



FAITHWEAVER

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

**SPRING
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**PARENT
LEADER GUIDE**

Group

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**SPRING
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**PARENT
LEADER GUIDE**



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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

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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group.com/sunday-school

FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Parent Leader Guide, Spring

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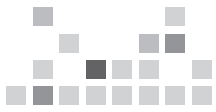
Rebecca Swain

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* We recommend starting the quarter so that Lessons 4 and 5 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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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 Good Fruit

Luke 6:43-45

LESSON	WHAT PARENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Living the Call <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Describe what Christians do.	pencils	
2 Bible Exploration	Good Tree, Good Fruit <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Illustrate and discuss Luke 6:43-45.	Bibles, pencils	
3 Weaving Faith Into Families	Shine <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Plan practical ways to shine their lights and encourage their kids to shine their lights.	Bibles, flashlights (1 for each group of 4 people), sliced fruit or prepared fruit salad, bowls, forks	
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

Acting like Jesus shows we're Christians.

Key Verse

"In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

Weaving Faith Into Families

Parents will plan ways to grow fruit in their own lives as they encourage their kids to grow in faith.



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



Jesus Teaches About Good Fruit

Luke 6:43-45



BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Jesus Compares Trees to Authentic Faith

In his references to good and bad trees in this passage, Jesus is obviously drawing an analogy to the fruit that people bear. Notice that the distinction is not between healthy apple trees and diseased apple trees. It is between fruit trees and thorns or briars; it is the kind of tree that makes the difference. Many kinds of trees look good but don't produce fruit. So it is with people. Jesus seems to be saying that a person who is not really a servant of God, no matter how good he or she seems to be, cannot possibly produce fruit for him. Conversely, someone who really is God's servant will automatically produce fruit.

The Heart Is Known Through Actions

Then in Luke 6:45, Jesus expounds on the principle he introduced in the tree metaphor. What comes out of us through our speech and behavior flows from what is within. If what is inside us is good and God-honoring, our lives will honor God. If what is inside us is evil, our lives will not honor God. No matter how hard we try to make good impressions, no one will be fooled for long if our hearts are deceitful.

The Jesus Connection

As we make our relationship with Jesus a priority, we'll find our actions will bear fruit that will please him.

Read aloud Luke 6:43-45. What can you do to store good things in your heart? In what circumstances can you bring good things out of the good you've stored in your heart? If you passionately follow God, the good you've stored will flow out to a needy world. Ask God to show you someone in your church who has a need. And then do the good thing and help that person.

Don't forget to pray for the person! You can write your prayer here.



1 GETTING STARTED

Living the Call

What You'll Do

Greet parents warmly as they gather.

Say: **What's your child's favorite fruit? Form a group of four with others whose kids share your kids' favorite fruit, and then discuss how your week went with your kids.**

As parents chat, make sure each group has something to write with.

Say: **Choose a scribe for your group, and have this person turn to the Notes section in the FaithWeaver NOW Parent Handbook. Then work as a group to brainstorm a list of types of people who live out their calling; for example, "actors act," "plumbers plumb," or "lawyers litigate." You have two minutes to brainstorm.**

After two minutes, invite groups to each share one thing from their lists. Go around the room, asking groups not to duplicate answers.

Say: **All right, so fill in the blank: "Christians...."** Invite parents to call out suggestions.

Say: **Some people think of faith as just "fire insurance" and may not be concerned about acting on their beliefs. But faithfully following Jesus and acting according to his teachings is the way to point others to God. ► ACTING LIKE JESUS SHOWS WE'RE CHRISTIANS.**

Direct groups to discuss Questions 1 and 2 in their handbooks.

QUESTION 1

What do you think is more important: belief or actions? Explain.

QUESTION 2

How do you think your kids would explain what Christians do?



Living the Call Supplies

.....
pencils



Good Tree, Good Fruit Supplies

Bibles
pencils

Shine Supplies

Bibles
flashlights (1 for each
group of 4 people)
sliced fruit or prepared
fruit salad
bowls
forks

Spring Quarter

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Good Tree, Good Fruit

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Though today's lesson focuses on just a few verses, they are powerful words from Jesus. With your group, read Luke 6:43-45 and share your initial reaction to what Jesus says. Then turn to the Notes section in your handbook and illustrate this passage with as much detail as possible to anticipate any questions your children might have about Jesus' meaning. You need only one drawing per group, though others may draw if they'd like.**

Allow about five minutes for parents to read, draw, and talk before asking them to take about seven minutes to discuss Questions 3 through 5 in their handbooks.

QUESTION 3

What's the difference between doing good deeds and what Jesus is saying in Luke 6:43-45?

QUESTION 4

Name examples of people you know who are "good trees bearing good fruit." What do you admire about them?

QUESTION 5

Imagine you're not a Christian and are observing our church. How would you characterize our fruit?

