



# FAITHWEAVER

Weaving faith into today's families **NOW**<sup>®</sup>

**SUMMER  
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**PARENT  
HANDBOOK**

**Group**

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SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**PARENT  
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**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](http://group.com/sunday-school)

### FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Parent Handbook, Summer

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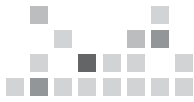
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# The future of Sunday school + family ministry is NOW.

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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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!





# God Tests Abraham

Genesis 22:1-18



## ►Bible Point

Obey God.

.....

## Key Verse

“So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. Walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess” (Deuteronomy 5:32-33).

.....

## A Preface for Today’s Material

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This account may seem horrifying if one doesn’t study it carefully. It’s hard to understand how our good God could command a parent to sacrifice a child. But if we examine the text, we can take comfort in knowing that God never intended for Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. The whole event was designed to test Abraham; it was a chance for him to grow his faith and learn about God’s faithfulness.

## Abraham Obeys God’s Command to Sacrifice His Son

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Isaac was the embodiment of all of God’s promises to Abraham. However, no matter how surprised or saddened Abraham must have been, Abraham obeyed. The Bible says he set out the very next day. When Abraham knew what God wanted him to do, he set out to do it.

Abraham’s faith in God and his willingness to obey are truly amazing. Not only was he willing to sacrifice his son, but he maintained faith in God’s promise about Isaac. He said to his servants, “We will come back to you” (Genesis 22:5). Somehow Abraham was confident that in spite of this recent command, God would preserve Isaac, through whom God had promised to make Abraham’s descendants as numerous as the stars in the heavens!

## Abraham and Isaac Journey to the Place of Sacrifice

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It took Abraham and Isaac three days to travel about 50 miles over rough, mountainous terrain. During the trip, Abraham had time to think. Certainly questions flooded his mind: “What if God really does let Isaac die? What will I tell Sarah? Might this God I’m serving abandon me now after all these





**BIBLE BACKGROUND**

promises?” Abraham could easily have justified disobedience in this case—after all, this was the child God had promised to him and Sarah; maybe the voice he had heard wasn’t God’s after all. But whatever thoughts went through his mind, Abraham never swerved from his steadfast obedience.



**Isaac Also Obeyed God**

The Bible tells us nothing of Isaac’s thoughts or feelings during this trip. He must have noticed that his father was behaving strangely. But Isaac showed faith, too. He submitted to being placed on the altar in obedience to God’s command.

**WEAVING FAITH  
INTO FAMILIES**

Obedience requires submission. Find a time when you can be alone. Kneel before God and pray aloud, submitting yourself, your will, and your life to him. Pledge yourself to obey God. Then faithfully do what you know God wants you to. Be especially mindful of God’s commands throughout one full day. Ask yourself: How does God want me to drive, do my work, act toward my neighbor, treat my family, handle my finances, and so forth? Even if you would naturally choose to do what God calls you to do, adopt the mind-set that your actions are governed by obedience. Say to yourself frequently, “I will choose to do what pleases God.” Talk to God about these things.

**You can write your prayer here.**

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### 1

#### GETTING STARTED

##### QUESTION 1

What did your disobedient experiences in childhood or youth teach you about obedience?

##### QUESTION 2

In what ways has your idea of obedience changed since you were a child?

##### QUESTION 3

When you think of obeying God, what does that look like in your own life?

### 2

#### BIBLE EXPLORATION

**Read:** Genesis 22:1-8

##### QUESTION 4

What new insight did you gain from looking at this account from one person's perspective?

##### QUESTION 5

What surprises you the most about this Bible passage, and why?

##### QUESTION 6

What's significant about God asking Abraham to sacrifice his son, and not something else?

##### QUESTION 7

What lessons about obeying God can you take away from this passage? How can you relay those lessons to your kids?

### 3

#### WEAVING FAITH INTO FAMILIES

##### QUESTION 8

Tell about a time you or your family obeyed God. What was that like, and what happened as a result?



**QUESTION 9**

When is it easiest for you and your family members to obey God?  
When is it most difficult?

**QUESTION 10**

As parents, how can we discern God’s voice from other voices? How can we increase our desire and willingness to obey God?

**Insight for Parents**

Does today’s Bible passage make you squirm? For any parent, the thought of being asked to sacrifice a child seems absurd. And yet, the God of the universe sacrificed his Son Jesus on our behalf. This radical passage from Genesis foreshadows what God would later choose to do in the New Testament by giving up his only child to save us all. What kind of human parent could sacrifice their child so others might live? This amazing passage from Genesis shows us the amazing heart of God, as well as the amazing heart of Abraham to faithfully obey God at significant cost.

**Faith Talk Starter**

**Share about a time you didn’t obey God, and share how you felt during and afterward.** Maybe you chose to deliberately disobey God by lying about something at work, or maybe you simply chose to ignore God when he told you to help out a friend. Then share a time you obeyed God, and compare how that felt similar to or different from when you disobeyed. After sharing these personal experiences with your kids, work together to brainstorm ways you can encourage one another to obey God in the future.

**Prayer Starter**

This week as you consider prayers focused on obedience, be sure to start with your own prayer to be a more obedient follower of God. As you reflect on your own beautiful children, thank God for the ways your children have been obedient to God and to their parents. Then list those specific ways your kids need more of God’s help in order to obey.



**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 Tests Abraham (Genesis 22:1-18)	"So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. Walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess" (Deuteronomy 5:32-33).	Obey God.
WEEK 2	Isaac Marries Rebekah (Genesis 24)	"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5).	Pray for God's direction.
WEEK 3	Jacob Deceives Esau and Isaac (Genesis 25:27-34; 27:1-40)	"The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful" (Proverbs 12:22).	Honesty is important to God.
WEEK 4	Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel (Genesis 29:15-30)	"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).	God uses hard times to help us grow.
WEEK 5	Joseph Dreams Disturbing Dreams (Genesis 37:1-11)	"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34).	Show Jesus' love in our families.
WEEK 6	Joseph's Brothers Sell Him Into Slavery (Genesis 37:12-36)	"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth" (1 John 3:18).	God wants us to do what's right.
WEEK 7	Pharaoh Puts Joseph in Charge (Genesis 39:20-41:49)	"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23).	We can serve God anywhere.
WEEK 8	Joseph Forgives His Brothers (Genesis 42-45)	"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13).	God wants us to forgive.
WEEK 9	God Protects Moses (Exodus 1:1-2:10)	"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).	God protects us.
WEEK 10	Moses Meets God at the Burning Bush (Exodus 2:11-3:20)	"I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13).	God can use us.
WEEK 11	The Israelites Receive Cruel Treatment (Exodus 5:1-6:1)	"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 wants us to hope in him.
WEEK 12	God Sends Plagues on Egypt (Exodus 7:8-10:29)	"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).	God uses his power to help us.
WEEK 13	The Israelites Escape From Egypt (Exodus 11:1-12:36)	"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36).	Jesus sets us free.



# **THIS IS A SAMPLE**

**The number of pages is limited.**

Purchase the item for the complete version.

