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
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.

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group.com/sunday-school

FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Parent Leader Guide, Fall
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Contents

Introduction 4

The Lessons

Lesson 1: God Creates the World—Genesis 1:1–2:3 5

Lesson 2: God Creates Adam and Eve—Genesis 2:4-22 11

Lesson 3: Adam and Eve Sin—Genesis 3 17

Lesson 4: Cain Kills Abel—Genesis 4:1-16 23

Lesson 5: Noah Builds the Ark—Genesis 6:5-22 29

Lesson 6: God Floods the Earth—Genesis 7–8; 9:8-16 37

Lesson 7: People Build a Tower at Babel—Genesis 11:1-9 45

Lesson 8: Abram Follows God's Direction—Genesis 12:1-8 53

Lesson 9: Lot and Abram Divide the Land—Genesis 13 61

Lesson 10: God Makes a Covenant With Abram—Genesis 15:1-18 67

Lesson 11: Abraham's Visitors/Sodom and Gomorrah—Genesis 18:1–19:29 75

Lesson 12: Isaac Is Born—Genesis 21:1-6 83

Lesson 13: God Cares for Hagar and Ishmael—Genesis 21:8-21 89

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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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

God Creates the World

Genesis 1:1–2:3

LESSON	WHAT PARENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**God's Amazing Creation** *(about 20 min.)* Reflect on God's creative handiwork.	box filled with assorted household items (optional); if meeting indoors, various elements to enhance the "natural" feel of the space	
2 Bible Exploration	**Day by Day** *(about 20 min.)* In groups, read Genesis 1:1–2:3 and discuss the details of how God created the universe.	Bibles	
3 Weaving Faith Into Families	**Value as God's Creations** *(about 15 min.)* Consider ways to help their kids understand how God wants them to be uniquely creative 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.		

Bold text *within the lesson is spoken text.*

▶Bible Point

God made the world.

Key Verse

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

Weaving Faith Into Families

Parents will help their kids discover their own God-given creativity.

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

God Creates the World

Genesis 1:1–2:3

BIBLE BACKGROUND FOR LEADERS

God's Beginnings With Humans

The book of Genesis gives us the beginnings. Not the beginning of God; God has existed eternally. Nor is it just the beginning of our world. It's the beginnings of God's working with humans. In fact, "beginning" is the meaning of the Greek word from which the name *Genesis* came. What better place to start a new season than at the beginning!

Elohim is the Hebrew name used for God in Genesis 1:1. It's interesting that the name is plural, but the verb *created* is singular. Even though God exists in three persons, the action of creating the universe was unified.

God's Creation Was Good

Genesis 1:1–2:3 describes a vast variety of things God created, but the focus isn't so much on the creation as it is on the Creator. Nine times in this passage we read "God said" and then some variation of "and it was so." God spoke our universe, our planet, and humankind into existence. And what God did was good.

The word translated "good" here is a common Hebrew word that, like our word *good*, can have several meanings. Here, it likely has no moral connotation but means "just as it should be." God looked at what he had done and knew it was right.

After Creating, God Rested

God was creating a bountiful, beautiful home for the treasured beings that he created last. Notice that God created many of each thing: not just one tree, but "seed-bearing plants and trees…according to their various kinds"; not just one star, but "lights in the expanse of the sky"; not just one fish, but "every living and moving thing with which the water teems." God prepared a marvelous earth for his crowning creation to enjoy. And then God created humans. We're a vital part of everything good that God made.

When God finished creating the heavens and the earth "in all their vast array," he rested. Why? God wasn't tired. God didn't need to rest. No, God rested as a signal that Creation was complete. The seventh day became a holy day—a day to reflect on the wonder of what God had done, a day to smile and to know that it was good.

The Jesus Connection

God's creation is inspiring, and the gift of his Son is lifesaving. Thank God for the beauty of life in nature and in our hearts through a relationship with Jesus! Show love for God's creation during the lesson this week, and help others see that the Creator has given them new life through Jesus as well.

