

FAITHVEAVER Weaving faith into today's families Covers of the control of the cont



WINTER SUNDAY SCHOOL

PRE-K&K AGES 586 TEACHER GUIDE



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PRE-K&K AGES 588 TEACHER GUIDE





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.com/sunday-school

We know you care about kids...

We do, too!

That's why we attempt to ensure that all crafts, toys, and gizmos meet or exceed national safety standards—and are produced by manufacturers that don't use child labor or abuse their labor force. You can order Group resources knowing that in addition to caring for your kids, you're also caring for children elsewhere.

Let's keep kids safe!

We strive to provide products that are mechanically reliable and hold together during normal, intended usage. Items are also checked for flammability, and both paint and surface coatings are checked for heavy metals-including lead.

You can help your children stay safe by seeing that toys and gizmos are used as designed, for the purposes designed, and that any broken pieces are disposed of promptly and properly. We value your feedback. If you become aware of a problem affecting the safety of any of our products, please inform us immediately.

FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Pre-K & K/Ages 5 & 6, Winter

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ISBN 97814707-6875-1

Printed in the United States of America.



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^{*} Due to the way Christmas falls, we recommend moving the lessons as needed to line up Lesson 3 with the week of Christmas.

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The future of Sunday school + family ministry is NOW.



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

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Solomon Tells of Jesus' Coming

Psalm 72:1-19

The average 5-year-old has a vocabulary upwards of 2,000 words, so kids can understand and use many adjectives to describe Jesus' works. Children this age can understand that Jesus does great things. They can understand that Jesus is *wonderful*, awesome, and cool! Helping children this age understand how great Jesus is builds a foundation for them to worship him.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
Getting Started about 10 min.	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to praises for God.	Bible, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
Key Verse Activity about 10 min.	Through Jesus Toss a globe, and discover that Jesus is the way to God for everyone.	Bible Teacher Pack: inflatable globe	
3 Bible	Theo's News Find out what a balloon has to do with the Bible passage.	CD player, Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, balloon, rubber band, permanent marker Teacher Pack: CD	Inflate a balloon and use a rubber band to tie the end closed. Draw a face with a big smile. When dry, deflate the balloon and place it inside the Surprise Box. Hide the box where it's easily accessible.
Exploration about 15 min.	Bible Time: Solomon Says Learn about Jesus, and sing along with Solomon on the CD.	Bible, CD player, balloon from Theo's News Teacher Pack: CD	



► Bible Point
Jesus does great things.

Key Verse Jesus is the way to God (adapted from John 14:6).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will recognize and thank Jesus for the great things he has done and is still doing.

•••••

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
	Center 1: Jesus Hugs the Children Add warm coats to children on the student pages, and wrap the children in Jesus' arms.	My Bible Playground, glue sticks, scissors, fabric scraps, crayons	Remove the Lesson 1 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
4 Weaving Faith Into Life	Center 2: Wrapped in Jesus' Love Make snacks as they pretend to wrap needy children in blankets.	½ tortilla and 1 slice lunchmeat per child, toothpicks, napkins, antibacterial gel (optional)	
about 20 min. (Choose 2 centers.)	Center 3: Comforting the Hurting Wear costumes and act out helpful roles.	dolls, props, occupational costumes	Create a dramatic play center with dolls, props, and costumes that reflect helping professions, such as firefighters, doctors, and nurses.
	Center 4: Let's Celebrate! Make noisemakers to celebrate that Jesus does great things!	1 paper towel tube per child, stickers, markers or crayons, small jingle bells, duct tape, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	Tape one end of each tube shut.
	Be a FaithWeaver Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Playground	
5 Lasting Impressions	Great Things Prayer Pray and share great things that Jesus did this week.		
about 10 min.	Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	My Bible Playground	Tear out the letter to parents from the back of each My Bible Playground student book to give to parents when they pick up their children.



