



FAITHWEAVER

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

**SPRING
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

PRESCHOOL AGES
3&4
TEACHER GUIDE

Group

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TEACHER GUIDE



YOUR ACTIVATION CODE IS NOW LOCATED INSIDE THE TEACHER PACK!

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

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

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, Preschool/Ages 3 & 4, Spring

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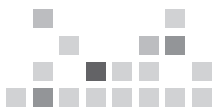
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* We recommend starting the quarter so that Lessons 4 and 5 align with the dates of Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Visit the Digital Download Center for a suggested schedule.





Jesus Teaches About Good Fruit

Luke 6:43-45

By age 3, children understand they're growing. They're fascinated with babies, who are smaller than they are, and are beginning to understand that while they used to be tiny babies, now they're big boys and big girls. This is the perfect time to introduce preschoolers to the idea that God is the one who helps them grow.



► Bible Point


God helps us grow.

Key Verse

"You are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love" (Nehemiah 9:17).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will ask God to help them grow.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	Welcome and Celebrate Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD, whistle	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	The Greatest Treasure Learn the Key Verse.	Bible, small box Teacher Pack: gold coins	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Puppy Pointers Hear how Theo wants to grow up to be a big, strong dog.	CD player, Theo puppet, dog picture, tape Teacher Pack: CD	Tape the dog picture to Theo's paw.
	Bible Time: Growing God's Way Sort fruit according to what kind of tree it grows on, and learn that God causes things to grow.	Bible; bowl of apples, oranges, peaches, and cherries; knife; scissors; 4 small bowls Teacher Pack: "Fruit Trees" poster 	Cut apart the "Fruit Trees" poster. Set each section on a table with a small bowl near each. Set out a bowl of apples, oranges, peaches, and cherries. Have a knife nearby, out of children's reach.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>about 20 min.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Trees of a Kind</p> <p>Create a tree with different kinds of fruit.</p>	My Bible Hugs, scissors, paper fasteners	Remove the Lesson 1 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Cut out the circle of fruit and the squares on each page.
	<p>Center 2: Fruit Tree Snacks</p> <p>Make fruit trees to eat.</p>	cookies, large pretzel rods, white frosting, food coloring, small bowls of cut fruit, paper towels, squeeze bottles, cups of water	Tint a container of white frosting green, and put the frosting in squeeze bottles. Set out small bowls of fruit that has been cut into small pieces to prevent choking.
	<p>Center 3: Babies and Grown-Ups</p> <p>Discuss what animals used to be before they grew up.</p>	magazines, scissors	Cut out pictures of animals—such as cows, chickens, horses, and pigs—from magazines.
	<p>Center 4: Fluffy Trees</p> <p>Glue pompom “fruit” to tree branches.</p>	modeling dough, small branches from a tree or bush, pompoms of various sizes and colors, craft glue	
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges</p> <p>Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs, crayons	
	<p>Action Prayer</p> <p>Thank God for helping them grow.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home</p> <p>Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>	My Bible Hugs	Tear out the Parent Letter in the back of each My Bible Hugs book to give to parents when they pick up their children.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: “Jesus Welcomes
Everyone” (track 3),
“God Forgives” (track 4)
whistle

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcome and Celebrate



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 the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it’s time to begin, use your whistle to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing “Jesus Welcomes Everyone” (track 3 on the CD) to the tune of “Are You Sleeping?” Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.



Jesus welcomes, Jesus welcomes (*Point up.*)

Everyone, everyone. (*Make gathering motion.*)

He is here among us. (*Nod and point to ground.*)

He is here among us. (*Nod and point to ground.*)

Come and learn, come and learn. (*Make gathering motion.*)

(*Repeat 2x.*)

Say: **Jesus wants all of us to come to church because ► GOD HELPS US GROW. Let’s sing a song about how good God is.**

Lead children in singing “God Forgives” (track 4 on the CD) to the tune of “Ten Little Indians.” Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.



God forgives us and always loves us. (*Hug yourself.*)

God forgives us and always loves us. (*Hug yourself.*)

God forgives us and always loves us. (*Hug yourself.*)

The Bible tells me so. (*Give the thumbs-up sign.*)

(*Repeat.*)





After the children have sung it through, have them share some of the things that God does to care for them such as loving them, making good fruit grow on trees, or helping them grow. Then lead the children in thanking God for caring and helping them grow.

Say: **Let's learn more about what Jesus said about how ► GOD HELPS US GROW.**

2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

The Greatest Treasure

What You'll Do

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Nehemiah 9:17, and show children the words. Use a small box as your "treasure box." Give each child a gold coin.

Say: **God's given us a great treasure of his love and forgiveness. Our Key Verse from the Bible is Nehemiah 9:17, which says, "You are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love." This means that God forgives us and always loves us. Let's say that together.** Lead the children in repeating this simplified version of the Key Verse with you: **God forgives us and always loves us.**

Have each child place his or her coin in the treasure box while saying the Key Verse.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How is God's love like a treasure?
- Should we keep God's love in a box or give it away? Why?

