



# FAITHWEAVER

Weaving faith into today's families **NOW**<sup>®</sup>

**WINTER  
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**PARENT  
LEADER GUIDE**

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SUNDAY SCHOOL**

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## 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.

## Group

[group.com/sunday-school](http://group.com/sunday-school)

FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Parent Leader Guide, Winter

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Visit our website: [group.com/sunday-school](http://group.com/sunday-school)

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\*We recommend rearranging the lessons so that Lesson 4 aligns with the week of Christmas.



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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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

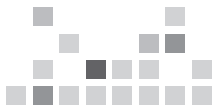


Create a vibrant family ministry that's new...that's wow...that's NOW. FaithWeaver NOW gives you a fresh strategy for being more successful than ever in bringing families closer to Jesus.

*Thom Schultz Joani Schultz*

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





# Prophets Foretell Jesus' Coming

Jeremiah 33:14-16

LESSON	WHAT PARENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Broken Promises</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Draw a representation of a broken childhood promise, and discuss the importance of promises in daily life.	crayons	
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Promise Fulfilled</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Compare the prophecy of Jeremiah 33:14-16 with its fulfillment in Matthew 1:22-23.	Bibles	
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Families	<b>God With Us</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Brainstorm what it looks like to trust God in everyday parenting scenarios.	index cards, pens	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenge</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Discuss how to apply God's Word.		
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <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

Jesus fulfilled God's promise.

### Key Verse

"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel'—which means, 'God with us' " (Matthew 1:22-23).

### Weaving Faith Into Families

Parents will trust God with their families.

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



# Prophets Foretell Jesus’ Coming

Jeremiah 33:14-16



BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## Jeremiah Preaches Hope in Times of Trouble

.....

This passage was written nearly 600 years before Jesus was born. The northern kingdom of Israel had fallen to the Assyrians, who had in turn fallen to the Babylonians. Jeremiah also saw the fall of the southern kingdom of Judah to the Babylonians, concluding with the destruction of Jerusalem in 587 B.C.

Despite all that was going on around him, Jeremiah’s message in this passage is one of hope. Repeating nearly word for word the message he had given in Jeremiah 23:5-6, Jeremiah utters here his most important message about the coming Messiah. This King would be a descendant of David but would rule with more wisdom, justice, and righteousness than any other king had ever done. This coming Messiah would not only rescue his people from their oppressors but also reunite the kingdoms of Israel and Judah, which had been divided since the death of Solomon more than 300 years earlier.

## Jesus Fulfills Prophecy, but Not as Expected

.....

After reading this passage, it’s easy to understand why people of Jesus’ day expected a Messiah who would lead them in throwing off Roman rule and restoring the unified kingdom of Israel. From our standpoint in history, we know that Jesus came first as the suffering servant (see Isaiah 53), drawing people to himself through his perfect life and his message of repentance. One day, however, Jesus will return to complete his fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies and rule as king over all heaven and earth.

As we look forward to our celebration of Jesus’ birth, we can also look forward to the day Jesus will return to take those who believe in him to live with him in heaven. That’s God’s message of hope for Christians in today’s broken world!

## The Jesus Connection

.....

Your relationship with Jesus is an amazing gift. And God planned long ago to give you that gift. Thank him for this life-giving blessing!

Long ago, God chose to prepare the hearts of his people with the news that a Savior would come. As you prepare for Christmas, take some time to allow God’s message of hope and salvation to sink in for you. Choose to believe God’s promises—and allow the wonder of Jesus’ incarnation to overwhelm you. Pray about your heart’s desire to live this Christmas season immersed in the meaning of God’s promises. You can write your prayer here.

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## 1

GETTING  
STARTED

## Broken Promises

### What You'll Do

Greet parents warmly as they gather. Make crayons centrally available for parents to use.

Say: **Please open your FaithWeaver NOW Parent Handbooks to the “Notes” area in Lesson 1. Draw a picture to represent a time in your childhood when someone broke a promise made to you. Be expressive—show how the experience made you feel. If you can’t think of an experience of your own, you can draw a scene from your child’s life. You’ll have about five minutes to think of something and create before you’ll share with a partner.**

After about five minutes, ask parents to partner up with someone who has a child about the same age as their own. Allow several minutes for partners to share. Then ask if a few people are willing to summarize their experience for the entire group.

Say: **As a pair, join now with another pair to form a group of four. Then discuss Questions 1 through 3 in your handbooks. You’ll have about seven minutes to chat.**

#### **QUESTION 1**

Share a time you didn’t quite live up to a promise you made to your child. Why are promises often difficult for parents to keep?

#### **QUESTION 2**

How do your kids typically respond when they experience broken promises?

#### **QUESTION 3**

How are promises we make within our families like or unlike promises from God?

After about seven minutes, regain everyone’s attention. Ask a few people to share what they talked about.

Say: **A broken promise can feel disastrous, causing our trust in someone else to suffer. But promises that are kept can add fullness to life. Today we’ll see that ► JESUS FULFILLED GOD’S PROMISE, and we’ll find out what that means for each of our families.**



### Broken Promises Supplies

.....  
crayons





## Promise Fulfilled Supplies

Bibles

## 2

### BIBLE EXPLORATION

## Promise Fulfilled

### What You'll Do

Make sure everyone has a Bible.

Say: **Let's look at one of the many prophecies recorded in the Old Testament that Jesus fulfilled. With your group, read Jeremiah 33:14-16.**

Allow time for groups to read.

