



FAITHWEAVER

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

**SPRING
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**PARENT
LEADER GUIDE**

Group

FAITHWEAVER

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

**SPRING
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**PARENT
LEADER GUIDE**



GET YOUR **FREE DIGITAL
COPY** OF THIS LEADER GUIDE.
IT'S AS EASY AS **1-2-3**

- 1** Visit **group.com/digital** to set up a free online account for your church.
- 2** Enter the Activation Code below to add this leader guide to your account.
- 3** Download PDF files to your computer and print or email them to your leaders.

ONE-TIME ACTIVATION CODE:

Group
Real. Bold. Love.

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, Spring

Copyright © 2012 & 2015 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



When you see the OK TO COPY icon, this means permission to photocopy the page from FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum for Parent, Spring, is granted for local church use. Copyright © Group Publishing, Inc. group.com

Credits

Contributing Authors: Rob Cunningham, Siv M. Ricketts, Vicki L.O. Witte, Jill Wuellner

Editors: Erica L. Feucht, Scott Firestone IV, Jennifer Hooks, Stephanie Martin, Jessica Sausto, Ali Thompson, Christine Yount Jones

Copy Editors: Lyndsay Gerwing, Deborah Helmers, Becky Helzer, Andrea Zimmerman

Chief Creative Officer: Joani Schultz

Cover Design and Art Direction: Jeff Spencer

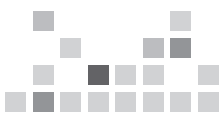
Interior Design Team: Jared Bigham, Jeff Brunacci, Kate Elvin, Suzi Jensen, Randy Kady, Rebecca Swain

Cover Photography: © 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 978-1-4707-6297-1

Printed in the United States of America.



Contents

Introduction	4
The Lessons	
.....	
Lesson 1: Jesus Teaches About Commitment—Mark 8:31-38	5
Lesson 2: Jesus Clears Merchants From the Temple—John 2:13-22	11
Lesson 3: Jesus Explains Why God Sent Him—John 3:12-21	17
Lesson 4: Jesus Notices a Widow’s Giving—Mark 12:41-44	23
* Lesson 5: People Rejoice as Jesus Enters Jerusalem—Mark 11:1-11	29
* Lesson 6: Jesus Is Alive!—Mark 16:1-8	35
Lesson 7: Jesus Appears to His Disciples—John 20:19-31	41
Lesson 8: Paul Teaches About Spiritual Gifts—1 Corinthians 12:4-27	47
Lesson 9: Peter Tells the Sanhedrin About Jesus—Acts 4:5-14	53
Lesson 10: Philip Tells the Ethiopian About Jesus—Acts 8:26-40	59
Lesson 11: Peter Visits Cornelius—Acts 10:1-44	65
Lesson 12: Barnabas Encourages Christians in Antioch—Acts 11:19-26	71
Lesson 13: Jesus Sends Power From God—Acts 2:1-21	77

* We recommend starting the quarter so that Lessons 5 and 6 align with the dates of Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Visit the Digital Download Center for a suggested schedule.



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.

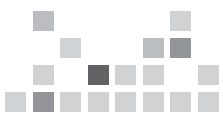


Create a vibrant family ministry that's new...that's wow...that's NOW. FaithWeaver NOW gives you a fresh strategy for being more successful than ever in bringing families closer to Jesus.

Thom Schultz Joani Schultz

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





Jesus Teaches About Commitment

Mark 8:31-38

LESSON	WHAT PARENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Create-a-Story <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Arrange words to create a story.	52 index cards, pens or pencils, tape	Write the following words on index cards, with one word per card: Maria, Robert, scarf, shirt, tree, bike, drive, wander, question, beach, home. Make 4 sets of these word cards, and leave 8 cards blank.
2 Bible Exploration	Responding to Pressure <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Discover and discuss the commitment necessary to follow Jesus.	Bibles	
3 Weaving Faith Into Families	Living Proof <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Examine the Key Verse and consider how parents help their kids commit to follow Jesus.	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.



