

FAITHWEAVER

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

**SPRING
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**SENIOR HIGH
LEADER GUIDE**

Group

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**SENIOR HIGH
LEADER GUIDE**



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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

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FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Senior High, Spring

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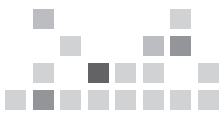
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* We recommend starting the quarter so that Lessons 5 and 6 align with the dates of Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Visit the Digital Download Center for a suggested schedule.

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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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





Jesus Teaches About Commitment

Mark 8:31-38

Senior high students may be anxious to stray away from the closely knit social groups they grew up with and discover new ideas or concepts individually or with new peer groups. As you explore this study with your students, be sure to bring out the idea that Jesus is the perfect person to follow. Whether your students feel comfortable with their peer groups or desire to explore new life experiences with new friends, help them understand that following God first is the best way to live—and it’s worth the cost.



► **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).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Teenagers will explore the burdens and benefits that may result from following Jesus.

STUDY	WHAT STUDENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Faith Connection	Would You Commit? <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Consider whether to commit to different lifelong challenges.		
	Media Connection (Option) <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Take goofy pictures and discuss what might seem goofy about Christian faith to the rest of the world.	tablet(s) or smartphone(s)	Download Photobooth or another free photo distortion app.
2 Bible Exploration	Get Behind Me! <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Discuss Jesus’ rebuke of Peter.	Bibles	
	Counting the Costs <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Weigh the costs and rewards of following Jesus.	Bibles, index cards, string, scissors, tape, paper lunch bags, pens, individually wrapped candy	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





STUDY	WHAT STUDENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Take Up Your Cross <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Reflect on what it means to take up their cross, and commit to doing so.	Bible, craft sticks, scissors, yarn, 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.





1

FAITH
CONNECTION

Would You Commit?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome students to the group. Say: **We're going to begin today with a game of Would You Commit? I'm going to give you a series of options. If you'd be willing to make that commitment—even if it were real—you'll go to this side of the room. Point to one side of the room. If you don't think the rewards are worth it, you'll go to the other side of the room. Point. Ready?**

Read aloud the following choices, allowing time after each one for students to choose sides and then for a few people from each side to explain their choice.

- If someone walked in right now and offered \$1 million cash to anyone who would commit to eating nothing but broccoli for the rest of their lives, would you commit to that?
- If you found out you could be a famous pop star, but the thing that would launch you to fame would be losing your legs, would you commit to that?
- If you found out you could live in a giant mansion with all the food and clothes you could ever want, but you'd have to go to school 10 hours a day every day until you're 40, would you commit to that?
- If you found out you could live a long, happy life, but you'd always be poor, would you commit to that?
- If you could eat your absolute favorite meal today, but you'd be sick for a week, would you commit to that?
- If you knew for a fact you could get your dream job when you're 30 but that it would require college, getting a masters, and getting a doctorate, would you commit to that?
- If you found out you could have everything you want in life, but you'll die at age 35, would you commit to that?
- If you knew you'd have to live completely selflessly, work really hard, suffer a lot, be made fun of, but it was all for a good purpose, would you commit to that?

Talk With Students ■■■■

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

Ask:

- 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.



Say: **Life can be full of tough choices. One of those choices is following Jesus as a Christian. Some people think that following Jesus means you'll have a nice cushy life and always be happy. But that's not really how Jesus described it! Let's look at what it really takes to ► COMMIT TO FOLLOW JESUS, and let's honestly weigh the question—would we commit to that?**

Media Connection (Option)

What You'll Do

Instead of doing the “Would You Commit?” activity, have students form as many groups as there are tablets and smartphones. Then have students use Photobooth or a similar app to take distorted, goofy photos of themselves. Allow several minutes for students to experiment and come up with their favorite shots to show off.

Talk With Students

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

Ask:

- **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?**

Say: **The way Jesus described following him might look pretty goofy to non-Christians. Following Jesus involves suffering and putting ourselves last. Let's look at what it really takes to ► COMMIT TO FOLLOW JESUS, and let's consider whether we're willing to take the risk of looking goofy to those around us.**

2

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Get Behind Me!

What You'll Do

Have students form groups of four. Distribute Bibles as needed, and have everyone open to Mark 8:31-33. Say: **We're going to read a passage where Jesus seems to treat Peter pretty harshly. Let's read it and talk about why.** Invite someone to read aloud Mark 8:31-33.



Media Connection Supplies

.....
tablet(s) or
smartphone(s)

Media Connection Easy Prep

.....
Download Photobooth
or another free photo
distortion app.

Get Behind Me! Supplies

.....
Bibles



Talk With Students

Have groups discuss these questions. Students can find these questions in their Senior High Handbooks.

Ask:

- **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?**

Ask groups to share some highlights from their conversations.

