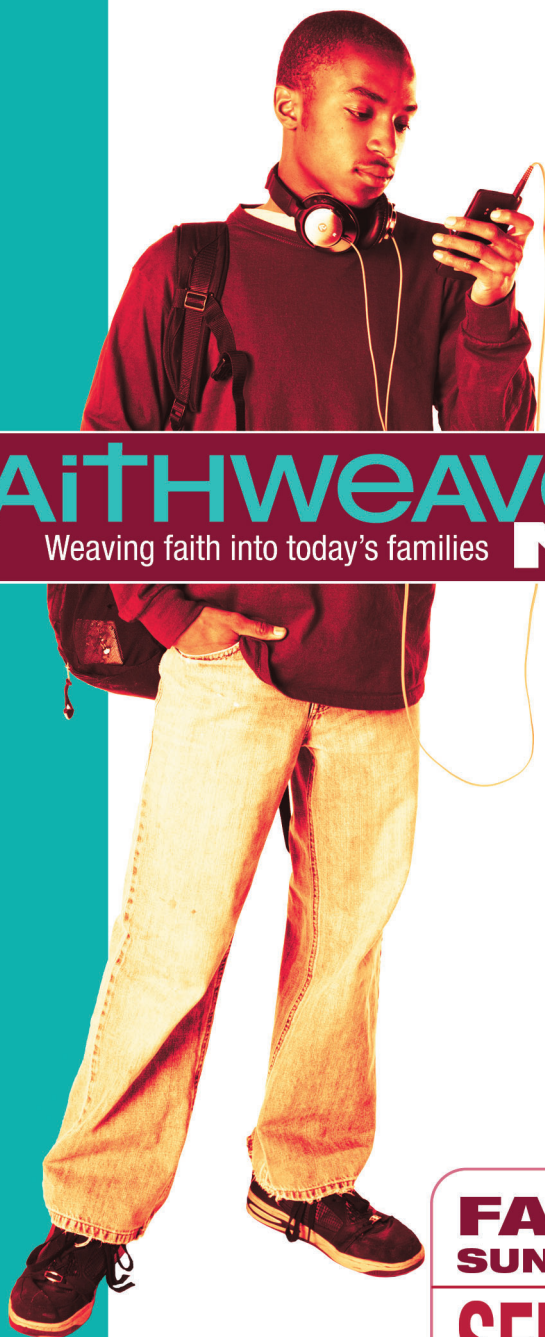




FAITHWEAVER

Weaving faith into today's families

NOW[®]

**FALL
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**SENIOR HIGH
HANDBOOK**

Group

Real. Bold. Love.

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

**FALL
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Real. Bold. Love.

FAITHWEAVER NOW

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, Senior High Handbook, Fall

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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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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 and Joani Schultz
Chairman and Chief Creative Officer
Group Publishing, Inc.

Welcome to the

FaithWeaver NOW Senior High Handbook!



The fact that you're reading this shows how much you care about your faith. You take your relationship with Jesus seriously. You want to live like him. But it can be hard sometimes, especially as a teenager, and with **FaithWeaver NOW** we're going to help you grow in your faith.

You'll learn together with—and from—other students who wrestle with the same issues you do. Together, you'll work through those issues and give each other brand-new insights into how to weave faith into your life. You'll have fun learning together. You'll discover things you never knew about yourself, about each other, and about God. You'll laugh together. You'll probably cry together, too. But most importantly, you'll discover how to weave faith into your life and walk with God for a lifetime.

Here's what you'll find in your FaithWeaver NOW Senior High Handbook—including how to use each piece to get the most out of each week:



BIBLE BACKGROUND

This is a more in-depth look at the week's Bible passage. Use it to gain a deeper understanding of God's Word.



THE JESUS CONNECTION

This brief devotion will help you think through how this week's study applies to your life and how to pray about this week's point.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These are the questions you'll go through as a group and the specific passages you'll look at. Use this page to follow along during the study.



DAILY CHALLENGE

Here you'll have some options for how to apply each study to your life. Mark the one you choose as a reminder to live out your faith.



QUOTABLES

A get-you-thinking quote about faith, life, and whatever you're learning about that week.



FAITH JOURNAL

Use this section to reflect honestly about the study each week when you go home. There's even space for you to write about your insights.



TALK WITH YOUR FAMILY

You've learned a lot today, and so has your family. Why not cement the learning by exploring today's point together? You can do that by using the activity and discussion in this section.

So again, welcome to the world of **FaithWeaver NOW!**
May God bless your journey together—as students and as faithweavers!





God Creates the World

Genesis 1:1–2:3



►Bible Point

God made the world.

Key Verse

"In the beginning

God created the
heavens and the
earth" (Genesis 1:1).

God's Beginnings With Humans

The book of Genesis gives us the beginnings. Not the beginning of God; God has existed eternally. Nor is it just the beginning of our world. It's the beginnings of God's working with humans. In fact, "beginning" is the meaning of the Greek word from which the name *Genesis* came. What better place to start a new season than at the beginning!

