FAITHWEAVER NOW®

Weaving faith into today's families

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL

PARENT

LEADER GUIDE

Group

FAITHWEAVER NOW®

Weaving faith into today's families

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL PARENT LEADER GUIDE

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FAITHWEAVER NOW

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
Person-to-person interaction enhances spiritual growth and builds Christian friendships.

Experiential
What we experience through action and discussion sticks with us up to 9 times longer than what we simply hear or read.

Applicable
The aim of ministry is to equip people to be both hearers and doers of God's Word.

Lifelong
Experiences transform the heart, moving faith beyond the walls of church and into everyday life for years to come.

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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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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 point 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 covers 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 and Joani Schultz
Chairman and Chief Creative Officer
Group Publishing, Inc.

David Becomes King

2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37

LESSON	WHAT PARENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**What We Rely On** *(about 15 min.)* Discuss communication methods.	whiteboard or poster board, marker	
2 Bible Exploration	**What Relying on God Looks Like** *(about 15 min.)* Read and discuss 2 Samuel 5:1-5.	Bibles	
3 Weaving Faith Into Families	**Relying on God** *(about 25 min.)* Lead blindfolded partners through a course, and practice five principles to help their kids rely on God.	1 blindfold for every 2 people	
4 Lasting Impressions	**Daily Challenge** *(about 5 min.)* Discuss how to apply God's Word.		
	Weaving Faith at Home *(about 2 min.)* Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

▶Bible Point

We can rely on God.

Key Verse

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

Weaving Faith Into Families

Parents will help their children rely on God every day.

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

David Becomes King

2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37

BIBLE BACKGROUND FOR LEADERS

David Mourns King Saul

We begin this quarter of Old Testament studies with the anointing of David as king of Israel. Many years earlier, Israel's first king, Saul, had turned from the Lord, and God had selected David to succeed Saul. For years after that, Saul sought to have David killed. However, David had refused to act against Saul or to become king until he was certain of God's timing. He had lived a difficult life, almost as an outlaw. Now Saul was dead; after being wounded in battle, he had taken his own life. In fact, Saul and three of his sons, including David's friend Jonathan, had died in the same battle (1 Samuel 31:1-6). So the door was wide open for David to become king of Israel.

David didn't rejoice when he learned of the deaths. Instead he and all his men mourned and wept the entire day (2 Samuel 1:1-12). David even wrote a song in honor of Saul and Jonathan, which can be found in 2 Samuel 1:19-27. He was truly saddened that their lives had ended as they did.

Uniting the Kingdom

David was made king of Judah. Israel followed Abner, the commander of Saul's army, who made Ish-Bosheth, a son of Saul, king over Israel (2 Samuel 2:1-9). After years of much fighting, intrigue, and bloodshed, Ish-Bosheth was murdered, and the leaders of Israel came to David to make him king over them.

David Leads Israel

David was 37 when he became king over all Israel. He had first been anointed to succeed Saul many years earlier, while still in his teens. After his long, patient wait, David was able to lead Israel to great prosperity, fend off the Philistines, and expand the boundaries of Israel during his reign. David wasn't perfect, but as he relied on God, God rewarded him and Israel with prosperity.

David wrote Psalm 37, which describes his trust in God even when he was surrounded by enemies. In this psalm, David says to "delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart" (Psalm 37:4). This could have been the theme of David's life.

The Jesus Connection

Through Jesus, God showed us how to take every step of life relying on him. Because of Jesus' courage, we can believe that trusting God will always be worth it!

What past experience has God used to teach you how to rely on him?

God has a wonderful way of not letting teachable moments in our lives go to waste. What is God using to teach you right now?

Ask God for wisdom to see and strength to move forward with faith, knowing that he'll always have everything you need. You can write your prayer here.

1 GETTING STARTED

What We Rely On

What We Rely On Supplies

whiteboard or poster board
marker

What You'll Do

Designate four different areas of your room—one for parents of babies and preschoolers, one for parents of elementary-school kids, one for parents of preteens, and one for parents of teenagers. If you have a smaller group, combine areas as needed.

Encourage parents to sit in the area that best fits their kids' ages (there may be overlap, so they can choose the age group they prefer). If you don't have enough parents to separate into four areas, simply stay together.

