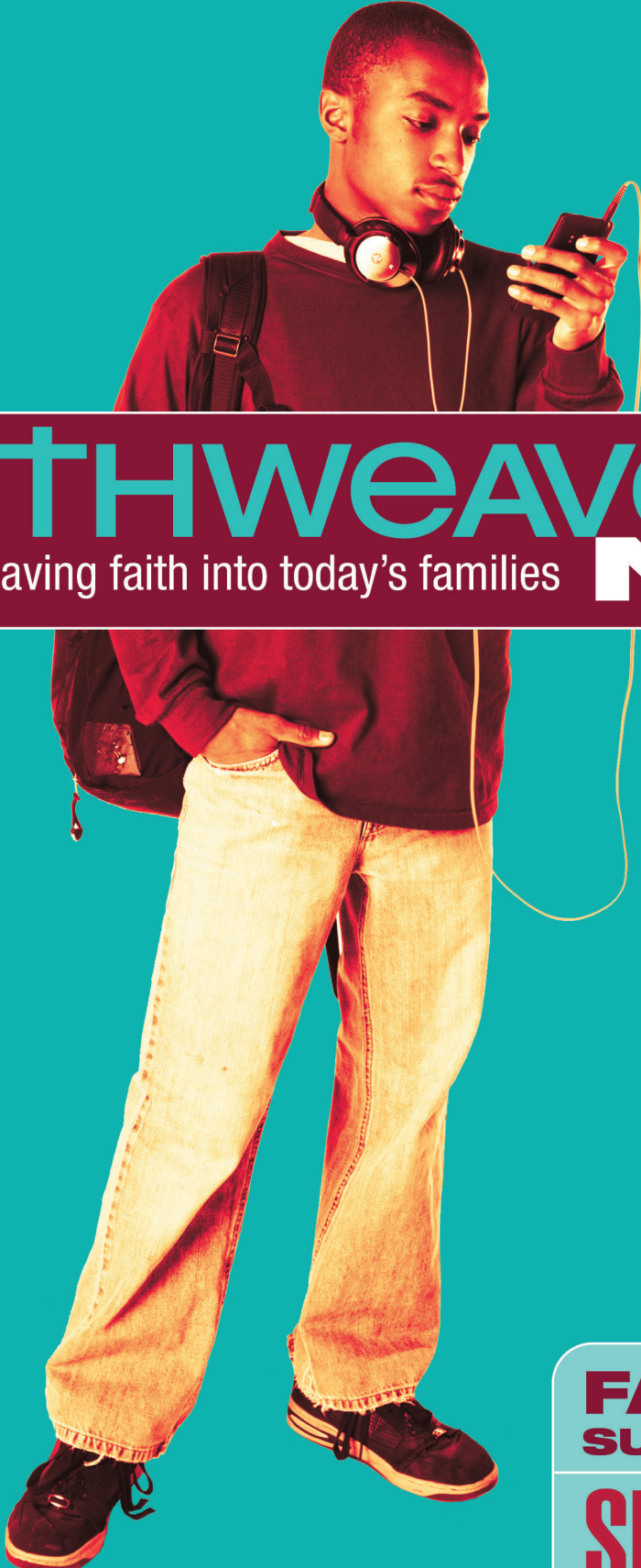




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Weaving faith into today's families **NOW**®

**FALL
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**SENIOR HIGH
LEADER GUIDE**

FAITHweaver

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FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL SENIOR HIGH LEADER GUIDE



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FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Senior High, Fall

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The future of Sunday school + family ministry is NOW.



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What makes FaithWeaver NOW the perfect curriculum for TODAY's church?

- Families learn the same Bible passage in age-appropriate ways.
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- Simple and easy lessons fit even the busiest lives.
- Kids see God in their everyday world.
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- 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.





God Creates the World

Genesis 1:1–2:3

As they go through the study, teenagers may be concerned with how God made everything. High school science classes may seem to contradict church teaching about Creation. Treat students’ questions with respect, encourage them to find out what respected Christian scholars say about the subject, and continue to emphasize that God made everything. We may not know exactly how God did it, but we know that God did it. Use the majesty of Creation as a way of calling teenagers’ attention to the wonders of God’s character.

STUDY	WHAT STUDENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Faith Connection	Competitive Crafts <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Compete to obtain and use craft supplies.	for every 4 students: 1 plastic cup, 25 pompom balls, and 3 types of craft supplies (such as markers, crayons, glue, tape, paper, craft sticks, chenille wires, poster board, stickers, ribbon, beads, or cotton balls)	
2 Bible Exploration	Uniquely Created <i>(about 30 min.)</i> Explore the days of Creation by learning about unusual creations.	Bibles, Senior High Handbooks or 1 copy per student of the 2-page “Uniquely Created” handout (at the end of this study)	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



►Bible Point

God made the world.
.....

