



# FAITHWEAVER

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

**WINTER  
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**PARENT  
HANDBOOK**

**Group**

Real. Bold. Love.

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

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

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Cover Photography: ©iStockphoto.com/PickStock

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ISBN 978-1-4707-6632-0

Printed in Canada.



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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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





# Prophets Foretell Jesus' Coming

Jeremiah 33:14-16



► **Bible Point**  
Jesus fulfilled God's promise.

.....

## Key Verse

"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel'— which means, 'God with us' " (Matthew 1:22-23).

.....

## Jeremiah Preaches Hope in Times of Trouble

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This passage was written nearly 600 years before Jesus was born. The northern kingdom of Israel had fallen to the Assyrians, who had in turn fallen to the Babylonians. Jeremiah also saw the fall of the southern kingdom of Judah to the Babylonians, concluding with the destruction of Jerusalem in 587 B.C.

Despite all that was going on around him, Jeremiah's message in this passage is one of hope. Repeating nearly word for word the message he had given in Jeremiah 23:5-6, Jeremiah utters here his most important message about the coming Messiah. This King would be a descendant of David but would rule with more wisdom, justice, and righteousness than any other king had ever done. This coming Messiah would not only rescue his people from their oppressors but also reunite the kingdoms of Israel and Judah, which had been divided since the death of Solomon more than 300 years earlier.

## Jesus Fulfills Prophecy, but Not as Expected

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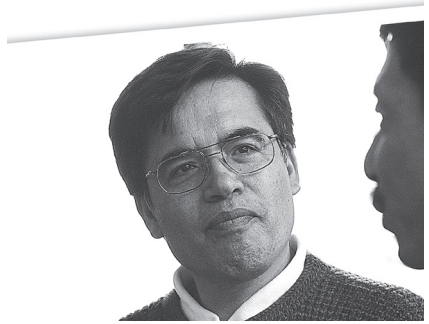
After reading this passage, it's easy to understand why people of Jesus' day expected a Messiah who would lead them in throwing off Roman rule and restoring the unified kingdom of Israel. From our standpoint in history, we know that Jesus came first as the suffering servant (see Isaiah 53), drawing people to himself through his perfect life and his message of repentance. One day, however, Jesus will return to complete his fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies and rule as king over all heaven and earth.





BIBLE BACKGROUND

As we look forward to our celebration of Jesus' birth, we can also look forward to the day Jesus will return to take those who believe in him to live with him in heaven. That's God's message of hope for Christians in today's broken world!



WEAVING FAITH  
INTO FAMILIES

Long ago, God chose to prepare the hearts of his people with the news that a Savior would come. God fulfilled his promise then, and he faithfully continues to fulfill his promises. As you and your family prepare for Christmas, take some time—individually and together—to allow God's message of hope and salvation to sink in. Choose to believe God's promises—and allow the wonder of Jesus' incarnation to overwhelm you. Spend a few minutes in prayer each day, rejoicing in the world-changing miracle of Jesus' birth.

You can write your prayer here.

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### 1

#### GETTING STARTED

##### QUESTION 1

Share a time you didn't quite live up to a promise you made to your child. Why are promises often difficult for parents to keep?

##### QUESTION 2

How do your kids typically respond when they experience broken promises?

##### QUESTION 3

How are promises we make within our families like or unlike promises from God?

### 2

#### BIBLE EXPLORATION

**Read:** Jeremiah 33:14-16 and Matthew 1:22-23

##### QUESTION 4

In what ways is this fulfilled promise good news?

##### QUESTION 5

If God had broken his promise, how would your life and your family members' lives be different?

##### QUESTION 6

As a parent, when is it easy or difficult for you to trust God to keep his promises? Explain.

### 3

#### WEAVING FAITH INTO FAMILIES

##### QUESTION 7

How might we live differently knowing that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise?

##### QUESTION 8

What helps you recognize—and be grateful for—Jesus' presence with you throughout the week?



**QUESTION 9**

Based on today's discussion, how can you help your kids trust God more? Give specific examples.

**Insight for Parents**

As a family, put together a table centerpiece to represent God's promises. You can use elements from nature such as pinecones or holiday decorations in a pretty container. To begin, have the items separate from the container. Take turns recalling one of God's promises as each family member places one item in the container. Some examples: God promises to be with us, comfort, love, guide, and protect us. When your centerpiece is complete, close by singing a favorite Christmas carol as a hymn of gratitude.

**Faith Talk Starter**

**Tell about a time someone kept an important promise to you.** How did it feel for the promise to be kept? Why is it important to keep our promises? Encourage your children to talk about the need to believe in what we say to one another. Talk about ways that God's promises are trustworthy—including his promise to send Jesus.

**Prayer Starter**

Think of various situations your family members are facing, and pray that they'll become aware of Jesus' presence with them.

**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	Prophets Foretell Jesus' Coming (Jeremiah 33:14-16)	"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel'—which means, 'God with us'" (Matthew 1:22-23).	Jesus fulfilled God's promise.
WEEK 2	Zechariah Prophecies About Jesus (Luke 1:68-79)	"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him" (John 3:17).	The world needs Jesus.
WEEK 3	John Prepares People for Jesus' Coming (Luke 3:7-18)	"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).	Repenting prepares us for Jesus.
WEEK 4	The Son of God Is Born! (Luke 1:26-45; 2:1-20)	"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).	Celebrate Jesus' birth.
WEEK 5	Jesus Grows Up (Luke 2:39-52)	"I and the Father are one" (John 10:30).	Jesus is special.
WEEK 6	The Word Became Flesh (John 1:1-18)	"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12).	We can be God's children.
WEEK 7	Satan Tempts Jesus (Luke 4:1-13)	"Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted" (Hebrews 2:18).	Jesus helps us resist temptation.
WEEK 8	Jesus Performs His First Miracle (John 2:1-11)	"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31).	Jesus can do miracles.
WEEK 9	Jesus Teaches in a Synagogue (Luke 4:14-21)	"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost" (Luke 19:10).	Jesus came for all people.
WEEK 10	Jesus Is Rejected in His Hometown (Luke 4:22-30)	"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:5).	Believe in Jesus.
WEEK 11	Moses and Elijah Appear With Jesus (Luke 9:28-36)	"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).	Jesus is God's Son.
WEEK 12	Jesus Teaches About Rewards (Luke 6:17-26)	"Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things" (Colossians 3:2).	Jesus blesses people who have faith.
WEEK 13	Jesus Teaches About Loving Enemies (Luke 6:27-38)	"Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31).	Jesus says to treat others as we want to be treated.



**THIS IS A SAMPLE**  
**The number of pages is limited.**

Purchase the item for the complete version.

