

# FAITHWEAVER

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

**SPRING  
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**SENIOR HIGH  
HANDBOOK**

**Group**

# FAITHWEAVER

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**SPRING  
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**Group**  
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](http://group.com/sunday-school)

### FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Senior High Handbook, Spring

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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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



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.



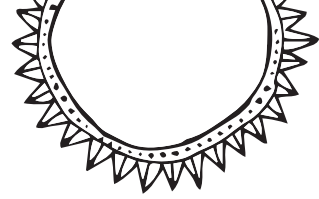
### TALK WITH YOUR FAMILY

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!







# Jesus Teaches About Commitment

Mark 8:31-38



► **Bible Point**  
Commit to follow  
Jesus.

.....

## Key Verse

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile" (Romans 1:16).

.....

## Jesus Rebuked Peter

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The disciples were likely counting on a great earthly kingdom in which Jesus would lead the Jews in overthrowing the Romans and would place his disciples in important positions. Jesus' statements didn't go along with those expectations! Peter wanted Jesus to change his mind and forget all this talk about dying.

Peter's thinking was based on wrong assumptions because he saw things from a purely human point of view. Here we see a clear statement about what it means to follow Jesus. Too often we think of God as a powerful being who can help us advance our own agendas. Instead, truly following Jesus means listening to what he says, discovering his will for our lives, and then obediently following, no matter how attractive or repulsive that may seem to us at the time.

## Jesus Challenged the Crowd

.....

A crowd had apparently gathered to hear Jesus, and he wanted to clarify his meaning. This is not a description of what some call "easy believism." Instead, Jesus points out how denying oneself means turning away from selfish, self-protective attitudes and seeking the true humility and faith God wants to see in us.

What does it mean to take up your cross? For Jesus' disciples to each take up his own cross didn't mean just to endure suffering. It meant to accept fully the suffering they would face because of their faith in Christ. Jesus wanted his disciples to know that their faith came with a cost.





**BIBLE BACKGROUND**

**Stand Firm in Faith**

As he spoke of what it means to follow him, Jesus knew that many in the crowd around him wouldn't be followers he would recognize as his own when he returns. Our generation is much like that of Jesus' day. People who claim to be religious—or even Christian—often shy away from bold witnessing for Jesus. It's easy to say you believe in God, but it's much more difficult to confess you're a Jesus-following Christian.



**THE JESUS CONNECTION**

Humans are willing to sacrifice a lot for the sake of those they love. Your relationship with Jesus will require sacrifice, risk, and loyal commitment—but it's all worth it!

How can you take up your cross? Try living out the "Joy" acronym: Pray about one specific way you'll put Jesus first (such as spending time with him first thing each day), put others second (such as washing a friend's car), and put yourself last (such as giving up time watching TV in order to help someone else).

You can write your prayer here.

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### 1

## FAITH CONNECTION

- How did you weigh the costs of your commitment versus what you would gain?
- Tell about a commitment you made. What helped you decide to make it?
- Tell about an opportunity you missed out on but now wish you'd taken.

## MEDIA CONNECTION (OPTION)

- How did you make sure to get the goofiest-looking picture?
- What are some things Christians do that might seem goofy to non-Christians?
- Why do you think those things are or aren't worthwhile?

### 2

## BIBLE EXPLORATION

### Get Behind Me!

**Read:** Mark 8:31-33

- What's your reaction to Jesus' response to Peter? Too harsh, or deserved? Explain.
- What are some possible reasons Jesus might've responded so harshly?
- What does Jesus' reaction show about his commitment to die on the cross?
- What does it mean for you to have in mind the concerns of God?

### Counting the Costs

**Read:** Mark 8:34-38

- What were some of the costs you listed? rewards?
- How did things seem to compare before I added the candy to your rewards bag?
- What does this passage tell you about what it's like to follow Jesus?
- Why do you or don't you believe that denying yourself and taking up a cross is worth it?





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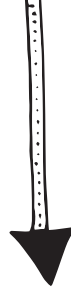
**WEAVING FAITH  
INTO LIFE**

- What are some things you wrote on your cross?
- What will you have to give up in order to follow through with those things?

**Read:** Romans 1:16

- Do you feel at all ashamed to do any of the things you wrote on your cross? Explain.





### Quotables

*"Nothing is really lost by a life of sacrifice; everything is lost by failure to obey God's call."  
—Henry P. Liddon*

## Daily Challenges

On your cross, you wrote some things you can do to "take up your cross." Pick one you'll really focus on this week, and write it here:

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## Faith Journal

**Have you fully committed to following Jesus? Explain how complete you think your commitment is.**

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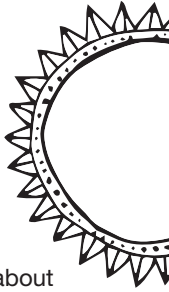
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## Talk With Your Family

Read 2 Corinthians 11:21-29 with your family. Ask each family member to tell about a time he or she was persecuted because of his or her faith in Jesus. How did each person stand strong against the persecution? Then discuss these questions:

- What can you learn from the way Paul “took up his cross”?
- How could these verses encourage you as you decide to “take up your cross”?

Pray together, asking God to be with you and give you strength as you each make the daily choice to follow Jesus.



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	Jesus Teaches About Commitment (Mark 8:31-38)	"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile" (Romans 1:16).	Commit to follow Jesus.
WEEK 2	Jesus Clears Merchants From the Temple (John 2:13-22)	"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker" (Psalm 95:6).	God wants sincere worship.
WEEK 3	Jesus Explains Why God Sent Him (John 3:12-21)	"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).	Jesus came to save us.
WEEK 4	Jesus Notices a Widow's Giving (Mark 12:41-44)	"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).	Give cheerfully to God.
WEEK 5	People Rejoice as Jesus Enters Jerusalem (Mark 11:1-11)	"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:10-11).	Jesus is our king.
WEEK 6	Jesus Is Alive! (Mark 16:1-8)	"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies' " (John 11:25).	Jesus is alive.
WEEK 7	Jesus Appears to His Disciples (John 20:19-31)	"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1).	Believe in Jesus.
WEEK 8	Paul Teaches About Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:4-27)	"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).	God gives us gifts to serve him.
WEEK 9	Peter Tells the Sanhedrin About Jesus (Acts 4:5-14)	"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).	Trusting God makes us brave.
WEEK 10	Philip Tells the Ethiopian About Jesus (Acts 8:26-40)	"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).	Follow where God leads.
WEEK 11	Peter Visits Cornelius (Acts 10:1-44)	"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).	Tell everyone about Jesus.
WEEK 12	Barnabas Encourages Christians in Antioch (Acts 11:19-26)	"But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness" (Hebrews 3:13).	Encourage each other to believe in Jesus.
WEEK 13	Jesus Sends Power From God (Acts 2:1-21)	"But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you" (John 14:26).	God gives us the Holy Spirit.



**THIS IS A SAMPLE**  
**The number of pages is limited.**

Purchase the item for the complete version.

