



FAITHweaver

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

**SPRING
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**PARENT
LEADER GUIDE**


Group

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SUNDAY SCHOOL**

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LEADER GUIDE**



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ONE-TIME ACTIVATION CODE:



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

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Visit our website: group.com/sunday-school



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* Due to the way Easter falls, we recommend rearranging the lessons as needed so Lesson 7 lines up with Palm Sunday and Lesson 8 lines up with Easter.

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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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

Matthew 6:5-13

LESSON	WHAT PARENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Prayer Partners (about 15 min.) Get into small groups and remember what it was like to pray as a child.		
2 Bible Exploration	Lord, Teach Us to Pray (about 30 min.) Look at how Jesus said <i>not</i> to pray, reword elements of the Lord's Prayer, and consider the meaning and purpose of prayer using the "Lord's Prayer Cards."	Bibles, pens, scissors, 4 copies of the "Lord's Prayer Cards" (at the end of this lesson)	Cut apart the "Lord's Prayer Cards."
3 Weaving Faith Into Families	The Gift of Prayer (about 15 min.) Reflect on the purpose of prayer, and pray together.	1 gift bag for every 4 people, paper, pens	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenge (about 5 min.) Discuss how to apply God's Word.	gift bags	Have enough gift bags to give each family 1 to take home.
	Weaving Faith at Home (about 2 min.) Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		



► Bible Point

We pray to God.

.....

Key Verse

"This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one' " (Matthew 6:9-13).

.....

Weaving Faith Into Families

Parents will help kids discover ways to communicate with God in meaningful ways.

.....



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

Jesus Teaches His Disciples to Pray

Matthew 6:5-13

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

How *Not* to Pray

This passage begins with Jesus instructing his followers how *not* to pray. The religious leaders of that time were accustomed to praying loudly on the street corners so that the people would see them as holy and religious. Instead, Jesus says, prayer is to be between the individual and God—sincere communication that is a direct result of one’s relationship with God.

Two Basic Parts

Jesus gives this prayer as a pattern or a form—an outline for prayer. One way to understand it better is to break his prayer into two basic parts: adoration and petition.

The first verse of the Lord's Prayer expresses praise for God's majesty and acknowledges God's love for us. The single word we translate as "our father" is an intimate word that can be translated as "daddy" or "dearest father." Jesus lets his followers know that they can share in his close relationship with God.

The first petition in the prayer is not related to personal needs. Rather, it addresses seeking what God wants.

After we seek God's will, we turn to asking God to fulfill personal, daily needs for food, forgiveness, and freedom from temptation. Without God working in our lives and our world, there would be no food or forgiveness. And if Satan were not restricted from tempting us, our lives would be nearly unbearable.

Putting God First

Remember that Jesus insisted on putting God first. If God isn't first in our lives, as well as in our prayers, God will not be honored, no matter how eloquently we pray.

The Jesus Connection

Jesus showed us how to pray, but more importantly, he also set the example of putting God first. Everything Jesus did was for God, so it was only natural for his prayer to be focused on praising God and seeking God's will.

Think of the last prayer you prayed. Maybe it was a quick “God, help me impress my boss” or “Lord, give me patience with my child.” There’s nothing wrong with quick prayers seeking God’s help. But these quick prayers can reveal our real view of God. Consider the motivations behind your last prayer. Did you want to impress your boss or have patience with your child so the other person could see Jesus living in you? Stop and pray now for God to be the center of your life—and your prayers. You can write your prayer here.

[illegible]

1 GETTING STARTED

Prayer Partners

What You'll Do

Greet parents warmly as they gather.

Have parents form groups of three.

Say: **Share with each other how your week went with your kids. Then discuss Questions 1 through 3 in your FaithWeaver NOW Parent Handbook. We'll gather back together in 10 minutes.**

QUESTION 1

What did you learn about prayer as a child? How did that change as you grew?

QUESTION 2

If you pray with your child, how do you go about it?

QUESTION 3

What does your child struggle with when praying?

Bring everyone back together after 10 minutes, and ask them to share insights from their discussion with the whole group.