What in nature amazes you? Oceans of beautifully colored fish? Massive forests? Take some time to appreciate the creativity of God's design, and consider how God has designed your life, too. You can write your prayer here.

1 GETTING STARTED

God's Amazing Creation

Tip If your group can meet outside, take advantage of a natural setting for this week's lesson because it will enhance the conversations about God's wonderful creation. If you can't meet outdoors, do whatever you can to improve the "natural" feel of your meeting area, such as bringing plants into the room, opening the windows to draw in fresh air, or playing music with nature sounds quietly in the background.

God's Amazing Creation Supplies

box filled with assorted household items (optional); if meeting indoors, various elements to enhance the "natural" feel of the space

What You'll Do

Greet parents warmly as they gather.

Ask participants to share with each other how their week went with their kids.

Invite parents to each select one item from the box you brought from home—but don't explain the purpose behind the items or how they'll be used. If you were unable to gather the items, have parents pick something (such as a picture, the lights, a chair, the carpet color) in your meeting area.

Ask parents to form groups of three or four.

Say: **I've asked each of you to select one item from the box, but I didn't explain how you were going to use the item. In your groups, discuss all the ways your individual items remind you of God's creation and God's creativity. You're free to talk about the item you chose plus the items selected by the other people in your group. You'll have about five minutes for this exercise.**

Allow five minutes for discussion. Then gather everyone's attention.

Say: **Okay, let's go around the room and share some of the ideas you generated.**

Allow about five minutes for people to share their ideas.

With everyone still in the smaller groups, ask participants to discuss Questions 1 and 2 in their FaithWeaver NOW Parent Handbooks. Explain that they'll have about five minutes to talk about these questions.

QUESTION 1

Consider a recent experience when God's creation amazed or overwhelmed you. What caused that response, and how did the experience affect you?

QUESTION 2

Now consider your kids and God's creation. When have they expressed amazement about something they've noticed in God's creation?

Allow about five minutes for conversation. Regain everyone's attention, and ask for insights from the discussion.

Say: **We're surrounded by the evidence of God's creativity. Each person in this room is a wonderful part of God's creation. So are towering mountains, delicate flowers, stars spinning in distant solar systems, and waves lapping the shores of great oceans. ▶ GOD MADE THE WORLD, and God sustains it all. But how did God do it? And what can we teach our kids about God's character through creation? Let's begin by looking at the opening pages of the Bible, in the book of Genesis.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Day by Day

Day by Day Supplies

Bibles

What You'll Do

Ask parents to form seven groups—a group can be as small as one person. Assign each group a number from one to seven. Distribute Bibles, if needed. Ask groups to read these verses together.

Group 1: Genesis 1:1-5
Group 2: Genesis 1:6-8
Group 3: Genesis 1:9-13
Group 4: Genesis 1:14-19
Group 5: Genesis 1:20-23
Group 6: Genesis 1:24-31
Group 7: Genesis 2:1-3

Allow time for groups to finish their readings.

Say: **In your groups, identify what God created on the day that corresponds with your group number—and how God did it. Also share how the things God created that day impact your role as a parent. If you're a group of one, get with another group to talk.**

Wait a few minutes until groups have reached their conclusions. Then ask participants to discuss Questions 3 and 4 in their handbooks.

QUESTION 3
What aspects of God's creation do your kids seem to appreciate the most, and why? What would your family miss out on if your assigned day of creation hadn't occurred?

QUESTION 4
What have been some ways you've taught your kids about God's creation and God's incredible creativity?

Give groups five minutes to discuss the questions, and then regain their attention. Ask several people to share insights and ideas from Question 4, and allow time for parents to write ideas they may want to use in the "Notes" section of their handbooks.

