



FAITHWEAVER
Weaving faith into today's families **NOW**[®]

**SPRING
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**PARENT
HANDBOOK**

Group

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**PARENT
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Real. Bold. Love.

FAITHWEAVER NOW

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

FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Parent Handbook, Spring

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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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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 and Joani Schultz
Chairman and Chief Creative Officer
Group Publishing, Inc.



Welcome to the

FaithWeaver NOW Parent Handbook!



First of all, thank you for everything you do as parents. The fact that you're reading this shows how much you care about your kids. You want to be a good parent. A Christ-like parent. It's the toughest and most important job in the world, and with **FaithWeaver NOW Parent** we're going to help you do it even better.

You'll learn together with—and from—other parents who wrestle with the same issues you do. Together, you'll work through those issues as parents and give each other brand-new insights into how to weave faith into your family's life. You'll have fun learning together. You'll discover things you never knew about your children, about each other, and about God. You'll laugh together. You'll probably cry together, too. But most importantly, you'll discover how to weave faith into your families and help your kids walk with God for a lifetime.

Because it's FaithWeaver NOW, you and your kids will explore the same Scripture each week. And while your kids are digging deeper into God's Word and discovering how it applies to them, you'll look at those same passages, seeing how they apply to the particular issues you face with your kids and learning how to have confident conversations with your kids about those issues. As you talk more with your kids about their relationship with God, you'll connect with them in ways you never imagined.

Here's what you'll find in your FaithWeaver NOW Parent Handbook—including how to use each piece to get the most out of each week:



BIBLE BACKGROUND

This is a more in-depth look at the week's Bible passage. Use it to gain a deeper understanding of God's Word.





WEAVING FAITH INTO FAMILIES

This brief devotion will help you think through how this week's lesson applies to your family and how to pray for them this week.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These are the questions you'll go through as a group, including the specific passages you'll look at. Use this page to follow along during the lesson.



NOTES

Use this space to write your prayers, thoughts, discoveries, and great ideas from other parents.



INSIGHT FOR PARENTS

Each week, you get a hands-on idea to take what you've learned and share with your kids.



FAITH TALK STARTER

These quick tips will help you have confident conversations about faith with your kids. Use one, or use them all.



PRAYER STARTER

You've learned a lot today, and you can't wait to share it with your kids. But you know you need God's help. Use this prayer-starter to talk to God. There's a little extra room to write out your prayers, if you'd like.

So again, welcome to the world of **FaithWeaver NOW Parent!** May God bless your journey together—as parents and as faithweavers!



Jesus Teaches About Commitment

Mark 8:31-38



► **Bible Point**
Commit to follow
Jesus.

.....

Key Verse

"I am not ashamed
of the gospel,
because it is the
power of God for the
salvation of everyone
who believes: first
for the Jew, then
for the Gentile"
(Romans 1:16).

.....

Jesus Rebuked Peter

.....

The disciples were likely counting on a great earthly kingdom in which Jesus would lead the Jews in overthrowing the Romans and would place his disciples in important positions. Jesus' statements didn't go along with those expectations! Peter wanted Jesus to change his mind and forget all this talk about dying.

Peter's thinking was based on wrong assumptions because he saw things from a purely human point of view. Here we see a clear statement about what it means to follow Jesus. Too often we think of God as a powerful being who can help us advance our own agendas. Instead, truly following Jesus means listening to what he says, discovering his will for our lives, and then obediently following, no matter how attractive or repulsive that may seem to us at the time.

Jesus Challenged the Crowd

.....

A crowd had apparently gathered to hear Jesus, and he wanted to clarify his meaning. This is not a description of what some call "easy believism." Instead, Jesus points out how denying oneself means turning away from selfish, self-protective attitudes and seeking the true humility and faith God wants to see in us.

What does it mean to take up your cross? For Jesus' disciples to each take up his own cross didn't mean just to endure suffering. It meant to accept fully the suffering they would face because of their faith in Christ. Jesus wanted his disciples to know that their faith came with a cost.





BIBLE BACKGROUND



Stand Firm in Faith

As he spoke of what it means to follow him, Jesus knew that many in the crowd around him wouldn't be followers he would recognize as his own when he returns. Our generation is much like that of Jesus' day. People who claim to be religious—or even Christian—often shy away from bold witnessing for Jesus. It's easy to say you believe in God, but it's much more difficult to confess you're a Jesus-following Christian.