Solomon Tells of Jesus' Coming

Psalm 72:1-19



Writing Psalm 72

Some believe that Psalm 72 was written about Solomon and not by him. It is true that some elements of the psalm could well describe Solomon, but many elements describe a king whose actions go far beyond Solomon's capabilities. The early church believed that this psalm was written as a prayer for a king to come in the line of David and Solomon: the Messiah, Jesus. That's the approach taken in today's lesson.

The Psalmist Points Beyond Himself

Some elements of the psalm could indeed describe Solomon. He judged righteously and with great wisdom, as illustrated in the story of the two women who each claimed to be the mother of the same infant (1 Kings 3:16-28). He reigned over a prosperous kingdom, the wealthiest in Israel's history. He expanded the boundaries of the kingdom to encompass more territory than ever before. And he was sought by the queen of Sheba, who came to him bearing gifts.

However, much of this psalm points directly to the Messiah. Only Jesus' kingdom will truly extend to the ends of the earth (Psalm 72:8), and only to Jesus will all rulers eventually bow down (Psalm 72:11). There isn't a lot of biblical evidence that Solomon cared for the needy and afflicted (Psalm 72:12-14), but Jesus' life and ministry were characterized by such caring. And while the statement that all nations would be blessed through him (Psalm 72:17) could possibly refer to Solomon indirectly, it definitely refers to Jesus.

The Works of the Messiah

If Jesus is indeed the subject of Psalm 72, it is easy to answer the question: What does Jesus do? Jesus does amazing things for us! He takes care of the needy and their children, and he defeats oppressors (Psalm 72:4, 12-14). He lives forever, despite the fact that he died on the cross for us (Psalm 72:5). When he returns, Jesus will reign over the entire earth (Psalm 72:8). Surely he deserves from us the same kind of praise and honor given in verses 18 and 19!

The Jesus Connection

We've learned about many different facets of Jesus' life and ministry on earth. But let's never forget what Jesus has done for us. He is worthy of all our praise for that alone.

What's the first thing that comes to mind when you think about Jesus?

preacher...a martyr...a savior? Concentrate on the

Who is Jesus to you? A teacher...a minister...a

last one—savior. Spend two minutes prayerfully considering how Jesus is your Savior. You can write your prayer here.



Welcoming Song Supplies

Bible CD player **Teacher Pack** CD: "In Your House" (track 7), "God So Loved the World" (John 3:16) (track 4)



Welcoming Song

Tips Don't know the melodies to the songs in this guide? Download the 99-cent Kids Songs app by Alkeo and play the tunes for 200+ common children's songs.

Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do

As children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle.

Choose two children to form a "church door." Have them stand side by side and join hands, raising their arms to form an arch for kids to walk under. Lead kids in singing "In Your House" (track 7 on the CD) to the tune of "Standing in the Need of Prayer." Fill in children's names where indicated, and have kids walk through the "church door" as their names are called. Children will then stand beside the "arch" kids and join hands, forming a line. The next kids will go through the arch and join hands at each end of the line. Re-cue the CD as necessary.

We're here, we're here, we're here, O Lord. Right here in your house today. We're here, we're here, we're here, O Lord. Right here in your house today.

Here's my brother, here's my sister, And [child's name], O Lord. Right here in your house today. Here's my brother, here's my sister, And [child's name], O Lord. Right here in your house today.

(Repeat from the beginning 3x.)

Open your Bible to John 3:16, and show children the words. Say: **Today we're going to learn** lots of things from the Bible. In fact, the next song we'll sing is right from the Bible.

Lead children in singing "God So Loved the World" (John 3:16) (track 4 on the CD). Have children follow the motions in parentheses.

I believe in God: (touch forehead)
'Cause what he says is true.

Winter Quarter

Lesson 1

Pre-K & K/Ages 5 & 6





I believe that Jesus died To save me and save you. (point to self; then others)

I believe in God (touch forehead) And all that he came to do. I believe that Jesus died. Because he loved both me and you. (point to self; then others)

For God so loved the world (hug self throughout) He gave his one and only Son, That whoever believes in him Shall not perish.