Key Verse

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”
(Genesis 1:1).
.....

Weaving Faith Into Life

Teenagers will recognize evidence of God in creation and will praise God for it.
.....



STUDY	WHAT STUDENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
2 Bible Exploration <i>(continued)</i>	Media Connection (Option) <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Listen to a song about how scientists says things were formed, and compare that with Genesis 1.	Bibles, music player, song "Big Bang Theory Theme" by Barenaked Ladies, smartphones (optional)	Download "Big Bang Theory Theme," and cue your music player so you're ready to play it. Note that the full version has a curse word, but the song aired with the show <i>The Big Bang Theory</i> does not.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Creation Observation <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Compare specific areas of creation as they discuss characteristics of God.	Senior High Handbooks or 1 copy per student of the "Observation Log" handout (at the end of this study), pens	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Senior High Handbooks or 1 copy per student of the "Taking It Home" handout (at the end of this study), pens	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



God Creates the World

Genesis 1:1–2:3

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

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 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.





Competitive Crafts Supplies

for every 4 students:

1 plastic cup
25 pompom balls
3 types of craft supplies
(such as markers,
crayons, glue, tape,
paper, craft sticks,
chenille wires, poster
board, stickers, ribbon,
beads, or cotton balls)

1

FAITH CONNECTION

Competitive Crafts

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome students to the group. Form groups of four. Say: **Today we're going to talk about Creation, so we'll begin with a creative challenge! Your group will be competing to make something creative fast—with challenges along the way.**

To begin, you'll have to try to quickly finish the Cotton Candy Catch in order to get craft supplies. Here's how it works: One person in your group must catch 25 pompom balls in a cup. The other group members can all throw them, but they must stand 6 feet away from the catcher. When you finish, you may go pick any three craft supplies and begin creating something with it. Monitor the game, and allow groups to each pick three kinds of craft supplies when they finish. Groups that finish earlier will have more options to choose from.

Every two or three minutes, disrupt their creation by adding one of these challenges:

- **Supply Swap:** must trade one of your supplies with another group
- **Pompom Power:** must incorporate at least one pompom ball
- **Southpaw Switcheroo:** must only use your nondominant hand
- **Undo Button:** must remove an item you've already included

After 10 minutes, gather everyone together.

Talk With Students ■■■■

Lead students in this discussion. Students can find these questions in their Senior High Handbooks.

Ask:

- **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.**

Say: **Whether or not you consider yourself creative or enjoy creating things like you did in this activity, there's one thing we all have in common: We were created.**

► **GOD MADE THE WORLD** and everything in it. And we can enjoy the other things God created in this world around us. Let's learn about his creation now and explore some of the weird and wonderful things he made.





2

BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Uniquely Created

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have students remain in their groups of four. Distribute Bibles and the “Uniquely Created” handouts, or have students turn to page 10 of their handbooks. Say: **Open to Genesis 1. As you read through it with your group, follow the directions on the handout. You'll read a few verses at a time, read some unique facts related to God's creation for that day, and then share your insights. You'll have 20 minutes to go through the whole handout.**

After 20 minutes, say: **After all that unique creation, God rested.** Invite someone to read aloud Genesis 2:1-3.

Talk With Students ■■■■

Lead students in this discussion. Students can find these questions in their Senior High Handbooks.

Ask:

- 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.

Say: ► **GOD MADE THE WORLD.** Scientists will say that the earth was formed when the conditions were right for an explosion to create the world as we see it. They may say humans evolved from other animals. But the unique intricacies of Creation that science has uncovered simply point to the fact that this world didn't happen by accident. Our loving Creator God made it!

Media Connection (Option)

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Instead of doing the “Uniquely Created” activity, use the “Big Bang Theory Theme” song as a way to spark discussion about Creation versus evolutionary theories.

Say: **Before we look into the biblical account of Creation, we're going to hear a song that describes how scientists say the earth was formed. Listen to the lyrics so you can compare it with what the Bible says.** Play the song, and then have

Uniquely Created
Supplies

Bibles
Senior High Handbooks
or 1 copy per student
of the 2-page
“Uniquely Created”
handout (at the end of
this study)

Media Connection
Supplies

Bibles
music player
song “Big Bang Theory
Theme” by Barenaked
Ladies
smartphones (optional)

Media Connection
Easy Prep

Download “Big Bang Theory Theme,” and cue your music player so you're ready to play it. Note that the full version has a curse word, but the song aired with the show *The Big Bang Theory* does not.





everyone form groups of four and read Genesis 1:1–2:3, stopping as they read to point out differences they notice.

