



# FAITHWEAVER

Weaving faith into today's families

# NOW<sup>®</sup>

BIBLE TREK

**FALL  
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL  
STUDENT BOOK**

## 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

**Tear out  
pages one by  
one from this  
book, starting with  
Study 1 at the  
center of the  
book.**



### **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

**Bible Trek, a weekly in-class and take-home paper for FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Studies, Middle School, Fall**

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## Dear Parents,

Your family is important to our church, and we want to support your role as spiritual leader to your child.

In our effort to provide the highest quality Christian education, we are using **FaithWeaver NOW®** Sunday school. FaithWeaver NOW makes Bible learning fun by using a variety of active experiences to help students learn in the ways they learn best.

FaithWeaver NOW also helps people of all ages “weave faith into life” by applying the Bible to their lives throughout every week. With FaithWeaver NOW, students walk through the Bible over the course of three years.

Research shows that the most powerful influence on children’s faith development is the conversation about faith that takes place in the home. We want to partner with you in your child’s Christian education.

With the resources that are part of FaithWeaver NOW, you can make a huge contribution to your child’s Christian growth by leading activities and discussions that help make connections and apply what’s learned at church to daily life. That’s why every week your child will receive a take-home page that includes ideas for family discussions and activities that will help cement what your child learns at church.

All FaithWeaver NOW resources—for infants through adults—explore the same Bible passage each week, making it easier for you to help your family grow in faith together.

This quarter, we hope you’ll find encouragement in your role as a parent and a spiritual leader to your child. May these tools serve to remind you how important you are in your child’s life—and how blessed you are to be entrusted with this awesome responsibility!

God bless you,

Your **FaithWeaver NOW** Church



# Bringing It Home

Read this

quote with your family, and then talk it over.

"If you fix your eyes on the Son, fear diminishes and trust is renewed."

—MAX LUCADO, *TRAVELING LIGHT JOURNAL*

- **How does fear sometimes bring us closer to God?**
- **How have you experienced God helping you to trust him with your fears or struggles?**
- **God promises us he'll be with us no matter where we are or what we're doing. How can that comfort you?**

Try This

Look at the top news online, and find articles that deal with people being afraid. You can look for articles on a worldwide or local paper's website. Each family member can choose two to three stories and talk about why these people may be afraid and how God can help them in their fear. Pray for the people in these articles.

Daily Challenge

- Share a fear with a Christian

friend or family member, and get advice on how to tackle it.

- Do something that you fear (such as talking to the new kid in school or visiting with elderly people), but make sure it's safe and acceptable! (No parachuting off the roof of your house!)
- When you face a fear, think about the good and bad reactions you thought of. Pray that God will help you choose to trust him rather than dwell in fear.

## Reading the Bible This Week

**Sunday**/ISAIAH 41:10 • HOW DO YOU NEED GOD'S STRENGTH THIS WEEK TO HELP YOU WITH A SPECIFIC FEAR?

**Monday**/PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7 • HOW OFTEN DO YOU RESPOND THIS WAY WHEN YOU HAVE FEAR? WHAT HELPS OR HINDERS YOU?

**Tuesday**/PSALM 27:1 • HOW IS THE LORD YOUR LIGHT, SALVATION, AND STRONGHOLD?

**Wednesday**/PSALM 34:4 • WHAT SCARES YOU THIS WEEK? HOW ARE YOU SEEKING THE LORD BECAUSE OF THAT FEAR?

**Thursday**/JOHN 14:27 • HOW CAN PEACE HELP US NOT TO BE AFRAID?

**Friday**/JOSHUA 1:9 • WHY IS IT COMFORTING TO YOU KNOWING THAT GOD IS WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO?

**Saturday**/ISAIAH 43:1-4 • HOW DOES THIS VERSE HELP YOU WITH YOUR FEARS?



# Bible Trek

## BIBLE TREK STUDY 1

**BIBLE POINT:** God helps us when we're afraid.

**KEY VERSE:** "He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me" (Psalm 23:3-4).

## The Israelites Cross the Red Sea

EXODUS 13:17-14:31

### Think It Over

Ever see a scary movie and become convinced it'll happen to you? Or what about a more substantial fear—like fear of failure or humiliation?

The Israelites had to deal with some pretty big fears. They could see their enemy, and it was a huge army with spears and chariots and a lot of really angry people. The Israelites had been slaves for more than 500 years—what did they know about fighting? The Israelites were stuck between a large body of water and a very, very large army, and somehow they came away unharmed. God took care of them, one miracle after another.

- **What fears did you have as a child that you might be embarrassed to share with others? Why were you so scared of these things?**

- **What are some things you fear now? Why?**

- **How do you react when you get scared?**

## Just for Fun

In my wacky family, we tried anything we could to get a laugh out of each other. One time, my sister and I even ended up having a cracker war at the dining-room table. This war consisted of munching crackers to little pieces and then blowing the dry pieces all over the other person. We laughed so hard we were crying! In the end, we were in trouble with our mom and had a huge mess of broken cracker pieces to clean up. Here's another idea for creative cracker use. This is guaranteed to get you into less trouble, but it will still be just as fun! Make sure everyone has three crackers. Then start eating! The first person who can whistle wins the game. Have fun!