Say: **Jesus loves everyone. We can treasure God's love and forgiveness, and we can also give love and forgiveness to others!**



The Greatest Treasure Supplies

Bible
small box
Teacher Pack
gold coins





Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
dog picture
tape

Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 2)

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tape the dog picture to
Theo's paw.

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You'll Do

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 2 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! What's this on your paw?

Theo: This is my hero—Uncle Rolf. I want to grow up to be just like him!

Teacher: What do you like about Uncle Rolf?

Theo: He's so smart and big and strong!

Teacher: Well, today we'll be talking about how God helps us grow. Kids, can you show Theo how much you have grown? *(Pause for children to jump up and show how big they are.)* So, Theo, God will help you grow from a cute puppy into a big, strong, full-grown dog—maybe even like Uncle Rolf! And growing up is good!

Theo: I'm glad God helps us grow!

Teacher: Why don't you help us with our cheer. We'll say, "Praise God! ► **GOD HELPS US GROW!**" Are you ready, children? Are you ready, Theo? Then let's thank God! *(Lead Theo and children in cheering "Praise God! God helps us grow!" three times.)*

Theo: I'm going to put this picture up on my wall to help me remember that God will help me grow up to be big and strong. 'Bye, everyone!

Teacher: Let's say goodbye to Theo.

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

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did Theo have in his paws?
- What did Theo learn about growing up?

Say: **Let's see what the Bible tells us about how ► GOD HELPS US GROW.**



Bible Time: Growing God's Way

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Luke 6:43-45, and show the children the words.

Say: **Today's Bible story tells us that ► GOD HELPS US GROW. In fact, when we look at the world around us, we can see many things that God causes to grow.** Show the children the bowl of fruit.

Ask:

- **Where does fruit come from?**

Cut each piece of fruit in half, and allow the children to dig out and examine the seeds in each piece of fruit.

Say: **God created fruit. Inside fruit there are seeds. If you were to plant the seeds in dirt and keep the seeds watered, you could grow more fruit. God created the fruit seeds, and God helps the seeds grow.**

Ask:

- **If you planted an apple seed, do you think you'd get a lollipop tree?**

Say: **No, if you planted apple seeds, you'd get an apple tree.**

Ask:

- **If you planted an orange seed, do you think you'd get a giraffe tree?**

Say: **No, if you planted orange seeds, you'd get an orange tree. God created apple seeds to grow apples. God created orange seeds to grow oranges. God created the fruit. God created the seeds inside the fruit, and God makes the fruit grow.**

Show kids the "Fruit Trees" pictures you cut apart before class. Have the children sort the fruit in the bowl to go with the proper tree.

Say: **The Bible tells us each tree grows its own kind of fruit. And we know God helps the trees grow fruit. ► GOD HELPS US GROW, too.**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **When you grow up, do you think you'll be an elephant or a person?**
- **When you grow up, do you think you'll be an apple tree or a person?**

Say: **When you grow up, you'll be a grown-up person. If you're a little boy, you'll grow up to be a man. If you're a little girl, you'll grow up to be a woman. God created us, and we're good creations! And ► GOD HELPS US GROW to be just what he wants us to be.**



Bible Time: Growing God's Way Supplies

Bible
bowl of apples, oranges, peaches, and cherries
knife
scissors
4 small bowls
Teacher Pack
"Fruit Trees" poster

Bible Time: Growing God's Way Easy Prep

Cut apart the "Fruit Trees" poster. Set each section on a table with a small bowl near each. Set out a bowl of apples, oranges, peaches, and cherries. Have a knife nearby, out of children's reach.

! ALLERGY
■ ALERT





Center 1: Trees of a Kind Supplies

My Bible Hugs
scissors
paper fasteners

Center 1: Trees of a Kind Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 1 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Cut out the circle of fruit and the squares on each page.

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

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.

CENTER 1:

Trees of a Kind

What You'll Do

Help the children place the fruit circle behind the tree on the My Bible Hugs page and push a paper fastener through the center. Have the children separate the prongs of the paper fastener and flatten them against the page. Then have the children make the fruit tree change by turning the circle so that the different fruits show through the windows.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What does God do to help the fruit grow?
- What does fruit need to grow?

Say: **God sends rain and sunlight to help fruit trees grow. ► GOD HELPS US GROW, too. When we eat healthy fruit, we'll grow big and strong. God helps us grow by providing healthy food for us to eat.**



CENTER 2:

Fruit Tree Snacks

What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands and then sit down to prepare their snack. Give each child a paper towel, a large round cookie, and a large pretzel rod. Have children each arrange the cookie and the pretzel to look like a tree. Have the children squeeze icing onto their cookies. Then have the children scatter fruit on their “trees.”

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What would it be like if God didn't help fruits and vegetables grow? What would we eat?
- What would it be like if God didn't help us grow and we stayed little our whole lives?

