



FAITHweaver

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

**SUMMER
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**PARENT
LEADER GUIDE**

Group

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SUNDAY SCHOOL**

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ONE-TIME ACTIVATION CODE:

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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.

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group.com/sunday-school

FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Parent Leader Guide, Summer

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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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





God Tests Abraham

Genesis 22:1-18

LESSON	WHAT PARENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Nostalgic Obedience (about 15 min.) Recall examples of obedience and disobedience.		
2 Bible Exploration	Making a Sacrifice (about 25 min.) Rewrite the Bible passage in the first person, and discuss Abraham's remarkable obedience.	Bibles, pens or pencils	
3 Weaving Faith Into Families	Real-Life Obedience (about 20 min.) Examine the Key Verse, and consider how parents help their kids commit to follow Jesus.	Bibles, paper, pens or pencils	
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**
Obey God.

Key Verse
“So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. Walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess” (Deuteronomy 5:32-33).

Weaving Faith Into Families
Families will explore what it means to obey God in their daily lives.

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



God Tests Abraham

Genesis 22:1-18

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

A Preface for Today's Material

This account may seem horrifying if one doesn't study it carefully. It's hard to understand how our good God could command a parent to sacrifice a child. But if we examine the text, we can take comfort in knowing that God never intended for Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. The whole event was designed to test Abraham; it was a chance for him to grow his faith and learn about God's faithfulness.

Abraham Obeys God's Command to Sacrifice His Son

Isaac was the embodiment of all of God's promises to Abraham. However, no matter how surprised or saddened Abraham must have been, Abraham obeyed. The Bible says he set out the very next day. When Abraham knew what God wanted him to do, he set out to do it.

Abraham's faith in God and his willingness to obey are truly amazing. Not only was he willing to sacrifice his son, but he maintained faith in God's promise about Isaac. He said to his servants, "We will come back to you" (Genesis 22:5). Somehow Abraham was confident that in spite of this recent command, God would preserve Isaac, through whom God had promised to make Abraham's descendants as numerous as the stars in the heavens!

Abraham and Isaac Journey to the Place of Sacrifice

It took Abraham and Isaac three days to travel about 50 miles over rough, mountainous terrain. During the trip, Abraham had time to think. Certainly questions flooded his mind: “What if God really does let Isaac die? What will I tell Sarah? Might this God I’m serving abandon me now after all these promises?” Abraham could easily have justified disobedience in this case—

after all, this was the child God had promised to him and Sarah; maybe the voice he had heard wasn't God's after all. But whatever thoughts went through his mind, Abraham never swerved from his steadfast obedience.

Isaac Also Obeyed God

The Bible tells us nothing of Isaac's thoughts or feelings during this trip. He must have noticed that his father was behaving strangely. But Isaac showed faith, too. He submitted to being placed on the altar in obedience to God's command.

The Jesus Connection

God loves us and he loved Abraham. God's test helped Abraham realize his own commitment to God, and the tests in our lives can help strengthen and deepen our faith, too.

How can you trust God in the middle of trials and difficulty? Invite God into your decisions and challenges and trust him to lead you no matter what the road ahead looks like. You can write your prayer below.

[illegible]

1 GETTING STARTED

Nostalgic Obedience

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Greet parents warmly as they gather.

Have parents form groups of three. In each trio, ask people to take turns telling examples from their childhood or youth. They can each tell one story about a time they obeyed even though they were tempted not to. And they can each tell one story about a time they disobeyed and suffered the consequences. Allow about eight minutes.

After eight minutes, gather everyone's attention. Ask a few people to share their stories of either obedience or disobedience. Then have trios answer Questions 1 through 3 in their FaithWeaver NOW Parent Handbooks.

QUESTION 1

What did your disobedient experiences in childhood or youth teach you about obedience?

QUESTION 2

In what ways has your idea of obedience changed since you were a child?

QUESTION 3

When you think of obeying God, what does that look like in your own life?

Allow about five minutes. Then ask a few parents to share some insights with the entire group.

Say: **As we know from being children and from raising children, obedience isn't always easy. Neither is obedience to God. But our perfect God has a perfect plan for our lives. That's why we are to ► OBEY GOD.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Making a Sacrifice

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have parents form three new groups. Assign one to represent Abraham, one to represent Isaac, and one to represent God. Provide a Bible to anyone who needs one.

Say: **Let's read an account about Abraham from the book of Genesis that may**



Making a Sacrifice Supplies

Bibles
pens or pencils



seem shocking because of what God required for obedience. In your groups, take turns reading aloud Genesis 22:1-8. As you read these verses, especially consider the perspective of your group's assigned person—Abraham, Isaac, or God.

Allow a few minutes for groups to read.

Then say: **Now, in your group, rewrite those passages in the handbook from the perspective of your assigned person. You can use either the Notes section or a blank page in the back. Write in the first person, considering what that person might have been thinking or feeling throughout this account.**

Allow about five minutes for groups to write.

Say: **Now please read verses 9-18 in your group. Then write those verses from the perspective of your assigned person, again in first person. You'll have about eight minutes.**

QUESTION 4

What new insight did you gain from looking at this account from one person's perspective?

