

FAITHWEAVER[®]

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

**WINTER
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**SENIOR HIGH
HANDBOOK**

Group
Real. Bold. Love.

FAiTHweAVER

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

**WINTER
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**SENIOR HIGH
HANDBOOK**

The logo for the Group, featuring the word "Group" in a white, italicized serif font, with a cluster of small white dots above it.

FAITHWEAVER NOW

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

FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Senior High Handbook, Winter

Copyright © 2001 & 2016 Group Publishing, Inc.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any manner whatsoever without prior written permission from the publisher, except where noted in the text and in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews. For information, visit group.com/permissions.

Credits

Contributing Authors: Jim Kochenburger, Pamela Malloy, Julia L. Roller, Elaine Ernst Schneider, Alison Simpson, Kelli B. Trujillo

Editors: Amy Nappa, Jessica Sausto, Owen Shattuck, 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: Jared Bigham, Jeff Brunacci, Joyce Douglas, Kate Elvin, Suzi Jensen, Dolly Palmer, Rebecca Swain

Cover Photographer: Rodney Stewart

Illustrator: Matt Wood

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com

ISBN 978-1-4707-6859-1

Printed in the United States of America.

001 USA 0822



Contents

Introduction and Welcome	5
--------------------------------	---

The Studies

Study 1:	Solomon Tells of Jesus' Coming Psalm 72:1-19	8
Study 2:	An Angel Appears to Joseph Isaiah 7:13-14; Matthew 1:18-25	14
Study 3:	Jesus Is Born Luke 2:1-20; Hebrews 1:1-4	22
Study 4:	Foreign Visitors Worship Jesus Matthew 2:1-12	28
Study 5:	Joseph Takes His Family to Safety in Egypt Matthew 2:13-23	34
Study 6:	Jesus Is Baptized Matthew 3:13-17	40
Study 7:	Peter and Andrew Meet Jesus John 1:35-42	48
Study 8:	News About Jesus Spreads Matthew 4:12-25	56



Study 9: Jesus Gives the Beatitudes
Matthew 5:1-12 **62**

Study 10: Jesus Teaches That We Are to Be Salt and Light
Matthew 5:13-16 **68**

Study 11: Jesus Walks on Water
Matthew 14:12-33 **74**

Study 12: Zacchaeus Climbs a Tree to See Jesus
Luke 19:1-10 **80**

Study 13: Jesus Blesses the Children
Mark 10:13-16 **88**





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.

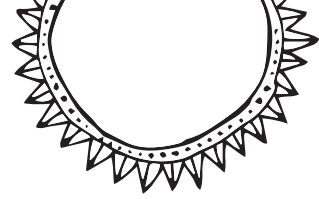


TALK WITH YOUR FAMILY

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!





Solomon Tells of Jesus' Coming

Psalm 72:1-19



►Bible Point

Jesus does great things

.....

Key Verse

"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5).

.....

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.





BIBLE BACKGROUND

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?

Who is Jesus to you? A teacher...a minister...a preacher...a martyr...a savior? Concentrate on the last one—savior. Spend two minutes prayerfully considering how Jesus is your Savior.

You can write your prayer here.





DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

FAITH CONNECTION

- Do you think any of the things you just did or saw were truly amazing? Explain.
- Are you easily amazed, or are you rarely ever amazed? Why?
- What are some things that never become old for you, that remain amazing? Why do you think that is?

MEDIA

CONNECTION (OPTION)

- Do you think any of the things you just saw were truly amazing? Explain.
- Are you easily amazed, or are you rarely ever amazed? Why?
- What are some things that never become old for you, that remain amazing? Why do you think that is?

2

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Read: Psalm 72:1-19

- How did you decide which words demonstrated Jesus' greatness the most?
- Which words from your word collage also describe Jesus' greatness in your life? Explain the connection.
- What are some words you would add to your collage that describe great things Jesus has done for you?





3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

If Jesus Had Never Been...