For God so loved the world (use arms to make a "world" circle) He gave his one and only Son (hold up one finger) That whoever believes in him (touch forehead) Will have eternal life. (point to heaven)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

For God so loved the world (hug self throughout) He gave his one and only Son, That whoever believes in him Shall not perish.

For God so loved the world (use arms to make a "world" circle) He gave his one and only Son (hold up one finger) That whoever believes in him (touch forehead) Will have eternal life. (point to heaven) Will have eternal life. (point to heaven)

"God So Loved the World" (John 3:16) by Ben Glover. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: I'm so glad you've come to church today. ▶ JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS and we're going to learn more about him from our Key Verse.



Through Jesus

What You'll Do

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to John 14:6 and show the children the words.

inflatable globe

Through Jesus Supplies

Lesson 1

Winter Quarter



Say: Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.' " That means Jesus is the only way to God. Let's say our Key Verse together. Lead the children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: Jesus is the way to God (John 14:6).

Say: God loves everyone in the world. God sent Jesus to save us. ▶ JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS, and everyone who believes in him can go to God. We can talk with God and pray to God anytime we want. Let's play a game to help us understand our Key Verse.

Toss the inflatable globe to a child in the circle. Ask the child to find a country on the globe where there are people Jesus died for. Help the child identify the country, and have him or her say, "Jesus is the way to God for people in [name of country]." Then have the child pass the ball to another child who does the same thing. Continue until all the children have had a turn.

After the game, say: God sent Jesus to save us from our sins. Jesus is the only way to God; Jesus helps us go to God. ▶ JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS.

Theo's News Supplies

CD player
Surprise Box (any box will do)
Theo puppet balloon
rubber band
permanent marker
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here Theo"
(track 2)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Inflate a balloon and use a rubber band to tie the end closed. Draw a face with a big smile. When dry, deflate the balloon and place it inside the Surprise Box. Hide the box where it's easily accessible.

BALLOON WARNING

To avoid choking hazards, be sure to pick up pieces of any broken balloons promptly. Balloons may contain latex. 3 BIBLE

EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have the children sit in a circle, and begin "Here, Theo" (track 2 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! Tell us what interesting news you've dug up about the Bible today.

Theo: I hid it in the Surprise Box.

Teacher: Let's look inside to see what Theo dug up for us today.

(Choose a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the deflated balloon around the circle so everyone can see it up close. Give the children time to guess what they might learn from the Bible today.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide this balloon in the Surprise Box?

Theo: If you blow it up, you can see a face.

(Inflate the balloon, tie the end, and show the face to the children.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you draw a face with such a big mouth on this balloon?

Theo: It's a balloon puppet of King Solomon. His mouth is really big because he's ready

to tell us that > JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS.

Teacher: Let's learn what Solomon said.

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls! **Teacher:** Say goodbye to Theo.

Winter Quarter

Lesson 1

Pre-K & K/Ages 5 & 6





Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Bible Time: Solomon Says

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Psalm 72, and show children the words.

Say: The Bible tells us that > JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS. King Solomon tells about all the great things that Jesus will do when he comes. As we listen to the CD, Solomon will have some things for us to do.

Start the CD and play "Solomon Says" (track 9 on the CD). Let the children take turns holding the balloon and wiggling it back and forth as if the balloon is King Solomon talking throughout the segments. Pause the CD as directed, and let kids form pairs and do as Solomon says.

Here are the words to the song children will sing during the CD segment:

God sent his Son to save the world

And Jesus is his name-o.

J-E-S-U-S,

J-E-S-U-S,

J-E-S-U-S,

Jesus does great things—yeah!

Talk With Kids

Ask the following questions. Gently hit the King Solomon balloon to kids who'd like to answer.

Ask:

- What are some of the great things about Jesus that Solomon talked about?
- What great things has Jesus done for you?