(adapted from Mildred Wade, *Games for Fun*)

"Fear is the absence of faith."  
—Jerry Koppenhaver

# Choose Your Own Adventure

## ADVENTURE

1

# Building a Miracle

Here's What You Need to Do...

### 1. TO START OFF...

Say hi to the other people in your group. Then, with your group, follow the rest of the instructions for your adventure!

### 2. DIGGING INTO THE WORD...

Read Exodus 13:17-22. Then discuss these questions together:

- What happened in this passage?
- What were the Israelites afraid of? Why?
- How was God watching over them?

### 3. SCULPTURE TIME.

With the materials at your station, make a sculpture. The sculpture should be a representation of a modern-day fear or other parallel of what happened in the Bible.

### 4. READ MORE.

Now read Exodus 14:1-9. Discuss the questions from step 2, and make another sculpture. Do it again for Exodus 14:10-20, and once more for Exodus 14:21-31.

### 5. SHARE IT!

Pick four people to share what your sculptures mean and what you discussed. Have fun with it!

# Choose Your Own Adventure

## ADVENTURE

2

# The Next Big Miracle

Here's What You Need to Do...

### 1. TO START OFF...

Say hi to the other people in your group. Then, with your group, follow the rest of the instructions for your adventure!

### 2. DIGGING INTO THE WORD...

Read Exodus 13:17-22. Then discuss these questions together:

- What just happened in this passage?
- What were the Israelites afraid of? Why?
- How was God watching over them?

Now take turns reading Exodus 14:1-9 and Exodus 14:10-31, and answer the same questions for each passage.

### 3. YOU ARE IN CHARGE.

You are screenwriters for God's next big miracle. How else could God have led the Israelites through the desert? Brainstorm other options for how God could have led them (like a magical map or a dotted line in the sand). Pick one of your best ideas, and practice it as a brief drama for a presentation for the other adventure group. You could choose to write this brief drama





## FACING MY FEARS

### Fight

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### Flight

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### Freeze

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about the actual miracle from the Bible passage.

#### **4. READ MORE.**

Now read Exodus 14:1-20 and come up with another alternative drama. Do the same for Exodus 14:21-31.

#### **5. SHARE IT!**

Get ready to act out your dramas for the other adventure group to see. Have fun with it!



The FaithWeaver NOW Student Book is woven into every lesson to provide an essential transformative experience that makes the Bible unforgettable.

**BONUS...every Student Book includes weekly take-home activities!**

**FALL  
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL  
STUDENT BOOK**

*This quarter you'll explore these Bible passages:*

	BIBLE CONTENT/SCRIPTURE	KEY VERSE	BIBLE POINT
WEEK 1	The Israelites Cross the Red Sea (Exodus 13:17-14:31)	"He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me" (Psalm 23:3-4).	God helps us when we're afraid.
WEEK 2	God Sends Quail and Manna (Exodus 16:1-26)	"You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever" (Psalm 23:5-6).	God gives us what we need.
WEEK 3	God Provides Water (Exodus 17:1-7)	"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters" (Psalm 23:1-2).	God is patient with us.
WEEK 4	God Gives the Ten Commandments (Part 1) (Exodus 19:16-20:21)	"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts" (Deuteronomy 6:5-6).	Honor God by obeying him.
WEEK 5	God Gives the Ten Commandments (Part 2) (Exodus 19:16-20:21)	" 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself' " (Matthew 19:18-19).	God tells us how to respect others.
WEEK 6	The Israelites Worship a Golden Calf (Exodus 32:1-25)	"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).	Only God deserves our worship.
WEEK 7	The Israelites Build the Tabernacle (Exodus 35:4-36:38)	"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Colossians 3:17).	We all can serve God.
WEEK 8	Moses Sends Spies Into the Promised Land (Numbers 13:1-14:23)	"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58).	Be brave for God.
WEEK 9	Balaam's Donkey Talks (Numbers 22:1-38)	"Come and see what God has done, how awesome his works in man's behalf" (Psalm 66:5).	Pay attention to God.
WEEK 10	Joshua Becomes Leader of Israel (Joshua 1:1-11)	"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).	God is with us.
WEEK 11	Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho (Joshua 2:1-24)	"And without faith it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11:6).	We can have faith that God will do big things in our lives.
WEEK 12	The Israelites Cross the Jordan River (Joshua 3:1-4:24)	"Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done" (1 Chronicles 16:8).	Remember what God has done.
WEEK 13	God Gives Victory Over Jericho (Joshua 6:1-27)	"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:6-7).	God's power works for good.





**THIS IS A SAMPLE**  
**The number of pages is limited.**

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