QUESTION 5

What surprises you the most about this Bible passage, and why?

QUESTION 6

What's significant about God asking Abraham to sacrifice his son, and not something else?

QUESTION 7

What lessons about obeying God can you take away from this passage? How can you relay those lessons to your kids?

After seven minutes, gather everyone's attention. Ask some people to share their answers with everyone.

Say: **Amazingly, the Bible doesn't record Abraham's questioning of God. Abraham simply obeys God without wondering about or questioning God's request. He provides an example of how we are to ► OBEY GOD. Let's look at how we can apply the truth from the Bible to being obedient parents, and how that makes sense in light of today's Bible passage.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO FAMILIES

Real-Life Obedience

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Abraham obeyed without questioning. That's something a lot of us aren't able to do.**

Have parents form new groups of three and discuss Questions 8 through 10 in their handbooks. Allow about seven minutes for discussion.

QUESTION 8

Tell about a time you or your family obeyed God. What was that like, and what happened as a result?

QUESTION 9

When is it easiest for you and your family members to obey God? When is it most difficult?

QUESTION 10

As parents, how can we discern God's voice from other voices? How can we increase our desire and willingness to obey God?

After about seven minutes, regain everyone's attention. Have a few parents share their answers with the whole group.

Read the Key Verse, Deuteronomy 5:32-33, aloud: **"So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. Walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess" (Deuteronomy 5:32-33).**

Say: **Here's a situation I'd like you to discuss in your trios: Your friend says he heard God tell him to feed his children only locusts and honey. He's convinced that if this diet was good enough for John the Baptist, it's good enough for his children. How would you advise your friend?**

After a few minutes, gather everyone's attention. Ask trios to share with everyone what advice they'd give to the friend wanting to feed his children locusts and honey. Thank everyone for their participation.

Hand out paper and pens or pencils. Say: **To close, let's each write a letter to God about obedience. For example, you might write about an area where you need help obeying God. Conclude the letter with a one-sentence commitment using the theme of our Key Verse. For example, someone might write, "I commit to obey God**



Real-Life Obedience Supplies

Bibles
paper
pens or pencils



and walk in God's ways regardless of how crazy it might look to others."

Allow about six minutes for parents to write their letters.

Say: **Although obeying God was difficult for Abraham, he didn't waver. God had a plan for Abraham, and he has a plan for each of us—and obedience is part of that plan. No matter what God asks you and your family members to do, remember that it's important to ► OBEY GOD.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenge

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Today we learned why we are to ► OBEY GOD. Your Daily Challenge this week is to write down one way each day how your family obeys God. 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 explore as a family how you obey God. Allow time.

Say: Please join me in a closing prayer. After each sentence I say, please respond as a group, "Help us, God."

Pray: Dear God, we know that obeying you is part of your plan for our lives, but it's often difficult. Pause. Strengthen us and our family members each day to obey you more. Pause. Show us how to follow your commands in all circumstances. Pause. 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 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:

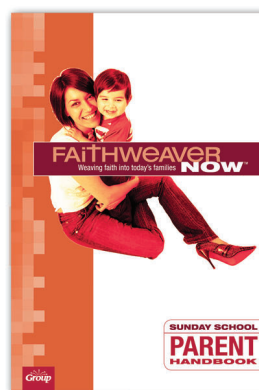
	BIBLE CONTENT/SCRIPTURE	KEY VERSE	BIBLE POINT
WEEK 1	God Tests Abraham (Genesis 22:1-18)	"So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. Walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess" (Deuteronomy 5:32-33).	Obey God.
WEEK 2	Isaac Marries Rebekah (Genesis 24)	"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).	Pray for God's direction.
WEEK 3	Jacob Deceives Esau and Isaac (Genesis 25:27-34; 27:1-40)	"The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful" (Proverbs 12:22).	Honesty is important to God.
WEEK 4	Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel (Genesis 29:15-30)	"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).	God uses hard times to help us grow.
WEEK 5	Joseph Dreams Disturbing Dreams (Genesis 37:1-11)	"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34).	Show Jesus' love in our families.
WEEK 6	Joseph's Brothers Sell Him Into Slavery (Genesis 37:12-36)	"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth" (1 John 3:18).	God wants us to do what's right.
WEEK 7	Pharaoh Puts Joseph in Charge (Genesis 39:20-41:49)	"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23).	We can serve God anywhere.
WEEK 8	Joseph Forgives His Brothers (Genesis 42-45)	"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13).	God wants us to forgive.
WEEK 9	God Protects Moses (Exodus 1:1-2:10)	"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).	God protects us.
WEEK 10	Moses Meets God at the Burning Bush (Exodus 2:11-3:20)	"I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13).	God can use us.
WEEK 11	The Israelites Receive Cruel Treatment (Exodus 5:1-6:1)	"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:31).	God wants us to hope in him.
WEEK 12	God Sends Plagues on Egypt (Exodus 7:8-10:29)	"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).	God uses his power to help us.
WEEK 13	The Israelites Escape From Egypt (Exodus 11:1-12:36)	"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36).	Jesus sets us free.

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.