Then have groups rewrite the song using the same tune but making the lyrics about the history of everything from a biblical perspective. Replay the song as needed for students to come up with a parallel, or if they have smartphones have them look for the lyrics online.

Allow time for willing groups to read or sing their revised lyrics.

Talk With Students ■■■■

Lead students in this discussion. Students can find these questions in their Senior High Handbooks.

Ask:

- 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.

Say: ► **GOD MADE THE WORLD.** Scientists will say that the earth was formed when the conditions were right for an explosion to create the world as we see it. They may say humans evolved from other animals. But the unique intricacies of Creation that science has uncovered simply point to the fact that this world didn't happen by accident. Our loving Creator God made it!

.....

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Creation Observation

What You'll Do ■■■■

Have students turn to page 16 of their handbooks, or give each person an "Observation Log" handout and a pen. Let each student choose the area of investigation that most interests him or her and form an investigation group with no more than three other people who picked the same topic.

Say: **As we learn how the world came to be, we can also learn a lot about the God who brought the world into being. For instance, when we observe symmetry in leaves and flowers, we learn that the God who created them is a God of order, not of randomness and chaos.**

Tell groups they have about five minutes to find two or more samples of their chosen subject (for example, a group might find leaves from two different kinds of plants, two

Creation Observation Supplies

.....

Senior High Handbooks
or 1 copy per student
of the "Observation
Log" handout (at the
end of this study)
pens





bugs, or two people) and study the samples. Have members of each group note their observations in their observation logs. If possible, send students outside for this part of the study. Encourage students to be creative if they have trouble finding samples. For example, a group studying people could go to the church nursery or simply study its own members.

After about five minutes, bring the investigation groups together.

Talk With Students ■■■■

Lead students in this discussion. Students can find these questions in their Senior High Handbooks.

Ask:

- 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?

Say: ► **GOD MADE THE WORLD**, and he was happy with his creation. All around us, we can see glimpses of God by observing the things he chose to create. This week, try to pay more attention to creation, and see what your observations tell you about God.

.....

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■

Have students get out their handbooks, or distribute "Taking It Home" handouts to all students. Say: **Let's think about ways we can remember and appreciate that ► GOD MADE THE WORLD.**

Direct students to find this week's Daily Challenges in their Senior High Handbooks or on their "Taking It Home" handouts and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- 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.



Daily Challenges Supplies

.....

Senior High Handbooks
or 1 copy per student
of the "Taking It
Home" handout (at the
end of this study)
pens





Talk With Students

Ask:

- What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Share a time, a place, or other ideas. Allow time.

Say: **The earth was no accident. ► GOD MADE THE WORLD! Let's appreciate and care for his creation as we follow through with our Daily Challenges this week.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage students to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about Creation. Students can also do the "Talk With Your Family" activity in their handbooks or on their "Taking It Home" pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Close in prayer, allowing students to praise God based on the things they learned about Creation today.





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.**

**OK
TO COPY**

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!

-
-
-
-

OK
■ **TO COPY**



Observation Log

Choose one of the following areas of investigation, and then form a group with one to three other people who are interested in investigating the same subject:

- plants,
- animals, or
- human beings.

Find at least two samples from your area of investigation, observe them closely, and record your observations here. Look for all details of your samples, including color, shape, size, and any unusual markings. List any other interesting things you notice about your samples, including sounds they make and the way they move.

- Describe your samples, using either words or sketches.
- Compare the samples by listing their similarities and differences.

Similarities

Differences

- What can you determine about how your samples function or survive? (How are they equipped to get what they need to survive?)
- What do your observations show you about God? about how the world came to be?



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).

TAKING
IT HOME



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 Challenge

- 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.

OK
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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	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.

PLUS...

Access all these FREE FaithWeaver NOW digital resources at group.com/digital:

- **FREE digital copies of Leader Guides** in Word and PDF format so you can easily customize any lesson to your ministry. Sharing lessons with busy volunteers couldn't be easier! *See inside 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...



Senior High Handbook*

Includes the "Taking It Home" handouts for each week, along with any other reproducible pages found in this quarterly Leader Guide.

***Optional—get one for each student.**



THIS IS A SAMPLE
The number of pages is limited.

Purchase the item for the complete version.

