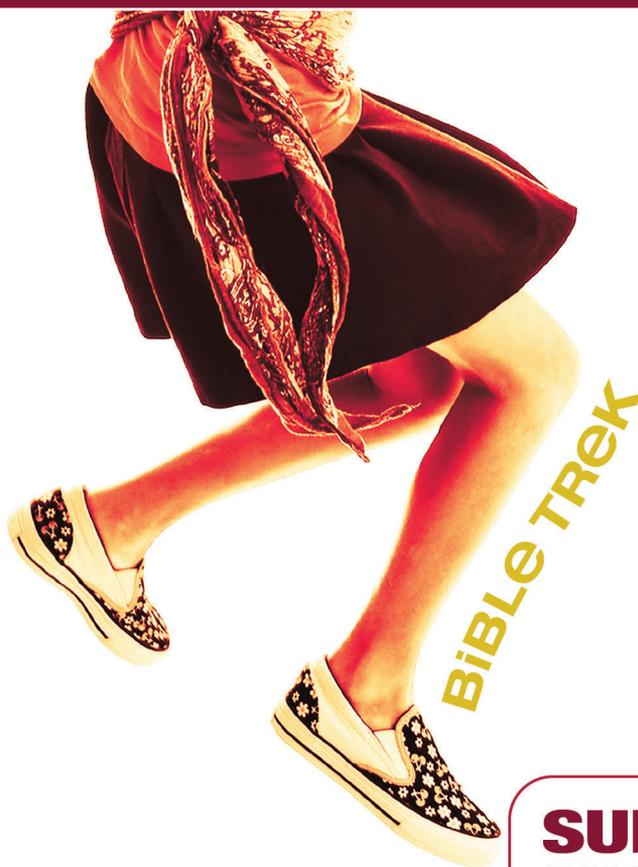




FAITHWEAVER

Weaving faith into today's families

NOW[®]



**SUMMER
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL
STUDENT BOOK**

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.

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

Group

group.com/sunday-school

FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Grades 5 & 6 Student Book: Bible Buzz, Summer

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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.

“I did not want just the few, the missionary-minded people like the Salvation Army, to be kind to the poor, as the poor. I wanted everyone to be kind. I wanted every home to be open to the lame, the halt and the blind.” —Dorothy Day, *The Long Loneliness*

Dorothy Day was a journalist whose life was changed by Christ. She purposefully chose to live among the poor—to become poor herself. She was a living example of Jesus’ comment to the rich man in Matthew 19:21: “Go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

- Explain whether you admire Dorothy Day’s choice to become poor?
- Do you think giving up everything to care for the poor is required of Christians?
- What are some ways our family can care for needy people?

Instead of choosing a Daily Challenge this week, pick one of the coins from the “Be the Miracle” activity. Tape it here, and commit to following through on your coin this week.

Grab a calculator and figure out how much money your family spends for groceries for a dinner at home. Then plan to fast for a meal as a family. Plan to use the money you’d normally spend on that meal to help someone in need. Gather around the table at dinner time to just drink water or juice, and spend the time deciding as a family how you’d like to use the money to make a difference in a needy person’s life.

Try This

IT ADDS UP!

Read the Bible This Week

Sunday/MATTHEW 19:16-22 • How WILLING ARE YOU TO MAKE PERSONAL SACRIFICES IN ORDER TO HELP THE POOR?

Monday/MATTHEW 5:1-6 • How CAN POVERTY OR NEED TURN INTO A BLESSING? HOW CAN YOUR NEEDS HELP YOU GROW CLOSER TO GOD?

Tuesday/MATTHEW 6:1-4 • WHY IS IT BETTER TO GIVE IN SECRET THAN TO LET OTHERS KNOW ABOUT IT? HOW HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED THIS?

Wednesday/MATTHEW 7:7-11 • How IS GOD’S LOVE FOR THE NEEDY LIKE A PARENT’S LOVE FOR HIS OR HER CHILD? HOW DO YOU EXPERIENCE THAT SAME FATHERLY LOVE FROM GOD?

Thursday/MATTHEW 8:1-15 • How DID JESUS SHOW CARE TO THOSE SUFFERING FROM PHYSICAL ILLNESS AND DISEASE? HOW WILL YOU SHOW THE SAME KIND OF LOVE?

