FAITHWEAVER NOW®

Weaving faith into today's families

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL PARENT HANDBOOK

Group
Real. Bold. Love.

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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.

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group.com/sunday-school

FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Parent Handbook, Fall
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Visit our website: **group.com/sunday-school**

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Cover Photography: ©iStockphoto.com/PickStock

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ISBN 978-1-4707-5997-1

Printed in the United States of America.

Contents

Introduction and Welcome **5**

The Lessons

Lesson 1: God Creates the World
Genesis 1:1–2:3
..... **8**

Lesson 2: God Creates Adam and Eve
Genesis 2:4-22
..... **12**

Lesson 3: Adam and Eve Sin
Genesis 3
..... **16**

Lesson 4: Cain Kills Abel
Genesis 4:1-16
..... **20**

Lesson 5: Noah Builds the Ark
Genesis 6:5-22
..... **24**

Lesson 6: God Floods the Earth
Genesis 7–8; 9:8-16
..... **28**

Lesson 7: People Build a Tower at Babel
Genesis 11:1-9
..... **32**

Lesson 8: Abram Follows God's Direction
Genesis 12:1-8
..... **36**

Lesson 9: Lot and Abram Divide the Land
Genesis 13
..... **40**

Lesson 10: God Makes a Covenant With Abram
Genesis 15:1-18
..... **44**

Lesson 11: Abraham's Visitors/Sodom and Gomorrah
Genesis 18:1–19:29
..... **48**

Lesson 12: Isaac Is Born
Genesis 21:1-6
..... **52**

Lesson 13: God Cares for Hagar and Ishmael
Genesis 21:8-21
..... **56**

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!

God Creates the World

Genesis 1:1–2:3

▶Bible Point
God made the world.

Key Verse
"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

God's Beginnings With Humans

The book of Genesis gives us the beginnings. Not the beginning of God; God has existed eternally. Nor is it just the beginning of our world. It's the beginnings of God's working with humans. In fact, "beginning" is the meaning of the Greek word from which the name *Genesis* came. What better place to start a new season than at the beginning!

Elohim is the Hebrew name used for God in Genesis 1:1. It's interesting that the name is plural, but the verb *created* is singular. Even though God exists in three persons, the action of creating the universe was unified.

God's Creation Was Good

Genesis 1:1–2:3 describes a vast variety of things God created, but the focus isn't so much on the creation as it is on the Creator. Nine times in this passage we read "God said" and then some variation of "and it was so." God spoke our universe, our planet, and humankind into existence. And what God did was good.

The word translated "good" here is a common Hebrew word that, like our word *good*, can have several meanings. Here, it likely has no moral connotation but means "just as it should be." God looked at what he had done and knew it was right.

After Creating, God Rested

God was creating a bountiful, beautiful home for the treasured beings that he created last. Notice that God created many of each thing: not just one tree, but "seed-bearing plants and trees…according to their various kinds"; not just one star, but "lights in the expanse of the sky"; not just one fish, but "every living and moving thing with which the water teems."

BIBLE BACKGROUND

God prepared a marvelous earth for his crowning creation to enjoy. And then God created humans. We're a vital part of everything good that God made.

When God finished creating the heavens and the earth "in all their vast array," he rested. Why? God wasn't tired. God didn't need to rest. No, God rested as a signal that Creation was complete. The seventh day became a holy day—a day to reflect on the wonder of what God had done, a day to smile and to know that it was good.

WEAVING FAITH INTO FAMILIES

What in nature amazes you? Oceans of beautifully colored fish? Massive forests? Take some time to appreciate the creativity of God's design, and consider how God has designed your life, too. Show love for God's creation to your children, and help them see that the Creator has made them creative as well.

You can write your prayer here.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 GETTING STARTED

QUESTION 1
Consider a recent experience when God's creation amazed or overwhelmed you. What caused that response, and how did the experience affect you?

QUESTION 2
Now consider your kids and God's creation. When have they expressed amazement about something they've noticed in God's creation?

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Read: Genesis 1:1–2:3

QUESTION 3
What aspects of God's creation do your kids seem to appreciate the most, and why? What would your family miss out on if your assigned day of creation hadn't occurred?

QUESTION 4
What have been some ways you've taught your kids about God's creation and God's incredible creativity?

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO FAMILIES

QUESTION 5
As our kids get older, how can we help them maintain the sense of wonder and awe they feel about God's incredible power?

QUESTION 6
What aspects of creativity do you see emerging in each of your kids? What are some specific ways you try to nurture that creativity?

QUESTION 7
How can we use the Creation account as an opportunity to encourage our kids to pursue their unique paths of creativity?

Insight for Parents

Spend some time outside this week reading the account of Creation in Genesis 1:1–2:3. Then, as a family, take pictures of each person's favorite item created by God in your setting. As you take pictures, ask each family member to offer a prayer of thanks for God's wonderful creativity in designing the world.

Faith Talk Starter

Tell about your favorite of God's creations—and why it's your favorite. Perhaps you love the ocean because it has whales. Or maybe your favorite creations include snowcapped mountains because you love to ski. Ask your children about their favorites of God's creations—and why they chose what they did. Have fun with these extra questions: Of everything God created, what's the most amazing? the ugliest? the silliest? the scariest? the most fun? (Don't be surprised if your kids come up with their own questions to keep the discussion going.)

Prayer Starter

Think about the unique ways God created your children. Every person, including every child, is a wonderfully original design. Pray for God to reveal specific ways you can encourage your children to be creative. That creativity can emerge in any area: the arts, writing, photography, conversation, business ideas, strategies for sports, and so on. Pray that God will use you as a parent to be your children's greatest creativity encourager.

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

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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	God Creates the World (Genesis 1:1–2:3)	"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).	God made the world.
WEEK 2	God Creates Adam and Eve (Genesis 2:4-22)	"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well" (Psalm 139:14).	God made us.
WEEK 3	Adam and Eve Sin (Genesis 3)	"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).	God doesn't want us to sin.
WEEK 4	Cain Kills Abel (Genesis 4:1-16)	"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves" (Romans 12:10).	God wants us to love our families.
WEEK 5	Noah Builds the Ark (Genesis 6:5-22)	"Peter and the other apostles replied: 'We must obey God rather than men!' " (Acts 5:29).	God wants us to obey.
WEEK 6	God Floods the Earth (Genesis 7–8; 9:8-16)	"The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made" (Psalm 145:13).	We can count on God's promises.
WEEK 7	People Build a Tower at Babel (Genesis 11:1-9)	"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:5).	We put God first.
WEEK 8	Abram Follows God's Direction (Genesis 12:1-8)	"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).	We can always trust God.
WEEK 9	Lot and Abram Divide the Land (Genesis 13)	"Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31).	God wants us to put others first.
WEEK 10	God Makes a Covenant With Abram (Genesis 15:1-18)	" '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).	God has good plans for us.
WEEK 11	Abraham's Visitors/Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18:1–19:29)	"For nothing is impossible with God" (Luke 1:37).	God does amazing things.
WEEK 12	Isaac Is Born (Genesis 21:1-6)	"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4).	Thank God for his gifts.
WEEK 13	God Cares for Hagar and Ishmael (Genesis 21:8-21)	"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" (Luke 11:9).	God always hears us when we pray.

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1515 Cascade Ave., Loveland, CO 80538
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Printed in the U.S.A.

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