Say: **We can't be totally sure why Jesus called Peter "Satan" when Peter rebuked Jesus for saying he would die. Jesus may have been recognizing that Satan was using Peter to tempt him into not suffering on the cross or distract him from the mission. Whatever the case, it's pretty clear that Jesus was committed to suffering and dying for us. But do we have to do the same to ► COMMIT TO FOLLOW JESUS? Let's read on and consider how our commitment compares with Jesus'.**

Counting the Costs

Counting the Costs Supplies

Bibles
index cards
string
scissors
tape
paper lunch bags
pens
individually wrapped
candy

**! ALLERGY
■ ALERT**

What You'll Do

Have groups split into pairs, and give each pair several index cards, pens, and two paper bags. Also set out string, scissors, and tape to share.

Say: **In order to weigh the costs and rewards of following Jesus, we're going to need to make a scale. First, label one bag "Costs" and the other "Rewards." Then cut a long piece of string and tape one end to the inside of each bag. One partner in each pair will stand with his or her arm extended and have the string draped over the extended arm. You'll want the bags to hang evenly a couple of feet off the ground. Allow time for students to set up their scales.**

Say: **Whoever's not holding the scale will be the scribe. As a pair, you'll read Mark 8:34-38 and consider the costs and rewards of following Jesus. The scribe will record the pair's ideas on index cards. You can also add in your own thoughts that aren't listed in the passage. Put the costs in the Costs bag and the rewards in the Rewards bag, and see how that impacts your scale. Allow about 10 minutes.**

Say: **Some of your scales may make following Jesus seem like it might not be worth the cost. But there's one reward that outweighs all the costs—eternal life. Drop two pieces of candy in each pair's Rewards bag, and watch those bags drop to the floor. Then allow pairs to set their scales down and eat the candy.**



Talk With Students

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

Ask:

- 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?

Say: **Peter tried to make Jesus' mission much less than it was. He wanted Jesus to live a long and easy life. But that's not what following Jesus is about. Jesus made it pretty clear that following him will be hard. There will be suffering. We'll have to put God's desires before our own. But if we don't make that commitment, we forfeit our souls! The choice is clear: ► COMMIT TO FOLLOW JESUS.**

3

WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Take Up Your Cross

What You'll Do

Say: **Taking up a cross might not sound so bad today. We're pretty used to seeing crosses as jewelry, on Bibles, or around churches. But when Jesus talked about taking up your cross, people knew crosses as only one thing: a torturous way for criminals to die. Why would Jesus want that for his people?**

Taking up your cross means being willing to do anything—even really hard things—if that's what Jesus calls you to. It means giving up the lives we may want in favor of the lives God calls us to. So what does taking up your cross look like right now? Let's make crosses and then write some ideas on them.

Give each student two craft sticks and a pen. Have students each break one stick so it's about 2/3 its original length and use scissors to trim the end to be smoother. Then have students make a cross shape with the two craft sticks and wrap yarn around the intersection several times to hold the cross in place. When they're done, have students tie a knot to hold the yarn in place.

Say: **Now it's time to really think about what taking up your cross looks like. Try to come up with at least four ideas, and write each idea on one arm of the cross. If you think of more than four, write them on the back. Then take a few minutes to pray on your own that God will help you carry your cross this week in those ways. Allow time for writing and silent prayer.**



Take Up Your Cross Supplies

- Bible
- craft sticks
- scissors
- yarn
- pens





Talk With Students ■■■■

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

Ask:

- 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 aloud the Key Verse, Romans 1:16: **“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).**

Ask:

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

Say: **Jesus eventually did take up a real cross. He carried it up the hill, was nailed to it, and died for you. He suffered the ultimate punishment of a criminal even though he was perfect. He showed the utmost commitment to you. Carry your craft-stick cross in your pocket or purse this week, and consider how you can carry your cross and ► COMMIT TO FOLLOW JESUS.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

Daily Challenges Supplies

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

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Have students get out their handbooks, or distribute “Taking It Home” handouts to all students. Say: **Today we’ve seen what it takes to ► COMMIT TO FOLLOW JESUS. Are you willing to go all in? Let’s commit to carrying our crosses this week.**

Direct students to find this week’s Daily Challenges section in their Senior High Handbooks or on their “Taking It Home” handouts and fill it in with one thing they wrote on their craft-stick crosses.

Talk With Students ■■■■

Lead students in this discussion.

Ask:

- What’s a practical way you’re going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.

Say: **Jesus didn’t make following him sound very easy! But when we ► COMMIT TO FOLLOW JESUS, we’ll reap eternal benefits. Let’s commit to Jesus as we follow through with our Daily Challenge.**





Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage students to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenge they chose and what they learned about following Jesus. 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, having students recite the Key Verse as a prayer: **“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.”** Then pray that students will live boldly for Jesus this week and show they’re not ashamed.



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).

TAKING
IT HOME



Quotables

.....
“Nothing is really lost by a life of sacrifice; everything is lost by failure to obey God’s call.”
 —Henry P. Liddon

Daily Challenge

- 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:

Faith Journal

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

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.

! **OK**
■ **TO COPY**



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	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.

* We recommend starting the quarter so that Lessons 5 and 6 align with the dates of Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Visit the Digital Download Center for a suggested schedule.

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.

