



FAITHWEAVER[®]

Weaving faith into today's families

NOW[®]



**SPRING
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**PARENT
HANDBOOK**

Group

FAiTHweAVER

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SUNDAY SCHOOL**

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HANDBOOK**

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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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Contents

Introduction and Welcome	5
---------------------------------------	----------

The Lessons

Lesson 1: Jesus Teaches His Disciples to Pray Matthew 6:5-13	8
Lesson 2: Jesus Feeds Thousands John 6:1-15	12
Lesson 3: Jesus Explains Eternal Life to Nicodemus John 3:1-17	16
Lesson 4: Jesus Talks With the Samaritan Woman John 4:5-42	22
Lesson 5: Jesus Tells About the Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37	26
Lesson 6: Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead John 11:1-45	30
*Lesson 7: Crowds Welcome Jesus to Jerusalem Psalm 118:19-29; Matthew 21:1-11	34
*Lesson 8: Jesus Comes Back to Life Matthew 27:27-56; 28:1-10	38

* Due to the way Easter falls, we recommend rearranging the lessons as needed so Lesson 7 lines up with Palm Sunday and Lesson 8 lines up with Easter.

Lesson 9: Peter Explains Belief in Jesus
1 Peter 1:3-9 **42**

Lesson 10: Jesus Returns to Heaven
Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:1-11 **46**

Lesson 11: Christians Care for One Another
Psalm 23; Acts 2:42-47 **50**

Lesson 12: Stephen Forgives His Accusers as They Stone Him
Acts 6:8–7:60 **54**

Lesson 13: Paul Teaches in Athens
Acts 17:16-31 **58**





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 whole Bible in 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 Schultz Joani Schultz

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 His Disciples to Pray

Matthew 6:5-13



► Bible Point

We pray to God.

Key Verse

“This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one’ ”
(Matthew 6:9-13).

How Not to Pray

This passage begins with Jesus instructing his followers how *not* to pray. The religious leaders of that time were accustomed to praying loudly on the street corners so that the people would see them as holy and religious. Instead, Jesus says, prayer is to be between the individual and God—sincere communication that is a direct result of one’s relationship with God.

Two Basic Parts

Jesus gives this prayer as a pattern or a form—an outline for prayer. One way to understand it better is to break his prayer into two basic parts: adoration and petition.

The first verse of the Lord’s Prayer expresses praise for God’s majesty and acknowledges God’s love for us. The single word we translate as “our father” is an intimate word that can be translated as “daddy” or “dearest father.” Jesus lets his followers know that they can share in his close relationship with God.

The first petition in the prayer is not related to personal needs. Rather, it addresses seeking what God wants.

After we seek God’s will, we turn to asking God to fulfill personal, daily needs for food, forgiveness, and freedom from temptation. Without God working in our lives and our world, there would be no food or forgiveness. And if Satan were not restricted from tempting us, our lives would be nearly unbearable.





BIBLE BACKGROUND

Putting God First

Remember that Jesus insisted on putting God first. If God isn't first in our lives, as well as in our prayers, God will not be honored, no matter how eloquently we pray.



**WEAVING FAITH
INTO FAMILIES**

Read Matthew 6:5-13 and think about your prayers. Are you comfortable talking with God, or do your prayers sometimes seem shallow and done out of habit? Do you shoot prayers up throughout the day, or pray only when you're in need?

The way you pray with your children provides an important model they will follow. What are you teaching them as they observe you? Fortunately, God didn't leave us wondering how to pray, and has shown us that we can have intimate conversations with him. Ask God to help you be a good example of how to pray—an example that would lead your kids into a growing friendship with their Creator.

You can write your prayer here.





DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

GETTING
STARTED**QUESTION 1**

What did you learn about prayer as a child? How did that change as you grew?

QUESTION 2

If you pray with your child, how do you go about it?

QUESTION 3

What does your child struggle with when praying?

2

BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Read: Matthew 6:5-13

QUESTION 4

Using the definitions suggested, how could your child pray for “daily bread” or for God’s “will” to be done? How do you pray for these things?

QUESTION 5

Think about some things your child has recently been thinking about or experiencing. What part of the Lord’s Prayer most speaks to that?

QUESTION 6

How does the way you communicate with your children help them understand how to communicate through prayer? How could your communication with them help them approach God differently?

QUESTION 7

In what ways do you make praying more difficult for your kids? How could you make it easier and less intimidating?

3

WEAVING FAITH
INTO FAMILIES**QUESTION 8**

What can you do to help your child communicate with God in a meaningful way?





Insight for Parents

As an option, you may want to create a family prayer box to accompany this activity. It can be as simple as a small, gift-wrapped box with an opening for slips of paper. Write several phrases from the Lord's Prayer on slips of paper, such as "Our Father," "hallowed be your name," "your kingdom come," and "forgive us our debts." Ask your children what those words mean, and help them come up with definitions they can understand.

On the back of the slips of paper, have each person write a prayer request and place them in a basket or small box. Let each person draw out a paper that belongs to another family member, and take turns praying for each other.

Faith Talk Starter

At the end of the day, talk with your children about the events that happened throughout the day. Encourage each person to share a "high" and a "low" from the day. For example, a high might be getting picked first for the soccer team and a low might be a bad grade on a test. Then encourage your kids to talk about what they think prayer is, what it looks and sounds like, and when they should pray. Remind your children that prayer is a conversation with God where we listen to God and talk to him. Explain that just as you talked to each of them about their days and listened to what they had to say, God wants to hear about every detail of our days and wants us to listen to him, as well.

Prayer Starter

Pray that your kids would come to know God as a tender Father and friend who wants to hear about every aspect of their lives, and know they can talk to him anytime.

Write specific prayers for your kids.



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 His Disciples to Pray (Matthew 6:5-13)	"This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.' " (Matthew 6:9-13).	We pray to God.
WEEK 2	Jesus Feeds Thousands (John 6:1-15)	"And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).	God meets our needs.
WEEK 3	Jesus Explains Eternal Life to Nicodemus (John 3:1-17)	"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 gives us eternal life.
WEEK 4	Jesus Talks With the Samaritan Woman (John 4:5-42)	"He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life" (1 John 5:12).	Jesus loves everyone.
WEEK 5	Jesus Tells About the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)	"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32).	Jesus says to love others as ourselves.
WEEK 6	Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead (John 11:1-45)	"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 gives us hope.
*WEEK 7	Crowds Welcome Jesus to Jerusalem (Psalm 118:19-29; Matthew 21:1-11)	"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" (Revelation 5:12).	We praise Jesus.
*WEEK 8	Jesus Comes Back to Life (Matthew 27:27-56; 28:1-10)	"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).	Jesus is alive.
WEEK 9	Peter Explains Belief in Jesus (1 Peter 1:3-9)	"Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope" (Romans 5:3-4).	Have faith in Jesus.
WEEK 10	Jesus Returns to Heaven (Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:1-11)	"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 others about Jesus.
WEEK 11	Christians Care for One Another (Psalm 23; Acts 2:42-47)	"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24-25).	God's family takes care of each other.
WEEK 12	Stephen Forgives His Accusers as They Stone Him (Acts 6:8-7:60)	"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15).	We stand up for Jesus.
WEEK 13	Paul Teaches in Athens (Acts 17:16-31)	"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth" (Isaiah 40:28).	God created heaven and earth.

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THIS IS A SAMPLE

The number of pages is limited.

Purchase the item for the complete version.