Elohim is the Hebrew name used for God in Genesis 1:1. It's interesting that the name is plural, but the verb *created* is singular. Even though God exists in three persons, the action of creating the universe was unified.

God's Creation Was Good

Genesis 1:1–2:3 describes a vast variety of things God created, but the focus isn't so much on the creation as it is on the Creator. Nine times in this passage we read "God said" and then some variation of "and it was so." God spoke our universe, our planet, and humankind into existence. And what God did was good.

The word translated "good" here is a common Hebrew word that, like our word *good*, can have several meanings. Here, it likely has no moral connotation but means "just as it should be." God looked at what he had done and knew it was right.

After Creating, God Rested

God was creating a bountiful, beautiful home for the treasured beings that he created last. Notice that God created many of each thing: not just one tree, but "seed-bearing plants and trees...according to their various kinds"; not just one star, but "lights in the expanse of the sky"; not just one fish, but "every living and moving thing with





BIBLE BACKGROUND



which the water teems.” God prepared a marvelous earth for his crowning creation to enjoy. And then God created humans. We’re a vital part of everything good that God made.

When God finished creating the heavens and the earth “in all their vast array,” he rested. Why? God wasn’t tired. God didn’t need to rest. No, God rested as a signal that Creation was complete. The seventh day became a holy day—a day to reflect on the wonder of what God had done, a day to smile and to know that it was good.



**THE JESUS
CONNECTION**

God’s creation is inspiring, and the gift of his Son is lifesaving. Thank God for the beauty of life in nature and in our hearts through a relationship with Jesus! Show love for God’s creation during the lesson this week, and help others see that the Creator has given them new life through Jesus as well.

What in nature amazes you? Oceans of beautifully colored fish? Massive forests? Take some time to appreciate the creativity of God’s design, and consider how God has designed your life, too.

You can write your prayer here.





DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

FAITH
CONNECTION

- Talk about what you created.
- What helped you be more creative or limited your creativity in this competition?
- Tell about the best thing you've ever created.
- Would you describe yourself as a creative person? Explain.

2

BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Read: Genesis 1:1–2:1-3

- What facts about Creation surprised or amazed you?
- What was it like to consider all the details that went into the creation of the earth?
- In what ways does science help support Creation? In what ways does science contradict Creation?
- Explain what you believe about Creation versus scientific theories of how the world was made.

MEDIA
CONNECTION (OPTION)

Read: Genesis 1:1–2:1-3

- What differences did you notice between the original song lyrics and what the Bible says?
- In what ways does science help support Creation? In what ways does science contradict Creation?
- Explain what you believe about Creation versus scientific theories of how the world was made.





3

**WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE**

- What new or unusual things did you notice as you made such close observations?
- What do your observations show you about how God made the world?
- God said that what he made was good. What are some good characteristics of the creation you observed?



Quotables

"To think you can find God only in a church is as absurd as thinking you can find great works of art only in a gallery. To suppose God is confined beneath a steeple is to suppose drama is confined to the stage, music to the concert hall, or animals to the zoo."
—S. Rickly
Christian,
Alive

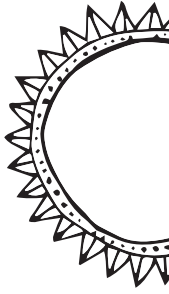
Daily Challenges

Choose one or more of these Daily Challenges to do this week.

- Spend time outside praising God for the beauty of creation.
- Observe and compare two created objects each day using the same questions as you did on your observation log.
- Research more interesting facts about creation, specifically facts about an animal or plant you're interested in. Praise God for the way he made that animal or plant as you uncover amazing details about his creation.

Faith Journal

What do your observations about creation tell you about God's identity and character? Explain.



Talk With Your Family

Read Romans 1:20, and discuss the following questions as a family:

- What qualities of God can you discover from observing his creation?
- What does God's amazing attention to detail tell us about the way God feels about his creation?

Look out a window or go for a quick walk. Share what "invisible qualities" of God you can understand more clearly from what you see.





Uniquely Created

Read each Bible passage and its corresponding facts, and then discuss this question for each section:

What do these facts demonstrate about God's plan in creating the earth?

Read Genesis 1:1-5

Fun facts about light and darkness:

- Light from the sun reaches earth in 8 minutes and 17 seconds. But energy *in* the sun doesn't travel so fast! Scientists say it takes millions of years to go from the center of the sun to its surface.
- Many insects can see ultraviolet light, which is invisible to humans.
- A hundred lightning bolts strike the earth each second.
- In complete darkness our eyes see objects as dark gray rather than black, because there's no brightness contrasting it. Contrasts with brighter objects help our eyes see black.