After seven minutes, invite groups to share their drawings as well as highlights from their discussion.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO FAMILIES

Shine

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each group a flashlight, and do what you can to completely darken your meeting space—cover windows, turn off the lights in the room, and so on. Invite groups to move around and play with their flashlights, making shadow figures on the wall.

After a few minutes, bring everyone back together.

Lesson 1 ■ Parent





Say: **In today’s Key Verse, Jesus uses a different metaphor to convey the same idea. Use your flashlight to read Matthew 5:16, and then discuss Questions 6 through 8 in your handbooks.**



QUESTION 6

Is the point of shining your light—or bearing good fruit—so that others will know you’re a Christian or so that they’ll see God? What’s the difference?

QUESTION 7

If you asked your kids, how would they say they see your light?

QUESTION 8

What shadows might get in the way of your light?

Say: **It’s not always easy to follow Jesus and shine your light. Sometimes we doubt; sometimes we just don’t want to do the right thing. And if it can be tough for us, you know it’s also tough for your kids. Flip to the Notes section of your handbook and brainstorm with your group practical ways to “boost your wattage”; for example, spending time in prayer (When? Where? Be specific!) or asking God to help you end a “rotten fruit” habit. Keep your kids in mind, too—how can you help them boost their wattage? You have five minutes to work.**

When time’s up, ask a few people to share some of their ideas.

Say: **Turn to a partner and share what fruit you already see in your kids’ lives and what you might do this week to encourage them in faith and good deeds. Take about one minute each to share.**

After two minutes, gather everyone’s attention.

Say: **Let’s end today with some delicious affirmation. Think about something you do because of Jesus. For example, because I follow Jesus and want to help others grow in faith, I teach Sunday school. I pray that my teaching is a good fruit that points others to Jesus!** Pause while parents consider what they do.

Say: **Now please stand with me in a circle, and let’s take turns filling in the blank: “Because I follow Jesus, I produce fruit when I…”**

When everyone has shared, thank God for his gracious invitation into faith and a lifestyle of living out the faith to which he’s called us. Then pass around the fruit for everyone to enjoy.





4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenge

What You'll Do

Say: Today we learned that ► **ACTING LIKE JESUS SHOWS WE'RE CHRISTIANS.** Your Daily Challenge this week as a family is to agree on one way each day to act like 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 your family can act like Jesus. Allow time.

Close your time together in 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 Good Fruit (Luke 6:43-45)	"In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).	Acting like Jesus shows we're Christians.
WEEK 2	Jesus Tells the Parable of the Lost Son (Luke 15:11-32)	"But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love" (Nehemiah 9:17).	God will forgive us when we sin.
WEEK 3	Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet (John 13:1-17)	"If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all" (Mark 9:35).	Jesus wants us to serve others.
*WEEK 4	Jesus Is Tried and Crucified (Luke 19:28-40; 23:1-49)	"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).	Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins.
*WEEK 5	Jesus Appears to Mary (John 20:1-18)	"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).	Jesus is alive.
WEEK 6	Apostles Defend Their Faith (Acts 5:12-42)	"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance" (James 1:2-3).	Keep following God, even when it's hard.
WEEK 7	Saul Meets Jesus Near Damascus (Acts 9:1-20)	"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17).	Jesus changes our lives.
WEEK 8	Peter Raises Tabitha From the Dead (Acts 9:36-43)	"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (James 5:16).	God answers when we pray.
WEEK 9	An Angel Frees Peter From Jail (Acts 12:1-18)	"For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways" (Psalm 91:11).	Angels protect and help God's people.
WEEK 10	Lydia Is Converted (Acts 16:9-15)	"Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season" (2 Timothy 4:2).	Be prepared to tell others about Jesus.
WEEK 11	Paul's Jailer Believes in Jesus (Acts 16:16-34)	"They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved'" (Acts 16:31).	Jesus saves us.
WEEK 12	Paul Describes Living by God's Spirit (Romans 8:9-17)	"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23).	When we live by God's Spirit, God changes us.
WEEK 13	Paul Describes Genuine Love (1 Corinthians 13:1-13)	"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs" (1 Corinthians 13:4-5).	God teaches us how to love.

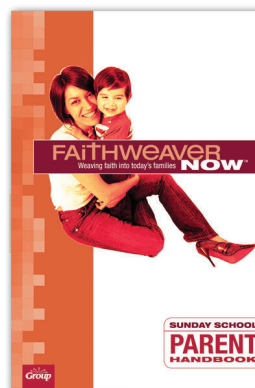
* We recommend starting the quarter so that Lessons 4 and 5 align with the dates of Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Visit the Digital Download Center for a suggested schedule.

PLUS...

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

- **FREE digital copies of Leader Guides** in 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.**



THIS IS A SAMPLE
The number of pages is limited.

Purchase the item for the complete version.

