



FAITHWEAVER

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

**FALL
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**PARENT
LEADER GUIDE**

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SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**PARENT
LEADER GUIDE**



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ONE-TIME ACTIVATION CODE:

Group

Group resources really work!

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 Leader Guide, Fall

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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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

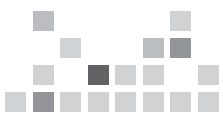


Create a vibrant family ministry that's new...that's wow...that's NOW. FaithWeaver NOW gives you a fresh strategy for being more successful than ever in bringing families closer to Jesus.

Thom Schultz Joani Schultz

Thom and Joani Schultz
Chairman and Chief Creative Officer
Group Publishing, Inc.





The Israelites Cross the Red Sea

Exodus 13:17–14:31

LESSON	WHAT PARENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Naming Our Fears <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Share stories about times when they were really afraid, and talk about their children's fears.		
2 Bible Exploration	God's Deliverance <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Read Exodus 13:17–14:31 to discover how God helped the Israelites; then talk about how God has helped their families during scary times.	Bibles, poster board (3 sheets), markers	
3 Weaving Faith Into Families	Remembering the Blessings <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Reflect on the Key Verse, and talk about taking fears to God.	Bibles	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenge <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Discuss how to apply God's Word.		
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



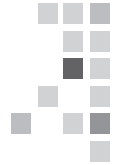
► **Bible Point**
God helps us when we're afraid.

Key Verse
"He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me" (Psalm 23:3-4).

Weaving Faith Into Families
Parents will help their children take their fears to Jesus.

Every activity incorporates the FaithWeaver NOW Parent Handbook—make sure each parent has one!





The Israelites Cross the Red Sea

Exodus 13:17–14:31

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

God Cares for His People

As the mass of more than 2 million Hebrews left Egypt, God knew that facing the warlike Philistines immediately would likely have made the Hebrews lose hope and turn back to Egypt. The pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night must have been awesome and comforting.

God's Unusual Strategy

God instructed the Israelites to turn back somewhat toward Egypt and camp at a spot between Migdol and the Red Sea. God had a bigger plan than anyone else could know. Pharaoh would have been confident that he could easily defeat the Israelites.

The Israelites were slaves of the Egyptians only days prior to this event. They'd been beaten by the whips of the slave drivers and were familiar with the weapons the Egyptians carried. They must have realized that their fighting talents were nothing compared with the Egyptians'. And they were backed against the sea with mountains on two sides and the Egyptians bearing down on them. The situation must have seemed hopeless.

God Shows His Power

We can realize that God had all this planned. He knew that the people would be frightened. He knew that they would doubt him. But he also knew that his power would be remembered forever. God knew that he would prevail, that the Hebrews would be saved from Pharaoh, and that the result would be a people growing greatly in their faith in him.

It may seem odd that no record of this event has been found in Egyptian history. However, it's likely that all records were wiped from the books because it would have been an embarrassment for the world to

know that mighty Egypt had been devastated by its own lowly slaves.

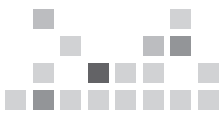
The Jesus Connection

We live in troubled times when it's easy for people to lose heart and feel hopeless and lost. But a relationship with Jesus can give us peace and joy. Jesus is our light in dark times.

When have you felt out of sorts and desperate to find some control over your situation? Perhaps the Israelites felt these things after they escaped from Egypt. Although they may not have recognized it at the time, eventually they were able to look back and see how God used that time to protect them and bring glory to himself.

What part of your life might God have his hand in now? What can you do to connect with God during times of fear and desperation? Take a few minutes to reflect on God's hand in your life. Write your reflection here.





1 GETTING STARTED



Naming Our Fears

What You'll Do

Greet parents warmly as they gather. Have them form groups of five or six with other parents who have kids the same age as theirs.

Say: **Take a few minutes to share with one another about how your week went with your kids.**

Allow time for sharing.

Say: **In your groups, take a few minutes to briefly share stories about a time when you were really afraid.**

After about five minutes, ask someone from each group to briefly share one of the stories with the entire group.

