



FAITHweaver

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



**FALL
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL
LEADER GUIDE**

FAITHweaver

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

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL MIDDLE SCHOOL LEADER GUIDE



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Group

Group resources really work!

This Group resource incorporates our R.E.A.L. approach to ministry. It reinforces a growing friendship with Jesus, encourages long-term learning, and results in life transformation, because it's:



Relational

Person-to-person interaction enhances spiritual growth and builds Christian friendships.

Experiential

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

Applicable

The aim of ministry is to equip people to be both hearers and doers of God's Word.

Lifelong

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

Group

FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Middle School/Junior High Bible Studies: Fall

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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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





David Becomes King

2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37

Middle schoolers/junior highers may become more cynical about relying on others as they test their own independence. Use this study as an opportunity to help them understand that dependence on God is a strength that will take them far beyond what they are otherwise capable of.

STUDY	WHAT STUDENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Faith Connection	The Dream <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Predict their future success stories.	Bible Trek, old photos of students and/or families (optional), old yearbooks (optional), pens or pencils	Tear out the Study 1 pages from each Bible Trek student book.
	Media Connection (Option) <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Watch a movie clip.	video player, movie <i>Cars</i>	Cue <i>Cars</i> to 1:16:00, the scene where Doc Hudson races in the dirt and then talks with Lightning McQueen.



► Bible Point

We can rely on God.

Key Verse

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Students will trust God to protect and provide for them.



STUDY	WHAT STUDENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
2 Bible Exploration	Choose Your Own Adventure <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Adventure 1: King Campaign Design a campaign for David. Adventure 2: Icons Write songs for King David's coronation to perform for classmates.	Bibles, poster board, markers, paper, pens, tape, index cards, Bible Trek Bibles, paper, pens, Bible Trek	Set all the supplies on a table with chairs. Set the supplies out.
	3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Take a Stand <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Use ice to discover why God is more reliable than anything.	Bible, ice, hair dryer, pawns from a board game (1 per student) Keep the ice somewhere it will stay frozen until this part of the study.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Trek	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	Bible Trek	Tear out the letter to parents from the back of each Bible Trek student book.

David Becomes King

2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

David Mourns King Saul

We begin this quarter of Old Testament studies with the anointing of David as king of Israel. Many years earlier, Israel's first king, Saul, had turned from the Lord, and God had selected David to succeed Saul. For years after that, Saul sought to have David killed. However, David had refused to act against Saul or to become king until he was certain of God's timing. He had lived a difficult life, almost as an outlaw. Now Saul was dead; after being wounded in battle, he had taken his own life. In fact, Saul and three of his sons, including David's friend Jonathan, had died in the same battle (1 Samuel 31:1-6). So the door was wide open for David to become king of Israel.

David didn't rejoice when he learned of the deaths. Instead he and all his men mourned and wept the entire day (2 Samuel 1:1-12). David even wrote a song in honor of Saul and Jonathan, which can be found in 2 Samuel 1:19-27. He was truly saddened that their lives had ended as they did.

Uniting the Kingdom

David was made king of Judah. Israel followed Abner, the commander of Saul's army, who made Ish-Bosheth, a son of Saul, king over Israel (2 Samuel 2:1-9). After years of much fighting, intrigue, and bloodshed, Ish-Bosheth was murdered, and the leaders of Israel came to David to make him king over them.

David Leads Israel

David was 37 when he became king over all Israel. He had first been anointed to succeed Saul many years earlier, while still in his teens. After his long, patient wait, David was able to lead Israel to great prosperity, fend off the Philistines, and expand the boundaries of Israel during his reign. David wasn't perfect, but as

he relied on God, God rewarded him and Israel with prosperity.

David wrote Psalm 37, which describes his trust in God even when he was surrounded by enemies. In this psalm, David says to “delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart” (Psalm 37:4). This could have been the theme of David’s life.

The Jesus Connection

Through Jesus, God showed us how to take every step of life relying on him. Because of Jesus' courage, we can believe that trusting God will always be worth it!

What past experience has God used to teach you how to rely on him?

God has a wonderful way of not letting teachable moments in our lives go to waste. What is God using to teach you right now?

Ask God for wisdom to see and strength to move forward with faith, knowing that he'll always have everything you need. You can write your prayer here.

[illegible]



The Dream Supplies

Bible Trek
old photos of students
and/or families
(optional)
old yearbooks (optional)
pens or pencils

The Dream Easy Prep

Tear out the Study 1
pages from each Bible
Trek student book.

Media Connection Supplies

video player
movie *Cars*

Media Connection Easy Prep

Cue *Cars* to 1:16:00,
the scene where Doc
Hudson races in the
dirt and then talks with
Lightning McQueen.

