking Supplies

hand-held mirror



Talk to God, talk to God. (*put hands together as if praying*)

Every day, every day.

Use all the words you learn to say,

Thanking God as you eat or play.

God will hear you whenever you pray. (*cup hand around ear as if listening*)

Just talk to God, talk to God. (*put hands together as if praying*)

Afterward, say: ► **WE PRAY TO GOD.**

2

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Going Hiking!

What You'll Do

Stack several pillows to form a low mound for a mountain, and invite one or two toddlers to climb the pillow mountain while holding your hand. Then separate the pillows, and let each child sit on a pillow while you talk.

Place your Bible in front of the children. Tell children the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Jesus and his special friends climbed a mountain and sat down. Jesus showed his friends how to pray. Can you show me what you do when you pray? God likes it when we talk to him. That's why ► WE PRAY TO GOD.**

Play the song "Top of the Hill" (track 10 on the CD). Have children make "praying hands" with palms together during the first stanza. During the second stanza, have children stand on the word "up" and fall back onto the pillows on the word "down."

3

WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Look Who's Talking

What You'll Do

Hold a hand-held mirror so a toddler can see his or her face. Encourage the child to move his or her mouth.

Say: **Watch what happens when you talk. Your mouth moves. God sees you when you talk. God loves it when you talk to him. That's why ► WE PRAY TO GOD.**

A Mouth to Pray

What You'll Do

Work with one child at a time.

Say: **We can use our mouths to talk to God.** Show the child the picture on the “Mouth to Pray” page. **Uh-oh. This baby doesn’t have a mouth. Let’s give this baby a mouth. Does baby’s mouth go here?** Hold the mouth in several different locations on the face. Help the toddler place the mouth in the right spot and glue it in place.

Say: **Now baby has a mouth to talk to God. Show me your mouth. You can talk to God, too. ► WE PRAY TO GOD!**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their “Growing With Jesus” pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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

2-YEAR-OLD

1

GETTING STARTED



Tip Don’t know the melodies to the songs in this guide? Download the 99-cent Kids Songs app by Alkeo and play the tunes for 200+ common children’s songs.

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing “Top of the Hill” (track 10 on the CD) to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell,” and hold a toddler’s hands as you walk in a circle.



Jesus took his friends,
He showed them how to pray.
He marched them up to the top of the hill
And taught them what to say.



A Mouth to Pray Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1
copy per child of the
“Mouth to Pray” page (at
the end of the lesson)
scissors
red construction paper
glue sticks

A Mouth to Pray Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson
1 pages from each
My Bible Snuggles
student book. Cut out
red construction paper
mouths appropriate for
the face on the page.

Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1
copy per child of the
“Growing With Jesus”
page (at the end of the
lesson)

Sing and Celebrate Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: “Top of the Hill”
(track 10)




Pray when you're up.
Pray when you're down.
We can always talk to God
Whatever comes around.

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Afterward, say: ► **WE PRAY TO GOD.**

Sing "Talk to God" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Three Blind Mice" with 2-year-olds to teach them they can pray all the time.

 **Talk to God, talk to God.**
Every day, every day.
Use all the words you learn to say,

Thanking God as you eat or play.
God will hear you whenever you pray.
Just talk to God, talk to God.

Afterward, say: ► **WE PRAY TO GOD.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

A Mountain of Prayer

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Matthew 6, and tell children the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Jesus took his friends on a special walk. Do what I do to see what happened.**

Climbing up a mountain *(pretend to climb with arms and marching feet)*

Might take all day. *(point to wrist)*

Climbing up a mountain *(pretend to climb with arms and marching feet)*

To learn how to pray. *(make praying hands)*

Jesus tells his friends *(point to several children)*

Exactly what to say. *(point to mouth)*

We can talk to God. *(point up)*

We do it when we pray. *(make praying hands, and sit down)*

Say: **Jesus said to tell God he is great.** Make a muscle. **Jesus said to ask God for our food.** Touch your fingers and thumb to your mouth. **He said to tell God we're sorry when we do wrong things. These things are important to God. That's why ► WE PRAY TO GOD.**

Pray: **God, you're great. Please give us the food we need. We're sorry when we do wrong things. We love you. In Jesus' name, amen.**

A Mountain of Prayer Supplies

Bible



3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

For the Record

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Allow children to take turns saying "Hi, God" into an audio recorder. After several children have contributed to the recording, play it back. Encourage little ones to guess whose voice they hear.

Say: ► **WE PRAY TO GOD. I can pray. You can pray. God knows our voices. God hears us when we pray.**

Make a Mouth

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Work with one or two children at a time.

Give each child a set of paper lips and a paper lunch sack. With the sacks folded, demonstrate how to glue the top lip to the upper flap and the bottom lip just below it on the sack. Help kids glue on the lips. After children have finished, show them how to put their hands inside the paper-sack puppets. Show children how to open and shut their hands to make the mouths "talk." Let children use these puppets to talk to God.