Say: **Now, in your groups, discuss Questions 1 and 2 in your FaithWeaver NOW Parent Handbooks. We'll gather back together in five minutes.**

QUESTION 1

What, if anything, consistently scares each of your kids?

QUESTION 2

When your kids are scared, what tends to help them, and why?

Bring everyone back together after five minutes, and have parents share highlights and insights from the discussion time.

Say: **Today we'll learn about the Israelites crossing the Red Sea. We'll see what a very scary situation they were in, and how God helped them when they were afraid.**

▶ **GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE AFRAID, too.**



God's Deliverance Supplies

Bibles
poster board (3 sheets)
markers

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

God's Deliverance

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have parents combine groups until there are only three groups based on the ages of people's children: one for parents of preschoolers, one for parents of elementary school children, and one for parents of teenagers.

Make sure each group has a few Bibles, a sheet of poster board, and markers.

Say: **In your group, read together the Bible passage that I assign you. Pay attention to all the things the people of Israel had to fear in that passage, and also how God delivered them. God's deliverance might be related to something in previous verses, but you can still make note of it. Make your notes on the poster board. Then be prepared to present your findings to everyone. You'll have about 10 minutes.**

Assign each group one of the following passages:

- **Group 1: Exodus 13:17–14:4**
- **Group 2: Exodus 14:5-20**
- **Group 3: Exodus 14:21-31**

After about 10 minutes, call everyone back together. Have a representative from each group present its findings to the entire group.

Say: **Next, in your groups, discuss Questions 3 and 4 in your handbooks. We'll get back together in about five minutes.**

■ QUESTION 3

When have you experienced God's deliverance when you were afraid? What did God do, and how did it ease your fears?

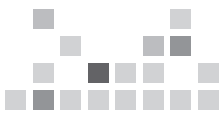
■ QUESTION 4

What makes it easy—or difficult—for you and your kids to trust God for help when you're afraid? Explain.

Bring everyone back together after five minutes, and have parents share highlights and insights from the discussion time.

Say: **We've seen from these Bible passages that God helped the Israelites when they had much to fear. God didn't provide deliverance just during Bible times, though. ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE AFRAID, too. Let's explore some more what that means for our families.**





3 WEAVING FAITH INTO FAMILIES



Remembering the Blessings

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Make sure everyone has a Bible.

Say: **This week our children are learning Psalm 23:3-4 as their Key Verse. Let's look at that verse together.**

Read aloud this week's Key Verse, Psalm 23:3-4, while parents follow along in their own Bibles: **"He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me" (Psalm 23:3-4).**

Invite parents to comment on how this verse speaks to them about God's help when they're afraid.

Form groups of four to six, still based on the ages of parents' children.

Say: **Now, in your groups, discuss Questions 5 through 8 in your handbooks. We'll gather back together in 12 minutes.**

QUESTION 5

What fear (or fears) is your family currently facing?

QUESTION 6

What do you think it means when God doesn't deliver us out of a scary situation?

QUESTION 7

When your family faces fears, what role does—or can—prayer play?

QUESTION 8

How can you help your kids take their fears to Jesus?

Bring everyone back together after 12 minutes, and have parents share highlights and insights from the discussion time with everyone.

Say: **Today we've seen that God helped the people of Israel when they were in a very scary situation, and that ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE AFRAID, too. Throughout the Old Testament, whenever God addresses his people, he says to them, "I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt." God reminds his people again and again how he rescued them from that terrible situation. That's an important and powerful reminder for us and our families, too.**

Remembering the Blessings Supplies

.....
Bibles





4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenge

What You'll Do

Say: Today we learned that ► **GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE AFRAID.** Your Daily Challenge this week is to create a poster with your family that celebrates the ways you've already seen God at work, rescuing and caring for you, helping you when you've been afraid. Each family member can participate. You might use as a title, "I am the Lord your God who...." Leave room on your poster to document future times when God will help you. Take a few minutes to talk to a partner about what this challenge might look like in daily life. Be as specific as you can about how you'll create this reminder of God's help when we're afraid. Allow time.