1

FAITH CONNECTION

The Dream

What You'll Do

Start by getting students thinking about their futures. You may choose to provide (or have students bring in) old photos of students and their families. Or you may have some of your own old yearbooks on hand to help generate discussion. As students laugh at goofy pictures, share thoughts about old classmates who may have been voted things such as “most likely to succeed,” “most likely to become a rock star,” or “most likely to collect belly lint.” Ask students to consider what things might await them 20 years down the road.

Give them a few minutes to brainstorm their own personal, zany “success” stories. Encourage even the wildest and unlikeliest ideas! Provide each student an opportunity to share his or her story with others. If you have a small group, you may have each student share with everyone; if you have a large group, you may have students form smaller groups and share their stories there. Then have students write answers to the questions on the “David Becomes King” section of their Bible Trek pages.

Talk With Students

Say: **It's hard to imagine exactly how our lives will go, but today we'll look at some important keys in making sure they're headed in the right direction.**

Ask:

- **How would you define *success*?**
- **What are society's formulas for success? How do you recognize this?**
- **What role do you think God plays in our successes?**

Say: **Let's take a look at someone who was successful by any standards—he was a king. We'll learn his secret for a life of accomplishment and favor, and we'll talk about why ► WE CAN RELY ON GOD.**

Media Connection (Option)



■ **Tips** In general, federal copyright laws do not allow you to use videos or DVDs (even ones you own) for any purpose other than home viewing. Your church can obtain a license from Christian Video Licensing International for a small fee. Just visit cvli.com or call 1-888-771-2854 for more information.

The second part of this clip makes the point and is available at screenview.com as *Cars* clip #5.



What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Instead of using “The Dream” activity, show a brief clip from the movie *Cars*. Start the movie at 01:16:00, when Lightning McQueen sees Doc Hudson on the dirt racetrack. In this scene, students will see that success is fleeting and unreliable. You'll end the clip at 1:19:54 as Doc Hudson leaves Lightning in his garage.

Talk With Students ■■■■

Ask:

- What did this clip teach you about success?
- What are society's formulas for success?
- Based on this clip, why are those formulas unreliable?
- What role do you think God plays in our successes?

Say: **Lightning McQueen was obsessed with success. He wanted to get back to the track and win as many races as possible. But Doc Hudson had learned that success only gets you so far. In the end, you can't count on people who only care about success. But you can rely on people who care about others. And no one cares about others as much as God! That's why ► WE CAN RELY ON GOD.**

.....

2

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Choose Your Own Adventure

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **In our adventures today, we have two activities you can choose from. Adventure 1 uses campaign-creating, and Adventure 2 uses songwriting. The directions are on your Bible Trek pages. Look them over and decide which activity you want to do. You can work with the others who choose the same activity.** Allow time for students to decide which adventure they want to do. You can see the summaries of the adventures below.

ADVENTURE 1—CAMPAIGN-CREATING: KING CAMPAIGN

In this adventure, students will create a campaign to highlight King David's kingly qualities. They will then discuss what qualities God values most.

ADVENTURE 2—SONGWRITING: ICONS

In this adventure, students will write songs for King David's coronation. They'll go on to discuss popular competitions on television that choose a winner based on various criteria, and they'll talk about the criteria God considers.

Choose Your Own Adventure Supplies

.....

Bibles
Bible Trek
paper
pens

Adventure 1:
poster board
markers
tape
index cards

Choose Your Own Adventure Easy Prep

.....

Set the Adventure 1 supplies on a table with chairs. Set the Adventure 2 supplies elsewhere in your room.





Say: **After you finish your adventure, you'll present some of what you experienced, so keep that in mind. When everyone has finished, we'll talk about what we've learned. You have 15 minutes to complete your adventures.** Move between the stations, and offer assistance as needed. Let groups know when they have about five minutes left so they can wrap up their work.

After 15 minutes, have groups take turns presenting what they experienced.

Talk With Students

Ask:

- How did David's approach to life show that he relied on God?
- Why would you say David was a good candidate for king?
- What did you learn about relying on God from David's experiences?

Say: **David's life wasn't free from trouble. He wasn't born into the kind of advantages that would pave the way for someone to become something special. He had his share of down times—when he was afraid for his life, when he felt really depressed, when people thought he was a nobody. In each of those times, he relied on God for protection, comfort, and worth. As a result, God provided for him and blessed him beyond what David could have imagined. David knew that the only thing he could count on was God. He knew ► WE CAN RELY ON GOD. Now, let's consider how we can follow David's example.**

.....

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Take a Stand

Take a Stand Supplies

.....

Bible
ice
hair dryer
pawns from a board
game (1 per student)

Take a Stand Easy Prep

.....

Keep the ice somewhere it will stay frozen until this part of the study. Plug in the hair dryer when you're ready to begin.

What You'll Do

Have students sit fairly close together, near the hair dryer. Give each student an ice cube and a pawn. Have students each place their pawn on their ice cube.