Friday/JAMES 1:27-2:4 • How CAN YOU CARE FOR PEOPLE IN CRISIS SITUATIONS? HOW CAN YOU KEEP FROM SHOWING FAVORITISM TO THOSE WHO ARE RICH, POPULAR, OR POWERFUL?

Saturday/ACTS 4:32-35 • How DID THE EARLY CHURCH HELP THE NEEDY? WHAT ARE PRACTICAL WAYS YOU CAN FOLLOW ITS EXAMPLE?

Bible + treeK

Elisha Helps a Widow and Her Sons
MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDY 1
 2 Kings 4:1-7

BIBLE POINT: God cares for needy people.

KEY VERSE: "He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing"—Deuteronomy 10:18.

Think It Over

Back in the day, there was a woman named... Well, we don't really know her name, so I guess we should make one up. How about Sara? Yeah, that sounds good. So, as I was saying, there was a woman named Sara, and her life basically stunk—bad. Her husband died, she had no money, she couldn't get a job because she was a woman, and to make matters worse, her two sons were about to be taken away as slaves. She really loved her boys and was desperate to keep them safe. So she called on the prophet Elisha for help. Through Elisha, God performed a miracle! God supplied Sara with tons of oil (that she could sell for cash) so she'd be able to pay her debts and have an income! We may not know Sara's real name, but God *did*. He loved that widow and her two boys. God saw her need and provided for her. Wow, what an awesome God!



- When has life been hard for you?
- How has God cared for your needs during hard times?
- What are some needs you're currently facing?

Just for Fun

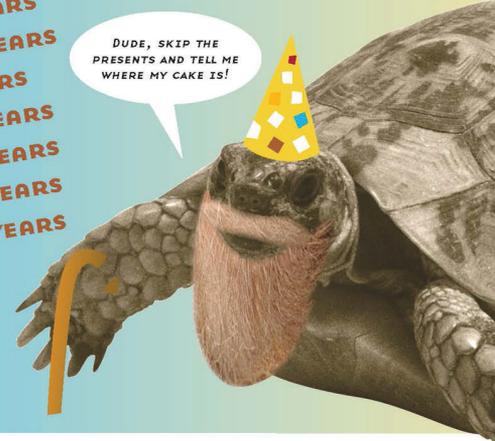
See if you can match these creatures with their average life spans.

1. CASSINI MAGICICADA CICADA (INSECT)
2. BLUE WHALE
3. SAINT BERNARD (DOG)
4. HUMAN (IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES)
5. FRUIT FLY
6. FEMALE GIANT SPIDER
7. ELEPHANT
8. GREAT WHITE PELICAN (BIRD)
9. BOA CONSTRICTOR (SNAKE)
10. GALAPAGOS TORTOISE

- A. 18 YEARS
- B. 37 DAYS
- C. 17 YEARS
- D. 77 YEARS
- E. 150 YEARS
- F. 9 YEARS
- G. 25 YEARS
- H. 80 YEARS
- I. 10 YEARS
- J. 60 YEARS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DUDE, SKIP THE PRESENTS AND TELL ME WHERE MY CAKE IS!



Choose Your Own Adventure

ADVENTURE 1

Take My Life

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. READ THE LYRICS.

Look at the handout your leader has provided. As a group, read the lyrics of the hymn "Take My Life and Let It Be" aloud together, alternating verses.

3. MAKE IT YOURS.

Review the words again silently, and think about how God wants to use you to care for needy people.

4. SHOW AND TELL...

Draw a self-portrait prayer that depicts the song lyrics and how you think God is calling you to help needy people. Think specifically about one action step you'll commit to take this week. Pair up and explain your drawing. After

Choose Your Own Adventure

ADVENTURE 2

MINUS CULE mEDiTaTiOn

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. READY, GET SET...

Go outside with your group, and get ready to take a nature walk. Or, if the weather is bad, take a walk in the area your leader



directs you to. Here's the twist: You need to lean down close to the ground as you walk. (You can even crawl if you want!) Your job is to take time to notice all the small, unnoticed things you usually ignore: pebbles, bugs, blades of grass, pennies, paper clips, gum wrappers, carpet fibers, and so on.