WEAVING FAITH INTO FAMILIES

Humans are willing to sacrifice a lot for the sake of people they love. Your relationship with Jesus will require sacrifice, risk, and loyal commitment—but it's all worth it! As parents, how can you help your kids discover what it means to take up their cross? Talk with them about living out the JOY acronym: Pray about one specific way you'll put Jesus first (such as spending time with him first thing each day), put Others second (such as washing a friend's car), and put Yourself last (such as giving up time watching TV in order to help someone else).

You can write your prayer here.





DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 GETTING STARTED

QUESTION 1

Although these stories used mostly the same words, what differences existed among them?

QUESTION 2

What are some benefits of having choices? What would life be like if we all did the exact same thing?

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Read: Mark 8:31-38

QUESTION 3

Insiders, what was it like to stand still while the Outsiders kept moving closer and closer?

QUESTION 4

What are some ways that life's pressures—especially as a parent—test your commitment to follow Jesus? What pressures are your kids facing that might test their commitment to follow Jesus?

QUESTION 5

According to Mark 8:31-38, why is it necessary to help our kids understand and appreciate the kind of commitment it takes to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus?

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO FAMILIES

Read: Romans 1:16

QUESTION 6

When members of a family aren't ashamed of Jesus and aren't afraid of following him, how might they interact differently with one another? How might they interact differently with people outside their family?

QUESTION 7

In what ways does following Jesus display the power of God at work?





QUESTION 8

How might Romans 1:16 become a prayer or theme verse for your family?

QUESTION 9

What causes, activities, or hobbies are your kids committed to already? How might you use those commitments to teach your kids more about what it means to commit to following Jesus?

Insight for Parents

Consider having one-on-one time with each of your children—perhaps with a pizza night or over dessert—discussing the importance of remaining committed to follow Jesus. The conversation between one parent and one child can open doors of authenticity and honesty about any challenges each child might be facing, and it can help them appreciate your role as a loving, encouraging parent.

Faith Talk Starter

Talk about a time you really blew it and didn't keep Jesus a priority. Then share a time you were able to follow Jesus in a difficult situation. Remind your kids that following Jesus means making a commitment each day to live for him. It's not always easy, and you might not always make the right choices, but you can always start fresh each day. Encourage your kids to think of an area in their lives where they especially need to commit to following Jesus. Challenge and encourage your kids in that area throughout the week.

Prayer Starter

Today's children face pressures on their faith that we never experienced—or perhaps didn't experience until we were older. As parents, we can help our kids build a firm faith foundation through their commitment to Jesus. Pray for God to strengthen each of your children with his power and give them courage and boldness to grow in their commitment to Christ.



Notes Write your prayers, ideas, and other thoughts here.



The FaithWeaver NOW Parent Handbook weaves transformative experiences into every lesson and includes activities that help parents make the Bible unforgettable for their families.

This quarter you'll explore these Bible passages:

	BIBLE CONTENT/SCRIPTURE	KEY VERSE	BIBLE POINT
WEEK 1	Jesus Teaches About Commitment (Mark 8:31-38)	"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile" (Romans 1:16).	Commit to follow Jesus.
WEEK 2	Jesus Clears Merchants From the Temple (John 2:13-22)	"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker" (Psalm 95:6).	God wants sincere worship.
WEEK 3	Jesus Explains Why God Sent Him (John 3:12-21)	"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).	Jesus came to save us.
WEEK 4	Jesus Notices a Widow's Giving (Mark 12:41-44)	"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).	Give cheerfully to God.
WEEK 5	People Rejoice as Jesus Enters Jerusalem (Mark 11:1-11)	"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:10-11).	Jesus is our king.
WEEK 6	Jesus Is Alive! (Mark 16:1-8)	"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies' " (John 11:25).	Jesus is alive.
WEEK 7	Jesus Appears to His Disciples (John 20:19-31)	"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1).	Believe in Jesus.
WEEK 8	Paul Teaches About Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:4-27)	"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).	God gives us gifts to serve him.
WEEK 9	Peter Tells the Sanhedrin About Jesus (Acts 4:5-14)	"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).	Trusting God makes us brave.
WEEK 10	Philip Tells the Ethiopian About Jesus (Acts 8:26-40)	"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).	Follow where God leads.
WEEK 11	Peter Visits Cornelius (Acts 10:1-44)	"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).	Tell everyone about Jesus.
WEEK 12	Barnabas Encourages Christians in Antioch (Acts 11:19-26)	"But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness" (Hebrews 3:13).	Encourage each other to believe in Jesus.
WEEK 13	Jesus Sends Power From God (Acts 2:1-21)	"But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you" (John 14:26).	God gives us the Holy Spirit.



THIS IS A SAMPLE
The number of pages is limited.

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