Say: **The world is full of empty promises of what will bring success and well-being—things like wealth, fame, and popularity. As I turn on this hair dryer, call out things people rely on that really won't last.** Use the hair dryer to melt the ice as students share. Aim low to avoid blowing over the pawns.

Say: **There's only one thing we can always rely on: God. Set your pawn on the Bible. As I run the hair dryer, pray silently about ways you can rely on God this week.** Blow the hair dryer on the Bible as students pray. Be careful not to blow the pawns off the Bible.



Talk With Students

Ask:

- How was the ice like or unlike things in the world that people rely on?
- What makes God more reliable than those things?
- Have a student read aloud Psalm 46:1. What are some ways you've seen God protect and strengthen you?

Say: The only thing that's a lasting, true blessing comes from God, found only when we rely on him completely. A close relationship with Jesus is the only thing out there that holds up forever. That's why ► **WE CAN RELY ON GOD.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: Let's think about how ► **WE CAN RELY ON GOD** more deeply every day!

Direct students to find this week's Daily Challenges in their Bible Trek pages and to choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- Find other verses in the Bible that remind you that God is always there for us and that we can always rely on him. Write them down and keep them where you can look at them when you need them.
- Think of more ways you can invite God into your everyday life. You could pray before every test, project, practice, or important event and ask God to help you through it.
- Have that conversation with the friend or family member that you know God's been wanting you to have, let God guide you with what to say, and then trust him with whatever happens.

Talk With Students

Ask:

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

Say: God alone can provide the true success, worth, protection, and blessings we are looking for. As we grow closer to him and rely on him alone, he makes our lives something very special. Let's rely on him by following through with our Daily Challenges this week.



Daily Challenges
Supplies

Bible Trek



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

.....
Bible Trek

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

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

Weaving Faith at Home

Hand out the letter to parents from the Bible Trek student books, one to each student. Also encourage students to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about relying on God. Students can also do the activities in the “Bringing It Home” section of their Bible Trek pages with their families.

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

End the study with a prayer, asking God to bless your students’ lives in special ways and to help them rely on him.



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:

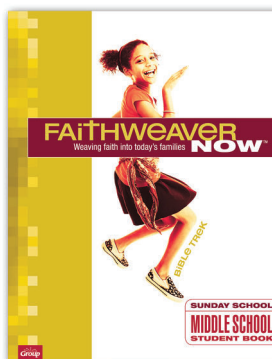
	BIBLE CONTENT/SCRIPTURE	KEY VERSE	BIBLE POINT
WEEK 1	David Becomes King (2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37)	"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).	We can rely on God.
WEEK 2	David Is Merciful to Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9)	"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves" (Romans 12:10).	Being kind honors God and others.
WEEK 3	God Forgives David (2 Samuel 11:1-12:10; Psalm 51:1-12)	"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).	God wants us to repent when we sin.
WEEK 4	Absalom Rebels and Is Defeated (2 Samuel 15:1-12; 17:1-12; 18:1-18)	"He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).	A self-centered attitude hurts God and others.
WEEK 5	Solomon Asks for Wisdom (1 Kings 2:1-4; 3:3-28)	"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5).	God gives us wisdom.
WEEK 6	Solomon Writes Many Proverbs (1 Kings 4:29-34; Proverbs 1:1-7)	"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding" (Proverbs 9:10).	We become wise by following God's Word.
WEEK 7	Solomon Turns Away From God (1 Kings 11:1-13)	"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5-6).	Be devoted to God.
WEEK 8	The Kingdom Divides (1 Kings 11:28-12:24)	"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).	Choose to follow God.
WEEK 9	Elijah Helps a Widow (1 Kings 17:7-24)	"So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all those things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:31-33).	Trust God completely.
WEEK 10	Elijah Challenges the Prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:16-40)	"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:2-3).	Choose to serve God.
WEEK 11	God Speaks to Elijah in a Whisper (1 Kings 19:9-18)	"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).	When we feel alone, God is with us.
WEEK 12	God Takes Elijah to Heaven (2 Kings 2:1-15)	"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).	God wants us to be faithful.
WEEK 13	Jehoshaphat Trusts God for Victory (2 Chronicles 20:1-30)	"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).	God helps us with our problems.

PLUS...

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

- **FREE digital copies of Leader Guides** in PDF format so you can easily download any lesson for your ministry. Sharing lessons with busy volunteers couldn't be easier! *See inside for activation code.*
- **A FREE downloadable Director Manual** to help you structure your program for maximum effectiveness.
- **FREE weekly FamilyConnect pages** you can print out or email to parents to help families grow together in faith throughout the week.

Don't forget...



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

- Engaging activities that bring the Bible to life for every student
- Easy faith conversation-starters for kids to take home
- Meaningful at-home activities for families to dig into Scripture

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



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