•••••

Say: Solomon told us about the great things that Jesus would do. And we can remember that ▶ JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS now and always.



Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.



Bible Time: Solomon Says Supplies

Bible CD player balloon from Theo's News **Teacher Pack** CD: "Solomon Says" (track 9)



To avoid choking hazards, be sure to pick up pieces of any broken balloons promptly. Balloons may contain latex.



Center 1: Jesus Hugs the Children Supplies

My Bible Playground glue sticks scissors fabric scraps crayons

Center 1: Jesus Hugs the Children Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 1 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.

Center 2: Wrapped in Jesus' Love Supplies

½ tortilla and 1 slice lunchmeat per child toothpicks napkins antibacterial gel (optional)

ALLERGYALERT

CENTER 1:

Jesus Hugs the Children

What You'll Do

Distribute the Lesson 1 My Bible Playground student pages, and have kids write their names on their papers. Have kids add coats to the needy children by gluing the fabric pieces onto the page. Then let kids cut along the lines on the page and fold Jesus' arms over the children to comfort them with a hug.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in the following discussion.

Ask:

- What else do children need beside warm coats?
- What can we do to show Jesus' love to children who may be cold or hungry?

Say: King Solomon told us that ▶ JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS. Jesus uses us to help others, too. We can help others by giving clothes to people who are cold and food to those who are hungry.

CENTER 2:

Wrapped in Jesus' Love

What You'll Do

Have kids clean their hands. Have kids work in pairs to make a snack that'll remind them that Jesus wraps us up in his love! Have them follow these steps:

- Lay a half-tortilla flat on a napkin and place lunchmeat on top of it.
- Help each other roll the lunchmeat inside each tortilla.
- Stick a toothpick through the snack to keep the tortilla rolled up.

When all the snacks are done, invite a child to pray, and then let kids eat and enjoy the snacks.

Say: Wow! Wrapping your lunchmeat in the tortilla is like wrapping a cold child inside a warm blanket. Jesus wraps each one of us in his warm love. That's one big way that ▶ JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS!



CENTER 3:

Comforting the Hurting

What You'll Do

Gather the children in the dramatic play center. Encourage them to wear the costumes and act out a variety of ways to comfort and care for others. Kids might pretend to be police officers who are comforting a lost child or nurses who are comforting a scared patient.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in the following discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about a time you were lost or sad.
- What was it like when someone helped you?

Say: King Solomon said that ▶ JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS like comforting people who are hurt. We can help people who are hurting, too.

CENTER 4:

Let's Celebrate!

What You'll Do

Say: God told Solomon that Jesus would come and that he would do great things. Let's make noisemakers to celebrate that ▶ JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS!

Gather your children in the craft area and give each child a paper towel tube with duct tape closing one end. Have children follow these steps:

- Use the decorating supplies to decorate and personalize the paper towel tube.
- Fill the tube with small jingle bells.
- Close the tube by covering the open end with another piece of duct tape.

When all the kids have finished, play "God So Loved the World" (John 3:16) (track 4 on the CD). (The words are given earlier in this lesson.) Encourage kids to move and shake their noisemakers to the music.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in the following discussion.

Ask:

- What are some great things that Jesus has done for you or others?
- What can you do this week to celebrate that ▶ JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS?



Center 3: Comforting the Hurting Supplies

dolls props occupational costumes

•••••

Center 3: Comforting the Hurting Easy Prep

•••••

Create a dramatic play center with dolls, props, and costumes that reflect helping professions, such as firefighters, doctors, and nurses.

Center 4: Let's Celebrate! Supplies

1 paper towel tube per child stickers markers or crayons small jingle bells duct tape CD player **Teacher Pack** CD: "God So Loved the World" (John 3:16) (track 4)

Center 4: Let's Celebrate! Easy Prep

Tape one end of each tube shut.



Say: ▶ JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS every day for us. The greatest thing he did was making a way for us to get to God. This week, celebrate Jesus with your noisemakers.