Form groups of no more than four within each area, and have parents discuss Question 1 in their FaithWeaver Parent Handbooks.

QUESTION 1

What do you most rely on for communication—e-mail, texting, cellphone, landline, snail mail, or something else? Why do you rely on it?

Allow two minutes for discussion, and then regain everyone's attention, keeping them in their groups. Take a poll of everyone's answers, just for fun.

Say: **Think about your kids. What is it that they rely on? I'll give you four examples of when your kids need to rely on someone or something:**

1. **When they're afraid…**
2. **When they're experiencing peer pressure…**
3. **When they're confused…**
4. **When they're making a tough choice…**

Write these four things on the whiteboard or poster board so parents can refer to them as they discuss.

Say: **Choose one of your children and one of the areas in which he or she needs to rely on someone. For example, I would choose my child,** [name of your child]**, in the area of** [name of an area]**. Then find a partner in your group and discuss Question 2 in your handbooks.**

QUESTION 2

Tell about how one of your children needs to rely on God right now.

Allow up to 10 minutes for discussion. Then bring everyone back together. Ask willing parents to share some of the examples they talked about.

Say: **All of us face difficulties—including our kids. Our culture emphasizes that we should be strong and face challenges head-on, but often our difficulties feel like more than we can bear. Who will our kids rely on when things get tough?**

Today, we and our kids are learning that ▶ WE CAN RELY ON GOD. God alone can meet our needs and soothe our deepest fears. Let's explore how to help our kids know they can rely on God at all times.

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

What Relying on God Looks Like

What Relying on God Looks Like Supplies

Bibles

What You'll Do

Provide Bibles for those who need them. Have one person in each of the original groups read aloud 2 Samuel 5:1-5, and then have groups discuss Questions 3 and 4 in their handbooks.

QUESTION 3
What do these verses reveal about David's relationship with God?

QUESTION 4
What do these verses reveal about David's responsibilities to God?

After 10 minutes, have each group read aloud Psalm 37:1-7. Then have groups discuss Question 5 in their handbooks.

QUESTION 5
Talk about which verse of this Scripture best relates to your family right now.

After five minutes, regain everyone's attention. Ask for parents to share highlights and insights from their discussion time.

Say: **Helping our children rely on God starts with us learning to rely on God first. As we model for our kids that we're trusting God, whether everything seems to be falling apart or whether everything's going just fine, ▶ WE CAN RELY ON GOD to show our kids what relying on God really looks like. Let's look at how we can model that even further.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO FAMILIES

Tip Some people may not be comfortable or feel safe wearing blindfolds. Give an option to simply close eyes while being led.

Relying on God

Relying on God
Supplies

1 blindfold for every 2 people

What You'll Do

Form pairs, and give each pair a blindfold. Tell parents they're going to experience a trust walk, in which one partner leads the blindfolded partner. Then partners will trade places.

Once the partners have blindfolds on, silently point out a "course" people need to guide their partners through with only their voices. When everyone has finished, have the other partners put on the blindfolds. Silently point out a different course people need to guide their partners through with only their voices. When everyone has finished, have partners discuss Questions 6 through 8 in their handbooks.

QUESTION 6
What was it like to rely on your partner?

QUESTION 7
How is that like or unlike relying on God?

QUESTION 8
Why is it sometimes hard for our children to rely on God as their refuge and strength?

Say: **Think about the area you discussed earlier, where your child needs to remember ▶ WE CAN RELY ON GOD.**

Refer to the items you wrote on the board earlier:

1. When they're afraid…
2. When they're experiencing peer pressure…
3. When they're confused…
4. When they're making a tough choice…

Say: **We're going to do a little role-playing now, and there are five things I want you to use in your role-play. It's as simple as E-I-E-I-O! Look at this week's "Insight for Parents" section in your handbook. You can practice these ideas here and then do them at home with your kids.**

e i e i o

First, Empathize with your child. It always helps to let your child know you understand his or her feelings. Rather than saying, "I know how you feel," try saying, "Sounds like you're a little confused. Is that right?" or "That must be scary. Is it?"

