

FAITHWEAVER

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

**SUMMER
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**PARENT
LEADER GUIDE**

Group

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SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**PARENT
LEADER GUIDE**



Get your **FREE**, customizable
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ONE-TIME ACTIVATION CODE:

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

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, Summer

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Visit our website: group.com/sunday-school



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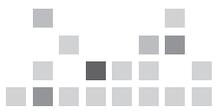
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Cover Photography: © iStockphoto.com/PickStock

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978-1-4707-5903-2

Printed in the United States of America.



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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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

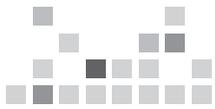


Create a vibrant family ministry that's new...that's wow...that's NOW. FaithWeaver NOW gives you a fresh strategy for being more successful than ever in bringing families closer to Jesus.

Thom Schultz Joani Schultz

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





Elisha Helps a Widow and Her Sons

2 Kings 4:1-7

LESSON	WHAT PARENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Numerous Needs <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Brainstorm needs they've had during the past week—as well as ways those needs have been met.	pens or pencils, paper	
2 Bible Exploration	God Works Things Out <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Discuss Bible passages in small groups, and answer questions.	Bibles, pens or pencils	
3 Weaving Faith Into Families	God Demonstrates Compassion in Many Ways <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Remember God's compassion to others in the past, and learn ways to teach our kids about God's caring character.	pens or pencils, paper	
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.		



► **Bible Point**
God cares for needy people.

Key Verse
"He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing" (Deuteronomy 10:18).

Weaving Faith Into Families
Parents will help their kids look to God to meet their daily needs.



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



1 GETTING STARTED

Numerous Needs

What You'll Do

Greet parents warmly as they gather. Distribute paper and pens or pencils.

Say: **In order to survive, people must get three basic needs met: food, clothing, and shelter. But I think you'd agree we have many more needs than that. For example, consider your social, emotional, and spiritual needs. Find a partner and spend five minutes brainstorming needs you've had during the past week and how they were met. These can be anything from chores or projects you needed help with to advice you sought. Be sure to write down how each need was met—and by whom.**

After five minutes, call everyone together and invite pairs to share some of their needs with the entire group.

Say: **We all have needs, whether we want to admit them or not. In fact, we often keep our needs to ourselves and bear the weight alone. Yet in each example here, the person's need was met by another person or by God. We can count on God to meet our needs, and so can our kids!**

Have parents return to their pairs.

Say: **Discuss Questions 1 through 3 in your FaithWeaver NOW Parent Handbooks. We'll gather back together in 10 minutes.**

QUESTION 1

In the past week, how was caring demonstrated to you?

QUESTION 2

How do your kids know when someone cares about them?

QUESTION 3

When you hear the phrase "someone cares about you," what comes to mind?

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

Say: **Sometimes we discover that others care for us when we're in the midst of difficult circumstances like the ones we experienced this week. Often we turn to friends and family during these times. That's normal and seems right at the time. But what about turning first to God? When we choose to turn to God, we discover God's amazing ways and our children learn that they can trust God for their needs. Today we're going to look at how God sent Elisha to care for an impoverished**



Numerous Needs Supplies

.....
pens or pencils
paper



God Works Things Out Supplies

Bibles
pens or pencils

woman and her two sons. We'll see how God miraculously provided for them as a result of the woman's faith, despite overwhelming circumstances. Above all, we'll see that ► **GOD CARES FOR NEEDY PEOPLE.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

God Works Things Out

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Form groups of no more than four, and distribute Bibles as needed.

Say: **Read 2 Kings 4:1-7 in your groups, and then answer Questions 4 through 6 in your handbooks. We'll come back together in about 10 minutes.**

QUESTION 4

What do you find most interesting about this Bible passage?

QUESTION 5

Why is it important that the widow's sons helped her collect jars and pour oil? What could they learn by experience that they wouldn't learn by hearing?

QUESTION 6

In biblical times, olive oil was a valued commodity, used for lighting, sacrifices, cooking, and even anointing. Retell the Bible passage using a modern product your kids would understand.

Gather everyone's attention after 10 minutes, keeping them in their groups. Ask parents to share with the entire group either what they discovered or their retelling of this Bible passage.

Say: **God is so creative. God could easily have provided anything the widow needed, in a myriad of ways, but that wouldn't have increased her faith. Often God doesn't meet our needs the way we anticipate, which can lead us to question God's love for us and our families. In your groups, read Deuteronomy 10:18 and answer Questions 7 through 9 from your handbooks. You'll have about 10 minutes.**

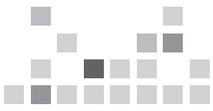
QUESTION 7

What does this verse reveal about God? Why might it be important for your kids to know this truth?

QUESTION 8

How have your kids experienced God meeting your family's needs?





QUESTION 9

What's one thing you can do to encourage your kids to trust God to continue to meet their needs?

Regain everyone's attention after 10 minutes, and invite people to share their answers.