Say: **As parents, we have the primary responsibility for teaching and instructing our kids about who God is and how much God loves and values all creation. ▶ GOD MADE THE WORLD. Creation and God's creativity are important reflections of God's design and purpose for our lives—and for your children's lives. Let's spend a few minutes seeing how we can help our kids connect God's creation of the universe and the creativity he's given them.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO FAMILIES

Value as God's Creations

What You'll Do

Say: **Our children are God's purposeful creations. Jesus died to save people—including the children we love and care for. And as creations Jesus died to save, people have the highest value of anything in creation. One of the many gifts that God our Creator blesses us with is creativity.**

Have each group discuss Questions 5 through 7 in their handbooks.

QUESTION 5
As our kids get older, how can we help them maintain the sense of wonder and awe they feel about God's incredible power?

QUESTION 6
What aspects of creativity do you see emerging in each of your kids? What are some specific ways you try to nurture that creativity?

QUESTION 7
How can we use the Creation account as an opportunity to encourage our kids to pursue their unique paths of creativity?

Allow about 10 minutes. Then gather everyone back together and ask participants to share some insights from their discussions with the whole group.

Say: **We want to always have a sense of awe and wonder at how incredible God is, just as young children do. ▶ GOD MADE THE WORLD, and because we're made in his image, we can reflect his creativity. It's important to see ourselves as creative people, discovering and developing all of our individual creative areas. As parents, we have the opportunity to encourage that same growth in our children's lives.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenge

What You'll Do

Say: **This week, help your kids remember that ▶ GOD MADE THE WORLD. Your Daily Challenge this week is to find a new way to enjoy God's creation with your family. 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 appreciate what God made.** Allow time.

Say: **Please join me in prayer.**

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for the amazing world you created. Please help our kids understand that you created the universe, that you love each of your creations, and that you designed us to be wonderfully creative people. Show us new ways to enjoy and appreciate with our children what you made. In Jesus' name, amen.**

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®
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.

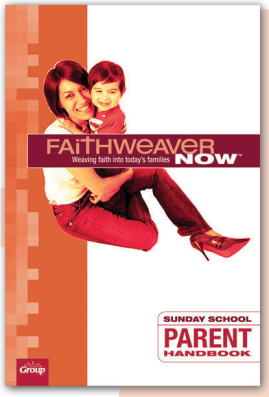
This quarter you'll explore these Bible passages:

	BIBLE CONTENT/SCRIPTURE	KEY VERSE	BIBLE POINT
WEEK 1	God Creates the World (Genesis 1:1–2:3)	"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).	God made the world.
WEEK 2	God Creates Adam and Eve (Genesis 2:4-22)	"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well" (Psalm 139:14).	God made us.
WEEK 3	Adam and Eve Sin (Genesis 3)	"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).	God doesn't want us to sin.
WEEK 4	Cain Kills Abel (Genesis 4:1-16)	"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves" (Romans 12:10).	God wants us to love our families.
WEEK 5	Noah Builds the Ark (Genesis 6:5-22)	"Peter and the other apostles replied: 'We must obey God rather than men!' " (Acts 5:29).	God wants us to obey.
WEEK 6	God Floods the Earth (Genesis 7–8; 9:8-16)	"The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made" (Psalm 145:13).	We can count on God's promises.
WEEK 7	People Build a Tower at Babel (Genesis 11:1-9)	"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:5).	We put God first.
WEEK 8	Abram Follows God's Direction (Genesis 12:1-8)	"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).	We can always trust God.
WEEK 9	Lot and Abram Divide the Land (Genesis 13)	"Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31).	God wants us to put others first.
WEEK 10	God Makes a Covenant With Abram (Genesis 15:1-18)	" '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).	God has good plans for us.
WEEK 11	Abraham's Visitors/ Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18:1–19:29)	"For nothing is impossible with God" (Luke 1:37).	God does amazing things.
WEEK 12	Isaac Is Born (Genesis 21:1-6)	"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4).	Thank God for his gifts.
WEEK 13	God Cares for Hagar and Ishmael (Genesis 21:8-21)	"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the the door will be opened to you" (Luke 11:9).	God always hears us when we pray.

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.



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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