Say: **There is power in prayer, but as wonderful as it is, sometimes prayer can be hard, frustrating, and even discouraging. If this is true for us, we know it's just as mysterious and hard for our children. But Jesus gave us all a gift. Jesus showed us how ► WE PRAY TO GOD. The Bible records a prayer Jesus gave his disciples as an example for us to use. Let's see what we can learn from this model for ourselves and our children.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Lord, Teach Us to Pray

What You'll Do

Make sure everyone has a Bible and a pen.

Say: **Before we talk about the model that Jesus gave us for how to pray, he gave a**



Lord, Teach Us to Pray Supplies

Bibles
pens
scissors
4 copies of the "Lord's
Prayer Cards" (at the
end of this lesson)

Lord, Teach Us to Pray Easy Prep

Cut apart the "Lord's
Prayer Cards."



colorful description of how *not* to pray. Let's take a look at the examples Jesus gave.

Form groups of four.

In their groups, have parents read Matthew 6:5-8. Then have them prepare a "hypocrite's" prayer and a "pagan's" prayer based on the examples given by Jesus in the Bible passage. Give parents about five minutes to prepare, and then have groups each share their prayers with the whole group. When all groups have presented, thank them for their good work and participation.

Say: **Jesus made it clear that God wasn't interested in insincere or incoherent prayers. When we pray, it isn't to impress others with how ► WE PRAY TO GOD. As adults, we sometimes use words and phrases that are difficult for children to understand. We might be saying very important things, but those things are lost on our children because we're using language that is meaningless to them.**

Hand out the "Lord's Prayer Cards," making sure each group has two or three cards.

Say: **Read Matthew 6:9-13, and then read the phrases on your cards. Working together, come up with a child-friendly explanation or definition for each phrase. Keep the ages of your kids in mind. You can use the Notes section in your handbooks to brainstorm ideas. We'll come back together in 10 minutes to share what you've discovered.**

Gather everyone's attention after 10 minutes, keeping them in their groups. Ask parents to share what they discovered with the entire group. Then have groups discuss Questions 4 and 5 in their handbooks.

QUESTION 4

Using the definitions suggested, how could your child pray for "daily bread" or for God's "will" to be done? How do you pray for these things?

QUESTION 5

Think about some things your child has recently been thinking about or experiencing. What part of the Lord's Prayer most speaks to that?

After about five minutes, say: **Prayer can seem like a very mysterious act. How do the words I say or think find their way to God? And by the way, who am I that God would even listen to my prayers? Interestingly, the best part of Jesus' prayer comes right at the beginning. "Our Father..." He didn't say "My Father," but "Our Father." He listens, because he is our Father and each of us is his child.**

QUESTION 6

How does the way you communicate with your children help them understand how to communicate through prayer? How could your communication with them help them approach God differently?



QUESTION 7

In what ways do you make praying more difficult for your kids? How could you make it easier and less intimidating?

Say: **When Jesus taught his disciples how to pray, he wanted to keep things simple and authentic. ► WE PRAY TO GOD so that we can grow in our friendship with God. One of the greatest gifts we can give our kids is a life filled with prayer and a desire to help them learn how to pray. Let's look at how we can do that.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO FAMILIES

The Gift of Prayer

What You'll Do

Say: **Prayer is something many of us aren't at ease with, especially when we have to pray out loud in front of an audience. We may feel insecure or uncomfortable with others listening to intimate conversation with God. Yet prayer is one of the greatest gifts God has given to us. It allows us to talk with God and to bring our concerns and worries to him. One of the greatest gifts we can give to our children is to help them learn how to talk with God.**

Form new groups of four. Pass out a gift bag, paper, and pens to each group.

Say: **As we discovered in the Lord's Prayer, how we pray isn't as important as the simple act of praying itself. The Lord's Prayer shows that God wants to hear about our needs (our "daily bread"), our failures (our "debts"), and our relationships with others ("as we forgive our debtors"). God desires to know us and talk with us, as we would talk with a parent or good friend.**

Take three minutes to discuss Question 8 from your handbooks. You may want to jot down ideas in your handbooks.

QUESTION 8

What can you do to help your child communicate with God in a meaningful way?