IMPRESSIONS

Be a FaithWeaver Supplies

My Bible Playground

Be a FaithWeaver

What You'll Do

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids

Say: Today we learned that ▶ JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS. I'd like each of you to choose a way you can learn more about how Jesus does great things.

Read these three ideas for children to choose from:

- Tell a friend about one of the great things Jesus does that you heard about from the Bible today.
- Ask your mom or dad or another adult to read from the Bible about a great thing Jesus has done.
- Make a card for Jesus and thank him for a wonderful thing that he has done in your life.

Have kids each whisper in your ear or tell you which idea they've chosen, and then circle it on each child's My Bible Playground page. Make sure you choose a challenge as well and tell kids which challenge you chose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Great Things Prayer

What You'll Do

Say: Think about one great thing Jesus did for you this week. Maybe Jesus helped you when you were scared or sad. After I pray, each of you can name something great Jesus did for you.



Pray: Dear God,

We know that because of Jesus, we can always go to you.

Thanks for the great things Jesus does for us.

Have kids take turns praying aloud. Then end the prayer together by saying, "In Jesus' name, amen."

Weaving Faith at Home

Send the letter to parents home with your kids or give it to parents when they pick up their children. This is a great way to show families they're important to your church and to support their role as spiritual leaders to their children.

Have children take home their My Bible Playground pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the "Be a FaithWeaver" activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Playground

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

Tear out the letter to parents from each My Bible Playground student book to give to parents when they pick up their children.



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	Solomon Tells of Jesus' Coming (Psalm 72:1-19)	Jesus is the way to God (adapted from John 14:6).	Jesus does great things.
WEEK 2	An Angel Appears to Joseph (Isaiah 7:13-14; Matthew 1:18-25)		God is good.
*WEEK 3	Jesus Is Born (Luke 2:1-20; Hebrews 1:1-4)	If we believe in Jesus, we become God's children (adapted from John 1:12).	Jesus was born.
WEEK 4	Foreign Visitors Worship Jesus (Matthew 2:1-12)		We worship Jesus.
WEEK 5	Joseph Takes His Family to Safety in Egypt (Matthew 2:13-23)		God takes care of us.
WEEK 6	Jesus Is Baptized (Matthew 3:13-17)	Come to me and rest (adapted from Matthew 11:28).	Jesus is God's Son.
WEEK 7	Peter and Andrew Meet Jesus (John 1:35-42)		Jesus is our friend.
WEEK 8	News About Jesus Spreads (Matthew 4:12-25)		Follow Jesus.
WEEK 9	Jesus Gives the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12)	"Let the little children come to me" (Mark 10:14).	God blesses us when we choose his ways.
WEEK 10	Jesus Teaches That We Are to Be Salt and Light (Matthew 5:13-16)		Help others see Jesus.
WEEK 11	Jesus Walks on Water (Matthew 14:22-33)		Jesus helps us believe.
WEEK 12	Zacchaeus Climbs a Tree to See Jesus (Luke 19:1-10)		Jesus loves everyone.
WEEK 13	Jesus Blesses the Children (Mark 10:13-16)		You're important to Jesus.

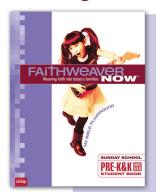
^{*} Due to the way Christmas falls, we recommend moving the lessons as needed to line up Lesson 3 with the week of Christmas.

PLUS...

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

- FREE digital copies of Teacher Guides in PDF format so you can easily download any lesson for your ministry. Sharing lessons with busy volunteers couldn't be easier! Look inside kit box 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...



*Get a colorful, ageappropriate student book for every child! Each week, you'll get...

- Engaging activities that bring the Bible to life for every child
- Easy faith conversationstarters for kids to take home
- Meaningful at-home activities for families to dig into Scripture

*You'll need one per child. Sold separately.



THIS IS A SAMPLE The number of pages is limited.

Purchase the item for the complete version.