Read Genesis 1:6-8

Fun facts about the sky and atmosphere:

- The earth's atmosphere acts as a protective barrier, burning up meteors in the layer called the mesosphere, and protecting us in other ways, too.
- The lowest layer of the atmosphere is called the troposphere, and it's where most of our weather comes from. It's only 11 miles high at the equator, and lower at the earth's poles.
- Ever wonder why clouds appear white? The ice crystals or water droplets inside are big enough to refract all the wavelengths of light, combining them to appear white.
- It may not *really* rain cats and dogs, but it's fairly common for animals to rain from the sky! The most common animals to get caught up in a rainstorm are fish and frogs.

Read Genesis 1:9-13

Fun facts about plants:

- In one crater in Panama, there are some cottonwood trees that have grown with square trunks—hard right angle corners that are completely unique among trees!
- There's a plant called doll's eye that literally looks like eyeballs hanging off of a deep red stalk...and it's highly poisonous.
- Who needs pest control? Many plants can defend themselves by releasing chemicals that attract the natural predators of an insect who's decided to grab a snack.
- There are a number of carnivorous plants, including the most commonly known Venus flytrap. These plants can trap their prey (primarily insects) by several different methods. Some have leaves that fold into pools of digestive enzymes. Others are sticky, have hinged leaves that snap shut, suction in their prey, or have a corkscrew shape lined with hairs and glands.





Read Genesis 1:14-19

Fun facts about space:

- The Hubble telescope has demonstrated that there are several galaxies receding from ours at around the speed of light.
- The opposite of black holes are white holes, which spray out matter and light like fountains.
- Scientists think they've found a distant planet that's made up of diamond—and it's twice the size the earth! Too bad it's way too hot for humans.
- There's a body of water floating around in a distant black hole, and it's estimated to hold about as much water as all of the earth's oceans combined...times 140 trillion!

Read Genesis 1:20-23

Fun facts about birds and aquatic animals:

- When a dolphin sleeps, half of its brain stays awake to keep the dolphin coming up for air.
- Flatfish are a species of fish that are symmetrical when hatched, but soon their body mutates and one eyeball moves to the other side of the head so that both eyes end up on the same side next to each other.
- The Sri Lanka frogmouth is a bird whose face looks like a frog. When threatened by an approaching predator, these birds lift up their heads, making them appear like a broken branch on a tree.
- Thirty percent of a hummingbird's weight is comprised of muscles used for flight. That's because they have the fastest wing beats of any bird and average 25-30 miles per hour in flight—and 60 miles per hour when they dive!

Read Genesis 1:24-25

Fun facts about land animals:

- Elephants walk on their tiptoes. The bone structure in their feet appears like that of a woman in high heels.
- A newborn giant panda is smaller than a mouse.
- A rat can fall five stories without being injured.
- Camels have three eyelids and really long lashes, which protect their eyes from the blowing desert sand. Their third eyelid is thin enough to see through. Their ears and nose are also equipped to keep sand out.

Read Genesis 1:26-31

Fun facts about people:

Write a fun fact about each person in your group!

-
-
-
-



The FaithWeaver NOW Senior High Handbook weaves transformative experiences into every lesson and includes activities that make the Bible unforgettable.

This quarter you'll explore these Bible passages:

	BIBLE CONTENT/SCRIPTURE	KEY VERSE	BIBLE POINT
WEEK 1	God Creates the World (Genesis 1:1–2:3)	"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).	God made the world.
WEEK 2	God Creates Adam and Eve (Genesis 2:4–22)	"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well" (Psalm 139:14).	God made us.
WEEK 3	Adam and Eve Sin (Genesis 3)	"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).	God doesn't want us to sin.
WEEK 4	Cain Kills Abel (Genesis 4:1–16)	"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves" (Romans 12:10).	God wants us to love our families.
WEEK 5	Noah Builds the Ark (Genesis 6:5–22)	"Peter and the other apostles replied: 'We must obey God rather than men!' " (Acts 5:29).	God wants us to obey.
WEEK 6	God Floods the Earth (Genesis 7–8; 9:8–16)	"The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made" (Psalm 145:13).	We can count on God's promises.
WEEK 7	People Build a Tower at Babel (Genesis 11:1–9)	"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:5).	We put God first.
WEEK 8	Abram Follows God's Direction (Genesis 12:1–8)	"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5–6).	We can always trust God.
WEEK 9	Lot and Abram Divide the Land (Genesis 13)	"Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31).	God wants us to put others first.
WEEK 10	God Makes a Covenant With Abram (Genesis 15:1–18)	" '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).	God has good plans for us.
WEEK 11	Abraham's Visitors/Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18:1–19:29)	"For nothing is impossible with God" (Luke 1:37).	God does amazing things.
WEEK 12	Isaac Is Born (Genesis 21:1–6)	"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4).	Thank God for his gifts.
WEEK 13	God Cares for Hagar and Ishmael (Genesis 21:8–21)	"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" (Luke 11:9).	God always hears us when we pray.



THIS IS A SAMPLE

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