

FAITHWEAVER

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

**SUMMER
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**SENIOR HIGH
HANDBOOK**

Group

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SUNDAY SCHOOL**

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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, Summer

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Credits

Contributing Authors: Dr. Robert K. Arp, Tim Baker, Bryan Belknap, Trudy Hewitt, Chad Kimberly, Inger Koppenhauer, Karl Leuthauser, Katherine Martinez, Julie Meiklejohn, Elaine Ernst Schneider, Pamela S. Shoup

Editors: Laycie Costigan, Jennifer Hooks, David Jennings, Stephanie Martin, Jessica Sausto, Lee Sparks, Ali Thompson, Christine Yount Jones

Copy Editors: Lyndsay Gerwing, Becky Helzer, Andrea Zimmerman

Chief Creative Officer: Joani Schultz

Cover Design and Art Direction: Jeff Spencer

Interior Design Team: Jeff Brunacci, Kate Elvin, Suzi Jensen, Randy Kady, Rebecca Swain

Cover Photographer: Rodney Stewart

Illustrator: Matt Wood

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ISBN 978-1-4707-6334-3

Printed in the United States of America.

001 USA 0218



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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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

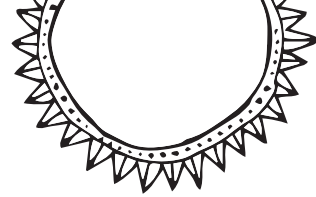


TALK WITH YOUR FAMILY

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!





God Tests Abraham

Genesis 22:1-18



► Bible Point

ObeY God.

.....

Key Verse

“So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. Walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess” (Deuteronomy 5:32-33).

.....



A Preface for Today’s Material

.....

This account may seem horrifying if one doesn’t study it carefully. It’s hard to understand how our good God could command a parent to sacrifice a child. But if we examine the text, we can take comfort in knowing that God never intended for Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. The whole event was designed to test Abraham; it was a chance for him to grow his faith and learn about God’s faithfulness.

Abraham Obeys God’s Command to Sacrifice His Son

.....

Isaac was the embodiment of all of God’s promises to Abraham. However, no matter how surprised or saddened he must have been, Abraham obeyed. The Bible says he set out the next day. When Abraham knew what God wanted him to do, he set out to do it.

Abraham’s faith in God and his willingness to obey are truly amazing. Not only was he willing to sacrifice his son, but he maintained faith in God’s promise about Isaac. He said to his servants, “We will come back to you” (Genesis 22:5). Somehow Abraham was confident that in spite of this recent command, God would preserve Isaac, through whom God had promised to make Abraham’s descendants as numerous as the stars in the heavens!

Abraham and Isaac Journey to the Place of Sacrifice

.....

It took Abraham and Isaac three days to travel about 50 miles over rough, mountainous terrain. During the trip, Abraham had time to think. Certainly questions flooded his mind: “What if God really does let Isaac die? What will I tell Sarah? Might this God I’m serving abandon me now after





BIBLE BACKGROUND

all these promises?” Abraham could easily have justified disobedience in this case—after all, this was the child God had promised to him and Sarah; maybe the voice he had heard wasn’t God’s after all. But whatever thoughts went through his mind, Abraham never swerved from his steadfast obedience.



Isaac Also Obeyed God

The Bible tells us nothing of Isaac’s thoughts or feelings during this trip. He must have noticed that his father was behaving strangely. But Isaac showed faith, too. He submitted to being placed on the altar in obedience to God’s command.

THE JESUS CONNECTION

God loves us and he loved Abraham. God’s test helped Abraham realize his own commitment to God, and the tests in our lives can help strengthen and deepen our faith, too.

How can you trust God in the middle of trials and difficulty? Invite God into your decisions and challenges and trust him to lead you no matter what the road ahead looks like.

You can write your prayer here.





DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

FAITH CONNECTION

- How much effort did you put into obeying every command? Were you successful? Explain.
- When in your life have you tried to complete something but were unable to?
- How was this activity like life?
- How was it like obeying God?

MEDIA CONNECTION (OPTION)

- How was Ed's choice like or unlike choosing the path of obedience?
- What risks are there to obeying?
- What are the rewards?

2

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Read: Genesis 22:1-2, 3-6, 7-14, 15-18

- Why is it important to *do* the right thing—not just talk about it?
- What can you learn from Abraham about how to actively obey?
- In what ways does obedience require trust in God?