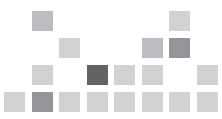
► **Bible Point**
Commit to follow Jesus.

Key Verse
"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile" (Romans 1:16).

Weaving Faith Into Families
Parents will help their kids grow in their commitment to Jesus.

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





1 GETTING STARTED

Create-a-Story

What You'll Do

Greet parents warmly as they gather. Ask them to turn to a partner and share how their week went with their kids.

After allowing a few minutes for discussion, have parents form four groups. Give each group a set of word cards, two blank cards, a pen or pencil, and a roll of tape.

Say: **As a group, create a short story that incorporates the words on your cards. You also have a couple of blank cards you can use to include additional words in your story. Once you've created your tale, tape the cards on the wall in the order you're using them.**

Give groups about seven minutes to create their stories, and then have them present their stories to the rest of the group. Allow about five minutes for the presentations.

Ask parents to discuss Questions 1 and 2 in their FaithWeaver NOW Parent Handbooks.

QUESTION 1

Although these stories used mostly the same words, what differences existed among them?

QUESTION 2

What are some benefits of having choices? What would life be like if we all did the exact same thing?

Allow several minutes for discussion. Then ask a few parents to share their responses to the questions.

Say: **In this activity, each group made unique choices that shaped the stories. You arranged the cards in different ways to spin your tales. When it comes to faith, you also make choices about your commitment to following Jesus. Certain choices strengthen commitment, while others weaken it. Jesus calls each of us to understand that following him takes commitment. As parents, it's our privilege and responsibility to help our kids ► COMMIT TO FOLLOW JESUS. Today we'll explore a Bible passage where Jesus teaches about the commitment we make to him.**



Create-a-Story Supplies

52 index cards
pens or pencils
tape

Create-a-Story Easy Prep

Write the following words on index cards, with one word per card: Maria, Robert, scarf, shirt, tree, bike, drive, wander, question, beach, home. Make 4 sets of these word cards, and leave 8 cards blank.



Responding to Pressure Supplies

Bibles

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Responding to Pressure

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Form groups of three, preferably three people of the same gender. Explain that you'd like everyone to stand while you read some Scripture verses. Have two members of each group stand about 6 feet apart, facing each other; these are the Outsiders. Have the third person—the Insider—stand between the Outsiders.

Read Mark 8:31-33.

Say: **If you're an Outsider, please take one step forward.**

Read Mark 8:34-35.

Say: **Outsiders, please step forward again.**

Read Mark 8:36-37.

Say: **One more time, Outsiders: Step even closer to your Insider.**

Read Mark 8:38. Then have trios find seats and answer Questions 3 through 5 in their handbooks.

QUESTION 3

Insiders, what was it like to stand still while the Outsiders kept moving closer and closer?

QUESTION 4

What are some ways that life's pressures—especially as a parent—test your commitment to follow Jesus? What pressures are your kids facing that might test their commitment to follow Jesus?

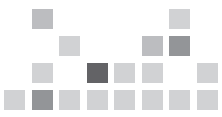
QUESTION 5

According to Mark 8:31-38, why is it necessary to help our kids understand and appreciate the kind of commitment it takes to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus?

Allow about 10 minutes of conversation. Then ask someone from each trio to share their responses with the entire group.

Say: **All the pressures and challenges we face as parents can put our commitment to follow Jesus to the test. When it feels as if the world is closing in on us, we can become intimidated and frightened. But Jesus gives us the strength to**





take a stand, pick up our cross, and follow him—even when there are tough consequences. And he promises to do the same thing for our kids. Let's explore some practical ideas for helping them ► **COMMIT TO FOLLOW JESUS** in all circumstances.



3 WEAVING FAITH
INTO FAMILIES

Living Proof

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Ask parents to form new trios. Distribute Bibles, if needed.

Say: **Please read this week's Key Verse, Romans 1:16, and then discuss Questions 6 through 9 in your handbooks. You'll have about eight minutes.**

QUESTION 6

When members of a family aren't ashamed of Jesus and aren't afraid of following him, how might they interact differently with one another? How might they interact differently with people outside their family?