Say: **Now in your group, read today's Key Verse, Matthew 1:22-23. Compare it to the verses in Jeremiah, and then ponder this question: What did God promise, and how did he fulfill his promise? Come up with an explanation you can share with your kids. After about five minutes, you'll share with the whole group.**

When time's up, invite someone from each group to share what they came up with.

Say: **In your groups, discuss Questions 4 through 6 in your handbooks. You'll have about seven minutes.**

#### **QUESTION 4**

In what ways is this fulfilled promise good news?

#### **QUESTION 5**

If God had broken his promise, how would your life and your family members' lives be different?

#### **QUESTION 6**

As a parent, when is it easy or difficult for you to trust God to keep his promises? Explain.

After seven minutes, regain everyone's attention. Ask a few parents to share their insights with everyone.

Say: **Unlike sinful humans, God keeps every promise he makes. Throughout the Old Testament, God promised to send his Son to be our Savior, and in the New Testament, ► JESUS FULFILLED GOD'S PROMISE. Let's take a deeper look at the impact that good news has on each of our lives.**

### 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO FAMILIES

## God With Us

### What You'll Do

Give each group an index card and a pen.

Say: **A key point in Jesus' prophecy-fulfilling work was simply to come into our world as Immanuel, which means "God with us." On the index card, write an ordinary parenting scenario in which people could choose to trust that Jesus is with them or not. You'll have two minutes to write your scenario before you switch cards with another group. Then you'll discuss what it would look like to trust Jesus or rely on yourself in that situation.**

After two minutes, have each group pass its card to another group. Give groups about seven minutes to brainstorm two different results to the new scenario: one in which they trust Jesus and another in which they rely on themselves. If the group members prefer, they can choose to act out their scenes.

After seven minutes, regain everyone's attention and have groups share their results.

Say: **In your groups, discuss Questions 7 through 9 in your handbooks. You'll have about six minutes.**

#### QUESTION 7

How might we live differently knowing that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise?

#### QUESTION 8

What helps you recognize—and be grateful for—Jesus' presence with you throughout the week?

#### QUESTION 9

Based on today's discussion, how can you help your kids trust God more? Give specific examples.

After about six minutes, ask a few parents to share key insights from their discussion.

Say: **Trust is an essential element of any relationship. We all know from personal experience that it's hard to trust someone who's broken a promise. God made more than 300 promises to his people, recorded in the Old Testament, that he'd send a Messiah to liberate the people. And ► JESUS FULFILLED GOD'S PROMISE. Because Jesus is God's presence with us, we can trust him fully.**



### God With Us Supplies

index cards  
pens



## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenge

#### What You'll Do

Say: Today we learned that ► **JESUS FULFILLED GOD'S PROMISE.** Your Daily Challenge this week is to discuss with your kids some of the promises that God has fulfilled—both in Bible times and today. 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 emphasize that God keeps his promises. Allow time.

Say: Let's close in a "popcorn prayer." When I pause, take turns saying words that express your gratitude to God for fulfilling his promises.

Pray: Dear God, we've learned how important it is to keep promises—and how you fulfilled yours in a special way. Thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus. Pause.

After parents have shared their words of gratitude, pray: Please guide us each day in our parenting, and help our children grow in their faith and trust in your promises. 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](http://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:*

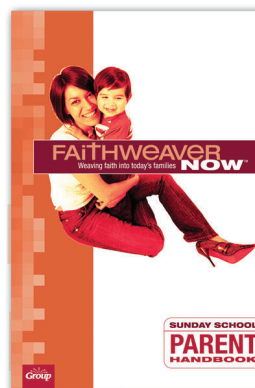
	BIBLE CONTENT/SCRIPTURE	KEY VERSE	BIBLE POINT
WEEK 1	Prophets Foretell Jesus' Coming (Jeremiah 33:14-16)	"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel'—which means, 'God with us'" (Matthew 1:22-23).	Jesus fulfilled God's promise.
WEEK 2	Zechariah Prophesies About Jesus (Luke 1:68-79)	"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him" (John 3:17).	The world needs Jesus.
WEEK 3	John Prepares People for Jesus' Coming (Luke 3:7-18)	"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).	Repenting prepares us for Jesus.
WEEK 4	The Son of God Is Born! (Luke 1:26-45; 2:1-20)	"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).	Celebrate Jesus' birth.
WEEK 5	Jesus Grows Up (Luke 2:39-52)	"I and the Father are one" (John 10:30).	Jesus is special.
WEEK 6	The Word Became Flesh (John 1:1-18)	"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12).	We can be God's children.
WEEK 7	Satan Tempts Jesus (Luke 4:1-13)	"Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted" (Hebrews 2:18).	Jesus helps us resist temptation.
WEEK 8	Jesus Performs His First Miracle (John 2:1-11)	"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31).	Jesus can do miracles.
WEEK 9	Jesus Teaches in a Synagogue (Luke 4:14-21)	"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost" (Luke 19:10).	Jesus came for all people.
WEEK 10	Jesus Is Rejected in His Hometown (Luke 4:22-30)	"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:5).	Believe in Jesus.
WEEK 11	Moses and Elijah Appear With Jesus (Luke 9:28-36)	"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).	Jesus is God's Son.
WEEK 12	Jesus Teaches About Rewards (Luke 6:17-26)	"Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things" (Colossians 3:2).	Jesus blesses people who have faith.
WEEK 13	Jesus Teaches About Loving Enemies (Luke 6:27-38)	"Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31).	Jesus says to treat others as we want to be treated.

**PLUS...**

**Access all these FREE FaithWeaver NOW digital resources at [group.com/digital](http://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.

