



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

**SPRING
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**PARENT
HANDBOOK**

Group

FAITHWEAVER

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

**SPRING
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**PARENT
HANDBOOK**

Group
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

Copyright © 2013, 2016 Group Publishing, Inc.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any manner whatsoever without prior written permission from the publisher, except where noted in the text and in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews. For information, visit group.com/permissions.

Credits

Contributing Authors: Siv M. Ricketts, Vicki L.O. Witte, Jill Wuellner

Editors: Stephanie Martin, Amy Nappa, Jessica Sausto, Owen Shattuck, Ali Thompson

Copy Editors: Lyndsay Gerwing, Becky Helzer, Sarah Yepishin, Andrea Zimmerman

Chief Creative Officer: Joani Schultz

Cover Design and Art Direction: Jeff Spencer

Interior Design Team: Jared Bigham, Jeff Brunacci, Joyce Douglas, Kate Elvin, Suzi Jensen, Dolly Palmer, Jeff Spencer, Rebecca Swain

Cover Photography: ©iStockphoto.com/PickStock

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com

ISBN 978-1-4707-6645-0

Printed in the United States of America.



Contents

Introduction and Welcome5

The Lessons

Lesson 1: Jesus Teaches About Good Fruit
Luke 6:43-458

Lesson 2: Jesus Tells the Parable of the Lost Son
Luke 15:11-32 12

Lesson 3: Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet
John 13:1-17 16

Lesson 4: Jesus Is Tried and Crucified
Luke 19:28-40; 23:1-49 20

Lesson 5: Jesus Appears to Mary
John 20:1-18 24

Lesson 6: Apostles Defend Their Faith
Acts 5:12-42 28

Lesson 7: Saul Meets Jesus Near Damascus
Acts 9:1-20 32

Lesson 8: Peter Raises Tabitha From the Dead
Acts 9:36-43 36



Lesson 9: An Angel Frees Peter From Jail
 Acts 12:1-18 **40**

Lesson 10: Lydia Is Converted
 Acts 16:9-15 **44**

Lesson 11: Paul’s Jailer Believes in Jesus
 Acts 16:16-34 **48**

Lesson 12: Paul Describes Living by God’s Spirit
 Romans 8:9-17 **52**

Lesson 13: Paul Describes Genuine Love
 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 **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!



Jesus Teaches About Good Fruit

Luke 6:43-45



► **Bible Point**
Acting like Jesus
shows we're
Christians.

.....

Key Verse

"In the same way,
let your light shine
before men, that
they may see your
good deeds and
praise your Father in
heaven"
(Matthew 5:16)

.....

Jesus Teaches About Good Fruit

Luke 6:43-45

Jesus Compares Trees to Authentic Faith

.....

In his references to good and bad trees in this passage, Jesus is obviously drawing an analogy to the fruit that people bear. Notice that the distinction is not between healthy apple trees and diseased apple trees. It is between fruit trees and thorns or briars; it is the kind of tree that makes the difference. Many kinds of trees look good but don't produce fruit. So it is with people. Jesus seems to be saying that a person who is not really a servant of God, no matter how good he or she seems to be, cannot possibly produce fruit for him. Conversely, someone who really is God's servant will automatically produce fruit.

The Heart Is Known Through Actions

.....

Then in Luke 6:45, Jesus expounds on the principle he introduced in the tree metaphor. What comes out of us through our speech and behavior flows from what is within. If what is inside us is good and God-honoring, our lives will honor God. If what is inside us is evil, our lives will not honor God. No matter how hard we try to make good impressions, no one will be fooled for long if our hearts are deceitful.





BIBLE BACKGROUND



**WEAVING FAITH
INTO FAMILIES**

As a family, read aloud Luke 6:43-45. As we make our relationship with Jesus a priority, we'll find our actions will bear fruit that will please him. What can you do to store good things in your heart? If we passionately follow God, the good we've stored will flow out to a needy world. Ask God to show you someone who has a need your family can serve this week, and then do the good thing to help that person.

You can write your prayer here.





DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 GETTING STARTED

QUESTION 1

What do you think is more important: belief or actions? Explain.

QUESTION 2

How do you think your kids would explain what Christians do?

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Read: Luke 6:43-45

QUESTION 3

What's the difference between doing good deeds and what Jesus is saying in Luke 6:43-45?

QUESTION 4

Name examples of people you know who are "good trees bearing good fruit." What do you admire about them?

QUESTION 5

Imagine you're not a Christian and are observing our church. How would you characterize our fruit?

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO FAMILIES

Read: Matthew 5:16

QUESTION 6

Is the point of shining your light—or bearing good fruit—so that others will know you're a Christian or so that they'll see God? What's the difference?

QUESTION 7

If you asked your kids, how would they say they see your light?

QUESTION 8

What shadows might get in the way of your light?



Insight for Parents ■■■■

Sometime this week, enjoy a candlelight dinner with your family. Be sure to include fruit salad on the menu! By candlelight, read together Luke 6:43-45 and Matthew 5:16. Discussion: How does our family shine our light? What can we do, not do, or do differently to let our light shine more?

Faith Talk Starter ■■■■

Talk with your children about the kinds of actions that demonstrate whether a person is a follower of Christ. You might focus on how a person treats others or how someone acts when no one is watching. Then share areas in your life where your actions are pleasing to God and areas where you might fall short. Encourage family members to think about one area in their lives that can show the good fruit of following Jesus. Then encourage each person to focus on following God in that area for the next seven days.

Prayer Starter ■■■

Consider the various joys and challenges of your children’s lives and how they might shine the light of Jesus in those areas. Pray that they will always desire to faithfully follow Jesus no matter the circumstances of life.



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 Good Fruit (Luke 6:43-45)	"In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).	Acting like Jesus shows we're Christians.
WEEK 2	Jesus Tells the Parable of the Lost Son (Luke 15:11-32)	"But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love" (Nehemiah 9:17).	God will forgive us when we sin.
WEEK 3	Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet (John 13:1-17)	"If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all" (Mark 9:35).	Jesus wants us to serve others.
WEEK 4	Jesus Is Tried and Crucified (Luke 19:28-40; 23:1-49)	"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).	Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins.
WEEK 5	Jesus Appears to Mary (John 20:1-18)	"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).	Jesus is alive.
WEEK 6	Apostles Defend Their Faith (Acts 5:12-42)	"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance" (James 1:2-3).	Keep following God, even when it's hard.
WEEK 7	Saul Meets Jesus Near Damascus (Acts 9:1-20)	"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17).	Jesus changes our lives.
WEEK 8	Peter Raises Tabitha From the Dead (Acts 9:36-43)	"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (James 5:16).	God answers when we pray.
WEEK 9	An Angel Frees Peter From Jail (Acts 12:1-18)	"For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways" (Psalm 91:11).	Angels protect and help God's people.
WEEK 10	Lydia Is Converted (Acts 16:9-15)	"Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season" (2 Timothy 4:2).	Be prepared to tell others about Jesus.
WEEK 11	Paul's Jailer Believes in Jesus (Acts 16:16-34)	"They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved'" (Acts 16:31).	Jesus saves us.
WEEK 12	Paul Describes Living by God's Spirit (Romans 8:9-17)	"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23).	When we live by God's Spirit, God changes us.
WEEK 13	Paul Describes Genuine Love (1 Corinthians 13:1-13)	"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs" (1 Corinthians 13:4-5).	God teaches us how to love.



THIS IS A SAMPLE

The number of pages is limited.

Purchase the item for the complete version.