The second thing to do is Invite conversation. Say, "You want to talk about it?" or "What's happening?" Encourage your child to open up. Understand that for some kids, you may need to wait for a time that they're open. It may not be when *you're* ready. But it will happen. Maybe in the car. Maybe right before bed. Ask God to help you be in tune to the moment when your child wants to talk.

Next, Encourage your child to know that what he or she is facing is normal. Don't minimize it by saying, "Oh, that's no big deal." Rather, say something like, "I remember when I felt the same way," or "Yeah, that's pretty normal at your age."

The next thing you want to do is Instill hope. Don't preach, but share how you've relied on God in a similar situation and how God was faithful to you. Talk through with your child how he or she might rely on God in the situation.

Last, Offer your support. Ask, "Is there any way I can help?" Offer an idea: "Would it help if…?" And finally, offer your prayer support. Pray right then with your child, or promise to pray regularly with him or her.

So let's try that. Find a new partner and, using the challenge you chose, practice the E-I-E-I-O steps. Take turns role-playing one of your children while your partner plays the role of the parent. Refer to your handbook if you need to remember a step.

Allow 10 minutes for pairs to practice, and then regain their attention, keeping pairs together.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenge

What You'll Do

Say: **This week, help your kids remember that ▶ WE CAN RELY ON GOD by committing to practicing E-I-E-I-O with them. Your Daily Challenge is to start practicing with the child you've spent time role-playing today, but be available to try it with your other kids, too. Take a couple of minutes to talk to a partner about what that might look like in daily life. Be as specific as you can be.** Allow time.

Weaving Faith at Home

Say: **Your kids should be receiving a letter to you from their Sunday school class today with information about what they'll be doing this quarter. They'll also have a take-home paper 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 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 e-mailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Encourage pairs to close in prayer, praying for the needs they've heard parents express for their children this week.

FAITHWEAVER NOW®
Weaving faith into today's families

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL PARENT LEADER GUIDE

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:

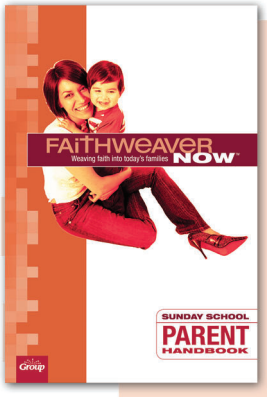
	BIBLE CONTENT/SCRIPTURE	KEY VERSE	BIBLE POINT
WEEK 1	David Becomes King (2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37)	"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).	We can rely on God.
WEEK 2	David Is Merciful to Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9)	"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves" (Romans 12:10).	Being kind honors God and others.
WEEK 3	God Forgives David (2 Samuel 11:1–12:10; Psalm 51:1-12)	"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).	God wants us to repent when we sin.
WEEK 4	Absalom Rebels and Is Defeated (2 Samuel 15:1-12; 17:1-12; 18:1-18)	"He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).	A self-centered attitude hurts God and others.
WEEK 5	Solomon Asks for Wisdom (1 Kings 2:1-4; 3:3-28)	"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).	God gives us wisdom.
WEEK 6	Solomon Writes Many Proverbs (1 Kings 4:29-34; Proverbs 1:1-7)	"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding" (Proverbs 9:10).	We become wise by following God's Word.
WEEK 7	Solomon Turns Away From God (1 Kings 11:1-13)	"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5-6).	Be devoted to God.
WEEK 8	The Kingdom Divides (1 Kings 11:28–12:24)	"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).	Choose to follow God.
WEEK 9	Elijah Helps a Widow (1 Kings 17:7-24)	"So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all those things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:31-33).	Trust God completely.
WEEK 10	Elijah Challenges the Prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:16-40)	"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).	Choose to serve God.
WEEK 11	God Speaks to Elijah in a Whisper (1 Kings 19:9-18)	"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).	When we feel alone, God is with us.
WEEK 12	God Takes Elijah to Heaven (2 Kings 2:1-15)	"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).	God wants us to be faithful.
WEEK 13	Jehoshaphat Trusts God for Victory (2 Chronicles 20:1-30)	"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).	God helps us with our problems.

PLUS...

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

- **FREE digital copies of Leader Guides** in PDF format so you can easily download any lesson for 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.

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