Read: 1 Timothy 2:5

- What are some other areas you think Jesus influenced?
- Why do you or don't you think Jesus' influence is measurable?
- What are some areas of your personal life that Jesus has influenced?
- How does this verse speak to Jesus' influence on our world?

My King

Read: Psalm 72:1-19

- How can you show Jesus that you trust his greatness over your own plans?
- What does it really look like to let Jesus be King of your life?
- What great things do you hope Jesus will do in your future?



Quotables

"Jesus is
the God
whom we
can approach
without pride
and before
whom we
can humble
ourselves
without
despair."

—Blaise Pascal

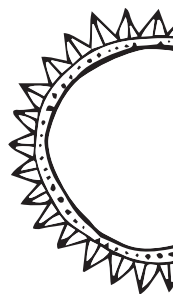
Daily Challenges

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

- Set aside time each day to reflect upon the great things Jesus has done in your life. Commit to making it the first thing you think about in the morning and the last thing you think about at night.
- Make some time this week to simply talk to God. Ask him for the things that are on your heart, and ask God to help you know what great things he has in store for your life. Let God surprise you!
- Come up with a way you can thank God for his love for you. Journal, write a poem, talk to yourself—whatever you want—just reflect for an hour or so on God's love for you. Then take time to thank God for his incredible love.

Faith Journal

How confident are you that Jesus will do what you ask him to do in your life?



Talk With Your Family

Discuss these questions with your family:

- What are some things Jesus has done for our family that stand out in your mind?
- How do we typically express our thanksgiving to Jesus for all these things? Why?

Read Psalm 63:2-5 with your family, and discuss the following questions:

- What could we do to thank Jesus even more consistently for his goodness to us?
- What great thing does our family most need Jesus to do?

Take a “praise walk” with your family. Walk through your home. As you see things that remind you of God’s goodness to your family, stop briefly and offer God a one-sentence prayer of thanksgiving. For example, a trophy won in an athletic competition could inspire you to praise God for strength and athletic ability. A dress in a closet could remind you of a happy occasion. A memento could remind you of a vacation that featured a great conversation about faith that ultimately led a family member to make a commitment to Christ. End the walk outside, looking up at the sky and praying a prayer of thanksgiving, expressing your thanks for God’s goodness and what it has meant to each family member.



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	Solomon Tells of Jesus' Coming (Psalm 72:1-19)	"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5).	Jesus does great things.
WEEK 2	An Angel Appears to Joseph (Isaiah 7:13-14; Matthew 1:18-25)	"'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).	Trust God's plans.
*WEEK 3	Jesus Is Born (Luke 2:1-20; Hebrews 1:1-4)	"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me'" (John 14:6).	Jesus was born to be our Savior.
WEEK 4	Foreign Visitors Worship Jesus (Matthew 2:1-12)	"For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved'" (Romans 10:12-13).	Anyone can worship Jesus.
WEEK 5	Joseph Takes His Family to Safety in Egypt (Matthew 2:13-23)	"The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him" (Nahum 1:7).	God guides us.
WEEK 6	Jesus Is Baptized (Matthew 3:13-17)	"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).	Jesus is God's Son.
WEEK 7	Peter and Andrew Meet Jesus (John 1:35-42)	"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12).	Jesus is our friend.
WEEK 8	News About Jesus Spreads (Matthew 4:12-25)	"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).	Jesus wants everyone to follow him.
WEEK 9	Jesus Gives the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12)	"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things" (Philippians 4:8).	God blesses us when we choose his ways.
WEEK 10	Jesus Teaches That We Are to Be Salt and Light (Matthew 5:13-16)	"In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).	Help others see Jesus.
WEEK 11	Jesus Walks on Water (Matthew 14:22-33)	"If we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself" (2 Timothy 2:13).	Jesus helps us believe.
WEEK 12	Zacchaeus Climbs a Tree to See Jesus (Luke 19:1-10)	"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20).	Jesus accepts everyone.
WEEK 13	Jesus Blesses the Children (Mark 10:13-16)	"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Mark 10:14).	Everyone is 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.



THIS IS A SAMPLE

The number of pages is limited.

Purchase the item for the complete version.