QUESTION 7

In what ways does following Jesus display the power of God at work?

QUESTION 8

How might Romans 1:16 become a prayer or theme verse for your family?

QUESTION 9

What causes, activities, or hobbies are your kids committed to already? How might you use those commitments to teach your kids more about what it means to commit to following Jesus?

After about eight minutes, gather trios back together and ask them to share some insights from their discussions with the whole group.

Say: **Following Jesus requires commitment. At times, Satan and life's circumstances challenge and test our faith. As parents, we have the opportunity to help our kids discover what it means to stand firm in our faith and ► COMMIT TO FOLLOW JESUS. We can do that without being ashamed, thanks to God's power at work within us.**

Please find a partner who you haven't been in a group with yet today. Then take turns praying for each of your kids. Ask Jesus to give you strength and courage as you lead a life of commitment to Jesus and to help your kids follow the same path. We'll come back together in about five minutes.

Living Proof Supplies

Bibles





After about five minutes, gather everyone back together.

Say: **This week, continue focusing on what it means to ► COMMIT TO FOLLOW JESUS. Keep looking for creative ways to encourage your kids in their efforts, too. I pray that you and your kids have a great week as you follow Jesus!**

.....

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenge

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Today we learned why it's important to ► COMMIT TO FOLLOW JESUS—and to help our kids do so, too. Your Daily Challenge this week is to come up with three creative ways to remind your family members to stay committed to Jesus. 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 encourage one another to commit to following Jesus. Allow time.**

Say: **Let's close in prayer.**

Ask parents to stand in a circle and join hands with one another.

Say: **Let's go around the circle and each say one word related to commitment or following Jesus. Say your word as a prayer to Jesus as you encourage your kids to follow him. I'll start.**

When everyone's finished, 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	Jesus Teaches About Commitment (Mark 8:31-38)	"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile" (Romans 1:16).	Commit to follow Jesus.
WEEK 2	Jesus Clears Merchants From the Temple (John 2:13-22)	"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker" (Psalm 95:6).	God wants sincere worship.
WEEK 3	Jesus Explains Why God Sent Him (John 3:12-21)	"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).	Jesus came to save us.
WEEK 4	Jesus Notices a Widow's Giving (Mark 12:41-44)	"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).	Give cheerfully to God.
*WEEK 5	People Rejoice as Jesus Enters Jerusalem (Mark 11:1-11)	"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:10-11).	Jesus is our king.
*WEEK 6	Jesus Is Alive! (Mark 16:1-8)	"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies'" (John 11:25).	Jesus is alive.
WEEK 7	Jesus Appears to His Disciples (John 20:19-31)	"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1).	Believe in Jesus.
WEEK 8	Paul Teaches About Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:4-27)	"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).	God gives us gifts to serve him.
WEEK 9	Peter Tells the Sanhedrin About Jesus (Acts 4:5-14)	"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).	Trusting God makes us brave.
WEEK 10	Philip Tells the Ethiopian About Jesus (Acts 8:26-40)	"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).	Follow where God leads.
WEEK 11	Peter Visits Cornelius (Acts 10:1-44)	"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).	Tell everyone about Jesus.
WEEK 12	Barnabas Encourages Christians in Antioch (Acts 11:19-26)	"But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness" (Hebrews 3:13).	Encourage each other to believe in Jesus.
WEEK 13	Jesus Sends Power From God (Acts 2:1-21)	"But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you" (John 14:26).	God gives us the Holy Spirit.

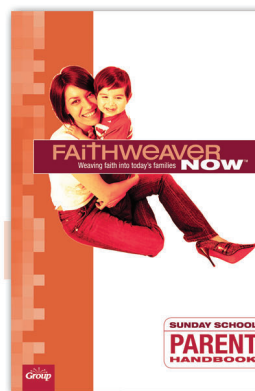
* We recommend starting the quarter so that Lessons 5 and 6 align with the dates of Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Visit the Digital Download Center for a suggested schedule.

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.

