



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

**SUMMER
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**PARENT
HANDBOOK**

Group

FAITHWEAVER

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

**SUMMER
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**PARENT
HANDBOOK**

Group

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, Summer

Copyright © 2011, 2014 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.

Visit our website: group.com/sunday-school

Credits

Contributing Authors: Stephanie Caro, Rob Cunningham, Scott Firestone, Siv M. Ricketts, Jill Wuellner

Editors: Laycie Costigan, Jennifer Hooks, David Jennings, Stephanie Martin, Jessica Sausto, Ali Thompson, Christine Yount Jones

Copy Editors: Erica L. Feucht, Deborah Helmers, Becky Helzer, Andrea Zimmerman

Chief Creative Officer: Joani Schultz

Cover Design and Art Direction: Jeff Spencer

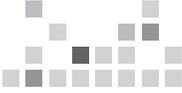
Interior Design Team: Jeff Brunacci, Kate Elvin, Suzi Jensen, Randy Kady, Rebecca Swain

Photographer: ©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 978-1-4707-5905-6

Printed in the United States of America.



Contents

Introduction and Welcome 5

The Lessons

Lesson 1: Elisha Helps a Widow and Her Sons
2 Kings 4:1-7 **8**

Lesson 2: God Heals Naaman’s Leprosy
2 Kings 5:1-16 **12**

Lesson 3: Jonah Learns a Lesson
Jonah 1–3 **16**

Lesson 4: Jonah Complains About God’s Compassion
Jonah 3:10–4:11 **20**

Lesson 5: God Calls Isaiah
Isaiah 6:1-8 **24**

Lesson 6: Josiah Promises to Follow the Lord
2 Chronicles 34 **28**

Lesson 7: Daniel’s Friends Are Safe in the Fiery Furnace
Daniel 3 **32**

Lesson 8: God Protects Daniel in the Lions’ Den
Daniel 6:1-23 **36**



Lesson 9: God Promises to Restore Israel After the Exile
 Jeremiah 29:4-14 **40**

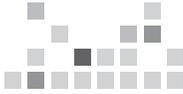
Lesson 10: Nehemiah Seeks God’s Forgiveness for Israel
 Nehemiah 1:1-2:9 **44**

Lesson 11: Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall
 Nehemiah 2:11-6:19 **48**

Lesson 12: Esther Saves Her People
 Esther 2-9 **52**

Lesson 13: Job Remains Faithful in Suffering
 Job 1:1-2:10; 42:1-6, 10-17 **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 whole 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 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.

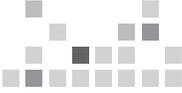
Because it's FaithWeaver NOW, you and your child will explore the same Scripture each week. And while your kids are digging deeper into God's Word and discovering how it applies to them, you'll look at those same passages, seeing how they apply to the particular issues you face with your kids and learning 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!



Elisha Helps a Widow and Her Sons

2 Kings 4:1-7



► Bible Point

God cares for needy people.

.....

Key Verse

“He [God] defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing” (Deuteronomy 10:18).

.....

Elisha the Prophet

.....

Elisha was a prophet who ministered in Israel during the time of the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah. Elisha's ministry spanned the reigns of four kings: Joram, Jehu, Jehoahaz, and Jehoash. And he was even consulted by Jehoshaphat, a king of Judah.

In 2 Kings 4:1-7, it is interesting to note that the husband who died had been from “the company of the prophets.” During this time in Israel in which few people followed God, groups of people gathered to promote the worship of God, with older prophets acting as spiritual mentors to younger ones. Thus it is quite possible that Elisha was familiar with the widow and her sons.

It Seems Cruel, But...

.....

Apparently the man who died had left significant debt. Though it seems cruel, Mosaic law provided that a creditor could force debtors or the children of debtors into slavery in exchange for unpaid debt. And even though the widow had just lost her husband, a creditor was apparently threatening to take her two sons.

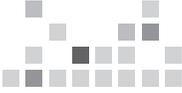
The oil the woman possessed wasn't even enough to cook with. The Hebrew word for *oil* used here indicates that she had only a small flask of oil that was used for anointing, not cooking.

God's Creative Plan

.....

God didn't respond to the widow's need by having Elisha produce a bag of gold coins that would enable her to pay her debt. Instead, knowing that they had only a tiny bit of oil, Elisha asked her and her sons to gather jars from their





BIBLE BACKGROUND



neighbors to fill with oil. In this way, Elisha made the widow act on her faith in God.

It would have been easy for the widow to refuse Elisha's instructions, fearing that the neighbors would think her crazy for asking for jars when they knew she didn't have anything to fill them with. But she was faithful in following the instructions that came from God through Elisha. And her faithfulness was rewarded!