Say: I'm thankful that God makes fruits grow because they taste so good. And I'm thankful that God helps us grow bigger and stronger and he helps our light shine brighter. Let's thank God for helping fruit trees grow, for helping us grow, and for providing our snack. Invite one child to pray. Provide cups of water with the snack.

CENTER 3:

Babies and Grown-Ups

What You'll Do

Have the children look at the pictures you've cut out. Then discuss with the children what each animal was when it was a baby. For example, a dog was a puppy and a cat was a kitten.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do kittens [puppies, babies, calves, colts] grow up to be?
- What will you be when you grow up?

Say: God created us all to grow—to get bigger and stronger until we're all grown up. ► **GOD HELPS US GROW.** God is good!



Center 2: Fruit Tree Snacks Supplies

- cookies
- large pretzel rods
- white frosting
- food coloring
- small bowls of cut fruit
- paper towels
- squeeze bottles
- cups of water

! ALLERGY ALERT

Center 2: Fruit Tree Snacks Easy Prep

Tint a container of white frosting green, and put the frosting in squeeze bottles. Set out small bowls of fruit that has been cut into small pieces to prevent choking.

Center 3: Babies and Grown-Ups Supplies

- magazines
- scissors

Center 3: Babies and Grown-Ups Easy Prep

Cut out pictures of animals—such as cows, chickens, horses, and pigs—from magazines.





Center 4: Fluffy Trees Supplies

modeling dough
small branches from a
tree or bush
pompoms of various
sizes and colors
craft glue

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs
crayons

CENTER 4:

Fluffy Trees

What You'll Do

Give each child a small handful of modeling dough and a small branch. Show them how to stick the branch in the dough, using the dough as a base, so it stands up like a tree. Then have children put a dot of glue on a pompom and stick it to the branch. Let kids put lots of pompoms on the branches.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Who makes the trees grow taller and have fruit?
- Who makes you grow taller?
- What kinds of things will you be able to do when you are big?

Say: ► **GOD HELPS US GROW bigger.** He has wonderful things for us to do when we get big.

5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

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 ► **GOD HELPS US GROW.** I would like each of you to choose a way to remember that God helps you grow this week.

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- Before you turn off your light and go to bed, ask God to help you grow each day.





- ■ **Ask a parent to pray with you. Curl up in a ball and ask God to help you grow. When you've finished praying, stand up slowly and stretch while thanking God for helping you grow closer to him.**

Say: **If you want to pray after the light is off, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to curl up in a ball, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Action Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Form a circle, and have the children sit down.

Have the children curl into small balls and then slowly unfold into tall preschoolers standing on their tiptoes with arms stretched high. Then have the children pray:

**Dear God,
Thank you for helping me grow.
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 Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the "Daily Challenges" activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during 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 Hugs

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

.....
Tear out the Parent Letter in the back of each My Bible Hugs 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	Jesus Teaches About Good Fruit (Luke 6:43-45)	"You are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love" (Nehemiah 9:17).	God helps us grow.
WEEK 2	Jesus Tells the Parable of the Lost Son (Luke 15:11-32)		God is loving and forgiving.
WEEK 3	Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet (John 13:1-17)	"Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).	God wants us to help others.
*WEEK 4	Jesus Is Tried and Crucified (Luke 19:28-40; 23:1-49)		Jesus died for us.
*WEEK 5	Jesus Appears to Mary (John 20:1-18)		Jesus is alive.
WEEK 6	Apostles Defend Their Faith (Acts 5:12-42)	"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (James 5:16).	Tell others about Jesus.
WEEK 7	Saul Meets Jesus Near Damascus (Acts 9:1-20)		Jesus changes our lives.
WEEK 8	Peter Raises Tabitha From the Dead (Acts 9:36-43)		God hears our prayers.
WEEK 9	An Angel Frees Peter From Jail (Acts 12:1-18)		God's angels help us.
WEEK 10	Lydia Is Converted (Acts 16:9-15)		Everyone needs Jesus.
WEEK 11	Paul's Jailer Believes in Jesus (Acts 16:16-34)	"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).	Jesus saves us.
WEEK 12	Paul Describes Living by God's Spirit (Romans 8:9-17)		We can live for God.
WEEK 13	Paul Describes Genuine Love (1 Corinthians 13:1-13)		God's love is kind.

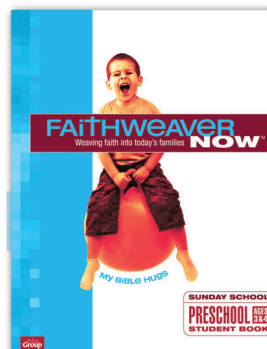
* We recommend starting the quarter so that Lessons 4 and 5 align with the dates of Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Visit the Digital Download Center for a suggested schedule.

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! *See inside kit 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, age-appropriate student book for every child! Each week, you'll get...**

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

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



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The number of pages is limited.

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