Say: **God loves and cares for all people, even those who don't have very high standing in our society. We can trust God, even when other people have let us down or abandoned us. Although your family may be at the end of your "oil jar," you can help your kids understand that God knows all our needs and always meets them. God cared for needy people in Bible times, and ► GOD CARES FOR NEEDY PEOPLE today.**

**3 WEAVING FAITH
INTO FAMILIES**

God Demonstrates Compassion in Many Ways

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Sometimes we don't see the way God is caring for our needs or the needs of others because we're focused instead on the "why" of a situation. "Why did her husband have to die?" "Why did I have to lose my job?" Our children are no different. They experience the same questions we do and often look to us for direction and answers. Let's look at how we can shift our focus so God comes into view.**

Make sure everyone has paper and a pen or pencil.

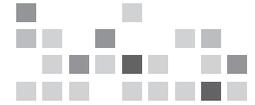
Say: **Write a need your child and/or your family has experienced in the past. It can be anything from friendships to finances to needs that centered around your relationship with God.**

Give everyone a minute or two, and then gather everyone's attention.

Say: **Below the need, write how God used it to teach you and your kids about his care, to draw you closer to him, or to teach you an important lesson. If you can't think of an example from your own life, write about how God met someone else's need.**

Give people a few minutes to write.

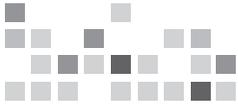
Say: **Now write a need your child or your family is currently facing and how God might be using this to grow your child's faith or draw your family closer to him.** Allow time.



God Demonstrates
Compassion in
Many Ways
Supplies

pens or pencils
paper
pens





Say: In your groups from earlier, take five minutes to discuss Questions 10 and 11 from your handbooks. You may want to jot down ideas in your handbooks. When you're through discussing, spend a few minutes praying for each other and your kids.

QUESTION 10

Without sharing specifics, tell what these experiences have revealed to you about God.

QUESTION 11

What can you and your kids do this week to actively participate in God's care for people in need?

Say: Today we looked at the account of Elisha and the widow who needed money to pay her husband's debts. We explored the truth that ► **GOD CARES FOR NEEDY PEOPLE**, even though it might not be in the way we expect. We also discussed ways to make this truth relevant and personal to our kids. Let's commit to helping our kids understand God's care for needy people.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenge

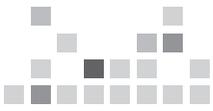
What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: This week, help your kids remember that ► **GOD CARES FOR NEEDY PEOPLE**. Your Daily Challenge this week is to watch for ways that God is meeting people's needs—and to see how your family might play a role in helping. Pay attention to stories in the news, things that are happening at work and school, and needs throughout your community. 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 help your kids see how God meets needs as you complete this challenge. Allow time.

Say: Please join me in a closing prayer.

Pray: Dear God, thank you for caring about all of our needs and for finding ways to meet them—often in ways we don't expect. Please make us aware of all the ways you meet our needs, and help us focus on you during difficult times. Use us to meet other people's needs and to share your love with them. 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:

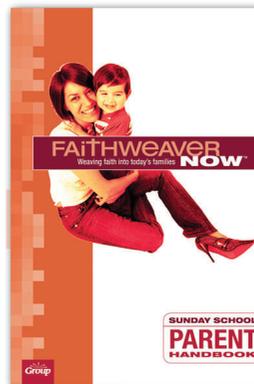
	BIBLE CONTENT/SCRIPTURE	KEY VERSE	BIBLE POINT
WEEK 1	Elisha Helps a Widow and Her Sons (2 Kings 4:1-7)	"He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing" (Deuteronomy 10:18).	God cares for needy people.
WEEK 2	God Heals Naaman's Leprosy (2 Kings 5:1-16)	"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time" (1 Peter 5:6).	God wants us to be humble.
WEEK 3	Jonah Learns a Lesson (Jonah 1-3)	"The ways of the Lord are right; the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them" (Hosea 14:9).	Following God is always the right choice.
WEEK 4	Jonah Complains About God's Compassion (Jonah 3:10-4:11)	"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).	God wants us to love everyone.
WEEK 5	God Calls Isaiah (Isaiah 6:1-8)	"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker" (Psalm 95:6).	God is holy.
WEEK 6	Josiah Promises to Follow the Lord (2 Chronicles 34)	"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).	God's Word changes our lives.
WEEK 7	Daniel's Friends Are Safe in the Fiery Furnace (Daniel 3)	"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong" (1 Corinthians 16:13).	Stand strong for God.
WEEK 8	God Protects Daniel in the Lions' Den (Daniel 6:1-23)	"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).	God protects us.
WEEK 9	God Promises to Restore Israel After the Exile (Jeremiah 29:4-14)	"'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).	We seek God no matter what happens.
WEEK 10	Nehemiah Seeks God's Forgiveness for Israel (Nehemiah 1:1-2:9)	"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).	We seek God's forgiveness.
WEEK 11	Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall (Nehemiah 2:11-6:19)	"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23).	God helps us face challenges.
WEEK 12	Esther Saves Her People (Esther 2-9)	"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).	Everyone can serve God.
WEEK 13	Job Remains Faithful in Suffering (Job 1:1-2:10; 42:1-6, 10-17)	"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 brings us hope when we're hurting.

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.