**WEAVING FAITH
INTO FAMILIES**

Read 2 Kings 4:1-7 and Deuteronomy 10:18. Think about a need you have right now that's bigger than you're able to meet on your own. It might be finances, finding a new job, or struggles in a relationship. God saw the widow and her sons in need, and he provided a way for their needs to be met. God will do no less for you.

Write your needs, and then tell God about them. Trust that God will provide. It might not be exactly what you expect, but God's creativity and wisdom are beyond our understanding. It boils down to whether we trust God to meet our needs.

You can write your prayer here.





DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

GETTING STARTED

QUESTION 1

In the past week, how was caring demonstrated to you?

QUESTION 2

How do your kids know when someone cares about them?

QUESTION 3

When you hear the phrase “someone cares about you,” what comes to mind?

2

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Read: 2 Kings 4:1-7

QUESTION 4

What do you find most interesting about this Bible passage?

QUESTION 5

Why is it important that the widow’s sons helped her collect jars and pour oil? What could they learn by experience that they wouldn’t learn by hearing?

QUESTION 6

In biblical times, olive oil was a valued commodity, used for lighting, sacrifices, cooking, and even anointing. Retell the Bible passage using a modern product your kids would understand.

Read: Deuteronomy 10:18

QUESTION 7

What does this verse reveal about God? Why might it be important for your kids to know this truth?

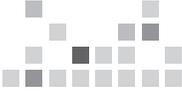
QUESTION 8

How have your kids experienced God meeting your family’s needs?

QUESTION 9

What’s one thing you can do to encourage your kids to trust God to continue to meet their needs?





3 WEAVING FAITH INTO FAMILIES

QUESTION 10

Without sharing specifics, tell what these experiences have revealed to you about God.

QUESTION 11

How can you and your kids actively participate in God’s care for people in need?

Insight for Parents

Read 2 Kings 4:1-7 with your kids, and talk about the importance and value of oil in those days. If this account were to occur today, how might God provide for the widow and her sons? God doesn’t always act the way we think he will, and he often uses other people to care for the needs we have. Brainstorm with your kids ways your family might be involved in caring for someone in need. You might decide to donate this week’s allowances to a charitable organization. Or you might buy school supplies for a family who is struggling to make ends meet. Whatever your family chooses, make a plan and then set it into action.

Faith Talk Starter

Talk with your kids about a way you’ve seen God meet a need in your own life or in the life of someone close to you. Then ask family members to each share ways that others have helped them. For example, people might have given them lunch money or helped with homework. Then talk about how God cares for us, how he listens to our prayers, and how he forgives our sins. Ultimately, God often uses people to meet our needs. And God uses us to meet other people’s needs. Encourage your kids to think of one way they can reach out to someone in need this week.

Prayer Starter

Pray that your kids would turn to God with their needs and know that despite difficult circumstances, he cares for them.

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	Elisha Helps a Widow and Her Sons (2 Kings 4:1-7)	"He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing" (Deuteronomy 10:18).	God cares for needy people.
WEEK 2	God Heals Naaman's Leprosy (2 Kings 5:1-16)	"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time" (1 Peter 5:6).	God wants us to be humble.
WEEK 3	Jonah Learns a Lesson (Jonah 1-3)	"The ways of the Lord are right; the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them" (Hosea 14:9).	Following God is always the right choice.
WEEK 4	Jonah Complains About God's Compassion (Jonah 3:10-4:11)	"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).	God wants us to love everyone.
WEEK 5	God Calls Isaiah (Isaiah 6:1-8)	"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker" (Psalm 95:6).	God is holy.
WEEK 6	Josiah Promises to Follow the Lord (2 Chronicles 34)	"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).	God's Word changes our lives.
WEEK 7	Daniel's Friends Are Safe in the Fiery Furnace (Daniel 3)	"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong" (1 Corinthians 16:13).	Stand strong for God.
WEEK 8	God Protects Daniel in the Lions' Den (Daniel 6:1-23)	"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).	God protects us.
WEEK 9	God Promises to Restore Israel After the Exile (Jeremiah 29:4-14)	"'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).	We seek God no matter what happens.
WEEK 10	Nehemiah Seeks God's Forgiveness for Israel (Nehemiah 1:1-2:9)	"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).	We seek God's forgiveness.
WEEK 11	Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall (Nehemiah 2:11-6:19)	"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23).	God helps us face challenges.
WEEK 12	Esther Saves Her People (Esther 2-9)	"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).	Everyone can serve God.
WEEK 13	Job Remains Faithful in Suffering (Job 1:1-2:10; 42:1-6, 10-17)	"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 brings us hope when we're hurting.



THIS IS A SAMPLE
The number of pages is limited.

Purchase the item for the complete version.