3. GO!

Take five minutes to silently walk (or crawl!) and observe the little, often-unnoticed things. Silently meditate (have a conversation with God) about what you observe. Think about these questions on your own, and then discuss as a group:

- How are needy people often unnoticed and overlooked by society?
- What thoughts do you have about how lonely people are—how invisible they must

you've both shared, discuss these questions:

- **How were you challenged as you drew your self portrait?**
- **How can you practically use your hands, your feet, your voice, your words, or your money to help needy people?**

5. DON'T JUST SAY IT, PRAY IT.

After everyone has finished chatting, get back together and read the song lyrics as a prayer together, while holding your drawings.

"This is a crisis of compassion, requiring not a change in laws and government, but of hearts. We can look at the children with stolen futures...and ask questions of God. Or we can look at the same problems and realize these are God's questions to us."

—PHILIP YANCEY, WRITING ABOUT THE AIDS CRISIS IN AFRICA IN "CRY, THE BELOVED CONTINENT" (CHRISTIANITY TODAY)

Here's the key: Don't just say it, *pray* it. Read the words to God as if you're talking directly to him. Think about each phrase as you say it. Then decide how to present your prayers to the other group.

NEEDS ON THE NET

These websites highlight ways you can help needy people around the world:

COMPASSION.COM
WORLDVISION.ORG
DATA.ORG
NATIONALHOMELESS.ORG
THEHUNGERSITE.COM

feel when people ignore their needs?

- **What's one way you can address the needs of someone who usually feels ignored?**

4. PRAY PRIVATELY.

Wrap up your time of meditation with God by silently praying this prayer:

God, forgive me for ignoring the needs all around me. Open my eyes to see the needy people in my life, in my community, and in my world. Open my ears to hear their cries for help. Open my hands that I might give them resources, work, or time. Open my heart to care for needy people as you do. I'm so glad

you notice. I'm so glad you care. Help me show your love to needy people this week as I...[pray to God about your ideas for addressing needs that are ignored]. Amen.

Gather back together and decide how to present your adventure.

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!

**SUMMER
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL
STUDENT BOOK**

This quarter you'll explore these Bible passages:

	BIBLE CONTENT/SCRIPTURE	KEY VERSE	BIBLE POINT
WEEK 1	Elisha Helps a Widow and Her Sons (2 Kings 4:1-7)	"He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing" (Deuteronomy 10:18).	God cares for needy people.
WEEK 2	God Heals Naaman's Leprosy (2 Kings 5:1-16)	"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time" (1 Peter 5:6).	God wants us to be humble.
WEEK 3	Jonah Learns a Lesson (Jonah 1-3)	"The ways of the Lord are right; the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them" (Hosea 14:9).	Following God is always the right choice.
WEEK 4	Jonah Complains About God's Compassion (Jonah 3:10-4:11)	"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).	God wants us to love everyone.
WEEK 5	God Calls Isaiah (Isaiah 6:1-8)	"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker" (Psalm 95:6).	God is holy.
WEEK 6	Josiah Promises to Follow the Lord (2 Chronicles 34)	"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).	God's Word changes our lives.
WEEK 7	Daniel's Friends Are Safe in the Fiery Furnace (Daniel 3)	"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong" (1 Corinthians 16:13).	Stand strong for God.
WEEK 8	God Protects Daniel in the Lions' Den (Daniel 6:1-23)	"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).	God protects us.
WEEK 9	God Promises to Restore Israel After the Exile (Jeremiah 29:4-14)	"'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).	We seek God no matter what happens.
WEEK 10	Nehemiah Seeks God's Forgiveness for Israel (Nehemiah 1:1-2:9)	"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).	We seek God's forgiveness.
WEEK 11	Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall (Nehemiah 2:11-6:19)	"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23).	God helps us face challenges.
WEEK 12	Esther Saves Her People (Esther 2-9)	"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10).	Everyone can serve God.
WEEK 13	Job Remains Faithful in Suffering (Job 1:1-2:10; 42:1-6, 10-17)	"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:31).	God brings us hope when we're hurting.



THIS IS A SAMPLE
The number of pages is limited.

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