Say: **Let's practice praying with our kids by praying for each other today. Write a prayer request on a piece of paper, fold it up, and put it in your gift bag. When everyone is done, have each person take a request from the gift bag (making sure you don't get your own). Then spend several minutes praying for each other.**

Bring everyone back together after 10 minutes. Ask for insights about prayer that parents learned in this activity that they're willing to tell the whole group.

Say: **Today we've looked at how the Lord's Prayer is an example of prayer for us. We've looked at how Jesus said *not* to pray like the hypocrites and pagans**



The Gift of Prayer Supplies

1 gift bag for every 4
people
paper
pens



Daily Challenge Supplies

gift bags

Daily Challenge Easy Prep

Have enough gift bags
to give each family 1 to
take home.

and then the simple yet profound model of prayer that we know as the Lord's Prayer. We discussed how to make prayer more "user-friendly" for our children, and maybe even for ourselves. ► **WE PRAY TO GOD** so that we can grow in our relationship with him—*that's* the most important aspect of prayer. And we can help our kids grow closer to God through prayer, too.

4

LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenge

What You'll Do

Say: This week, help your kids remember that ► **WE PRAY TO GOD**. Your Daily Challenge this week is to take a gift bag home with you and put it in a place where you and your kids can use it to pray for each other. Take a couple of minutes to talk to a partner about what this challenge might look like in daily life. Be as specific as you can be about how you'll help your kids discover how to communicate with God in meaningful ways. Allow time.

Say: Please join me in a closing prayer, which will include the Lord's Prayer.

Pray: God, thank you for sending Jesus to show us how *not* to pray and for giving us the gift of the Lord's Prayer as an example of prayer. Help us teach this prayer to our kids and grow in our own prayer life. And now, we join together in that prayer Jesus taught his disciples, saying, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." In Jesus' name, amen.

Weaving Faith at Home

Say: Your kids should be receiving a letter to you from their Sunday school group today with information about what they'll be doing this quarter. They'll also 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.



Lord's Prayer Cards

1 OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN	2 HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME	3 YOUR KINGDOM COME
4 YOUR WILL BE DONE	5 GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD	6 FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS
7 AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS	8 LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION	9 DELIVER US FROM EVIL

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 His Disciples to Pray (Matthew 6:5-13)	"This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one' " (Matthew 6:9-13).	We pray to God.
WEEK 2	Jesus Feeds Thousands (John 6:1-15)	"And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).	God meets our needs.
WEEK 3	Jesus Explains Eternal Life to Nicodemus (John 3:1-17)	"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 gives us eternal life.
WEEK 4	Jesus Talks With the Samaritan Woman (John 4:5-42)	"He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life" (1 John 5:12).	Jesus loves everyone.
WEEK 5	Jesus Tells About the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)	"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32).	Jesus says to love others as ourselves.
WEEK 6	Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead (John 11:1-45)	"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 gives us hope.
* WEEK 7	Crowds Welcome Jesus to Jerusalem (Psalm 118:19-29; Matthew 21:1-11)	"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" (Revelation 5:12).	We praise Jesus.
* WEEK 8	Jesus Comes Back to Life (Matthew 27:27-56; 28:1-10)	"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).	Jesus is alive.
WEEK 9	Peter Explains Belief in Jesus (1 Peter 1:3-9)	"Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope" (Romans 5:3-4).	Have faith in Jesus.
WEEK 10	Jesus Returns to Heaven (Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:1-11)	"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 others about Jesus.
WEEK 11	Christians Care for One Another (Psalm 23; Acts 2:42-47)	"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24-25).	God's family takes care of each other.
WEEK 12	Stephen Forgives His Accusers as They Stone Him (Acts 6:8-7:60)	"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15).	We stand up for Jesus.
WEEK 13	Paul Teaches in Athens (Acts 17:16-31)	"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth" (Isaiah 40:28).	God created heaven and earth.

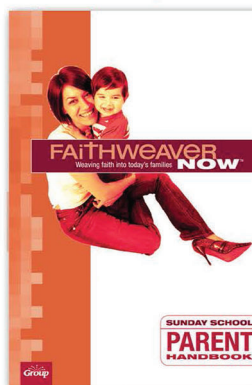
* Due to the way Easter falls, we recommend rearranging the lessons as needed so Lesson 7 lines up with Palm Sunday and Lesson 8 lines up with Easter.

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.