3

WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Straight Path

Read: Deuteronomy 5:32-33

- How is this activity like trying to obey God?
- What might the beach balls (or paper wads) represent? Be specific.
- What types of things tempt you to disobey God?
- What might you gain by “staying on the line”?

- How was this experience different from the one before?



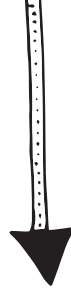


- What does this experience teach you about others' support?
- When have you needed a friend to help support your obedience?
- What types of people can you surround yourself with as you attempt to obey God?

Making It Happen

- What do you think will be the hardest part of keeping your contract?
- Why did you include the promises you did in your contract?





Quotables

"That's why you could call God's hand on you 'the touch of greatness.' You do not become great; you become dependent on the strong hand of God. Your surrendered need turns into His unlimited opportunity. And He becomes great through you."—Bruce Wilkinson, The Prayer of Jabez

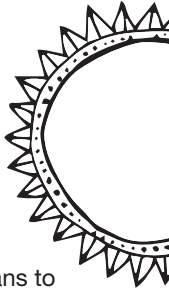
Daily Challenges

You made a contract for God with commitments on how you'd like to obey better. Pick one you'll really focus on this week, and write it here:

Faith Journal

When have you tried to obey God but given up? What happened?





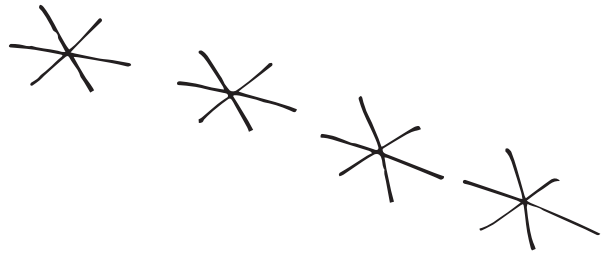
Talk With Your Family

Have everyone in your family write a prayer to God about what obedience means to him or her and how best to accomplish it.

Read Psalm 119:9-16 with your family, and discuss these questions:

- Compare your prayer with this psalm.
- The psalmist delights in God's commands—do you? Explain.
- What practical advice can you glean from this passage about how to obey God?
- What other things have helped you better obey God?





I Will Obey

- I want to obey God because

- Some of the things that are competing with my relationship with God are

- Some of the things I'm willing to sacrifice to obey God are

- I commit to obeying God in these ways

- These are the names of three friends I will ask to support me in my walk with God:

Signed,



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 Tests Abraham (Genesis 22:1-18)	"So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. Walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess" (Deuteronomy 5:32-33).	Obey God.
WEEK 2	Isaac Marries Rebekah (Genesis 24)	"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5).	Pray for God's direction.
WEEK 3	Jacob Deceives Esau and Isaac (Genesis 25:27-34; 27:1-40)	"The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful" (Proverbs 12:22).	Honesty is important to God.
WEEK 4	Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel (Genesis 29:15-30)	"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).	God uses hard times to help us grow.
WEEK 5	Joseph Dreams Disturbing Dreams (Genesis 37:1-11)	"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34).	Show Jesus' love in our families.
WEEK 6	Joseph's Brothers Sell Him Into Slavery (Genesis 37:12-36)	"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth" (1 John 3:18).	God wants us to do what's right.
WEEK 7	Pharaoh Puts Joseph in Charge (Genesis 39:20-41:49)	"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23).	We can serve God anywhere.
WEEK 8	Joseph Forgives His Brothers (Genesis 42-45)	"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13).	God wants us to forgive.
WEEK 9	God Protects Moses (Exodus 1:1-2:10)	"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).	God protects us.
WEEK 10	Moses Meets God at the Burning Bush (Exodus 2:11-3:20)	"I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13).	God can use us.
WEEK 11	The Israelites Receive Cruel Treatment (Exodus 5:1-6:1)	"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:31).	God wants us to hope in him.
WEEK 12	God Sends Plagues on Egypt (Exodus 7:8-10:29)	"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).	God uses his power to help us.
WEEK 13	The Israelites Escape From Egypt (Exodus 11:1-12:36)	"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36).	Jesus sets us free.



THIS IS A SAMPLE
The number of pages is limited.

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