As kids talk with their puppets, say: ► **WE PRAY TO GOD.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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



For the Record Supplies

audio recording device
with playback ability

Make a Mouth Supplies

paper lunch sacks
glue sticks
red construction paper
scissors

Make a Mouth Easy Prep

Cut out a set of lips from red construction paper for each child. The top lip needs to be separate from the bottom.

Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 1 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.



Growing With Jesus



Reaching Out

When a baby coos, a toddler asks for something by name, or a 2-year-old asks a question, he or she gets results. Your warm responses encourage your child to continue to reach out and initiate genuine interactions.

This cause-and-effect relationship isn't as obvious with prayer. Your response to your child's early attempts at prayer will help him or her recognize God's responsiveness. Create a warm atmosphere for prayer. Tell your child often that God loves to hear his little ones pray. This encourages your child to continue reaching out to God in prayer.

**OK
TO COPY**

Your child learned about prayer (from Matthew 6:5-13). Your child participated in one of the following activities today. You can use these activities with your child to help your child grow with Jesus throughout the week.

INFANT

Secret Prayers

Whisper softly in baby's ear: **God loves to hear us pray.** If your baby seems to enjoy the sensation of whispering, continue to whisper affirmations about prayer, such as "You can talk to God about anything! God hears our prayers."

TODDLER

Look Who's Talking

Hold a small mirror so your toddler can see his or her face. Encourage your child to move his or her mouth.

Say: **Watch what happens when you talk. Your mouth moves. God sees you when you talk to him. God loves it when you talk to him. We pray to God.**

2-YEAR-OLD

For the Record

Let your child say "Hi, God" into an audio recorder. Add to the recording yourself. Then play it back. Let your child identify the voices.

Ask: **Who hears you when you pray?**

Say: **We can pray. I can pray. You can pray. God knows our voices. God hears us when we pray.**

Help your child become a FaithWeaver with these ideas:

- Take a walk up a nearby hill, or carry your child up a set of stairs in the house. When you reach the top, remind your child that Jesus took his disciples to the top of a hill and taught them how to pray.
- Teach your child a simple prayer to say at dinnertime or bedtime, such as "Thank you, God, for all you do. We love you." Pray aloud together to help your child see that you talk to God, too.



Mouth to Pray



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	Jesus Teaches His Disciples to Pray (Matthew 6:5-13)	God loved the world so much that he gave his Son, Jesus, so we can live forever in heaven (adapted from John 3:16).	We pray to God.
WEEK 2	Jesus Feeds Thousands (John 6:1-15)		God meets our needs.
WEEK 3	Jesus Explains Eternal Life to Nicodemus (John 3:1-17)		Jesus gives us life in heaven.
WEEK 4	Jesus Talks With the Samaritan Woman (John 4:5-42)	People who believe in Jesus will live forever (adapted from John 11:25).	Jesus loves everyone.
WEEK 5	Jesus Tells About the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)		God wants us to love others.
WEEK 6	Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead (John 11:1-45)		Jesus gives us hope.
*WEEK 7	Crowds Welcome Jesus to Jerusalem (Psalm 118:19-29; Matthew 21:1-11)	Jesus loved me and gave himself for me (adapted from Galatians 2:20).	We praise Jesus.
*WEEK 8	Jesus Comes Back to Life (Matthew 27:27-56; 28:1-10)		Jesus is alive.
WEEK 9	Peter Explains Belief in Jesus (1 Peter 1:3-9)		Believe in Jesus.
WEEK 10	Jesus Returns to Heaven (Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:1-11)	We can teach the world about Jesus (adapted from Matthew 28:19-20).	Tell others about Jesus.
WEEK 11	Christians Care for One Another (Psalm 23; Acts 2:42-47)		God's family takes care of each other.
WEEK 12	Stephen Forgives His Accusers as They Stone Him (Acts 6:8-7:60)		We're brave for Jesus.
WEEK 13	Paul Teaches in Athens (Acts 17:16-31)		God created heaven and earth.

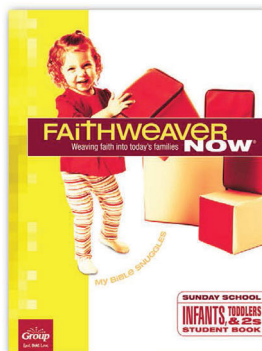
* Due to the way Easter falls, we recommend rearranging the lessons as needed so Lesson 7 lines up with Palm Sunday and Lesson 8 lines up with Easter.

PLUS...

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

- **FREE digital copies of Teacher Guides** in Word and PDF format so you can easily customize any lesson to your ministry. Sharing lessons with busy volunteers couldn't be easier! *Look inside Teacher Pack 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...



My Bible Snuggles*

This convenient booklet collects all of the reproducible coloring and take-home pages from this quarterly teacher guide to save you the time and expense of photocopying.

***Optional—get one for each of your little ones.**



THIS IS A SAMPLE
The number of pages is limited.

Purchase the item for the complete version.