Close your time together in prayer. Invite parents to contribute short prayers, thanking God for his help when they face fears. When everyone seems to be wrapping up, close the prayer.

Weaving Faith at Home

Say: Your kids should have a take-home page from this week's lesson to show you. It has their Daily Challenges for this week and ideas for weaving faith at home as a family. Please help your kids follow through with their Daily Challenges. Finally, please use your FaithWeaver NOW Parent Handbook as a resource to grow your own faith in God and for ideas to help your kids grow in theirs.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Thank parents for coming, and wish them well in weaving faith into their families.

FaithWeaver NOW is for today's Sunday school teachers. It's developed by real Sunday school teachers, examined by real ministry leaders, and tested and approved by thousands of churches so you get great lessons that work with today's families.

This quarter you'll explore these Bible passages:

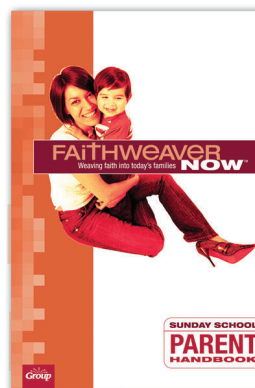
	BIBLE CONTENT/SCRIPTURE	KEY VERSE	BIBLE POINT
WEEK 1	The Israelites Cross the Red Sea (Exodus 13:17-14:31)	"He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me" (Psalm 23:3-4).	God helps us when we're afraid.
WEEK 2	God Sends Quail and Manna (Exodus 16:1-26)	"You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever" (Psalm 23:5-6).	God gives us what we need.
WEEK 3	God Provides Water (Exodus 17:1-7)	"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters" (Psalm 23:1-2).	God is patient with us.
WEEK 4	God Gives the Ten Commandments (Part 1) (Exodus 19:16-20:21)	"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts" (Deuteronomy 6:5-6).	Honor God by obeying him.
WEEK 5	God Gives the Ten Commandments (Part 2) (Exodus 19:16-20:21)	"Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother," and "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 19:18-19).	God tells us how to respect others.
WEEK 6	The Israelites Worship a Golden Calf (Exodus 32:1-25)	"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:2-3).	Only God deserves our worship.
WEEK 7	The Israelites Build the Tabernacle (Exodus 35:4-36:38)	"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Colossians 3:17).	We all can serve God.
WEEK 8	Moses Sends Spies Into the Promised Land (Numbers 13:1-14:23)	"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58).	Be brave for God.
WEEK 9	Balaam's Donkey Talks (Numbers 22:1-38)	"Come and see what God has done, how awesome his works in man's behalf!" (Psalm 66:5).	Pay attention to God.
WEEK 10	Joshua Becomes Leader of Israel (Joshua 1:1-11)	"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).	God is with us.
WEEK 11	Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho (Joshua 2:1-24)	"And without faith it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11:6).	We can have faith that God will do big things in our lives.
WEEK 12	The Israelites Cross the Jordan River (Joshua 3:1-4:24)	"Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done" (1 Chronicles 16:8).	Remember what God has done.
WEEK 13	God Gives Victory Over Jericho (Joshua 6:1-27)	"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:6-7).	God's power works for good.

PLUS...

Access all these **FREE FaithWeaver NOW digital resources** at group.com/digital:

- **FREE digital copies of Leader Guides** in Word and PDF format so you can easily customize any lesson to your ministry. Sharing lessons with busy volunteers couldn't be easier! *See inside for activation code.*
- **A FREE downloadable Director Manual** to help you structure your program for maximum effectiveness.
- **FREE weekly FamilyConnect pages** you can print out or email to parents to help families grow together in faith throughout the week.

Don't forget...



Parent Handbook*

Provides parents with weekly Bible background, lesson information, areas for notes, at-home activities, and devotions.

***You'll need one per parent. Sold separately.**



THIS IS A SAMPLE
The number of pages is limited.

Purchase the item for the complete version.

