

FAITHWEAVER

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

**WINTER
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**SENIOR HIGH
LEADER GUIDE**

FAITHWEAVER

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

**WINTER
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**SENIOR HIGH
LEADER GUIDE**



Get your **FREE
DIGITAL COPY**
of this leader guide.

It's as EASY as **1-2-3.**

- 1** Visit **group.com/digital** to set up a free online account for your church.
- 2** Enter the Activation Code below to add this leader guide to your account.
- 3** Download PDF files to your computer and print or email them to your leaders.

ONE-TIME ACTIVATION CODE:

Group

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, Winter

Copyright © 2000 and 2015 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.

OK TO COPY When you see the OK TO COPY icon, this means permission to photocopy the page from FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum for Senior High, Winter, is granted for local church use. Copyright © Group Publishing, Inc. group.com

Credits

Contributing Authors: Colleen J. Alden, Tim Baker, Rick Beno, Heather A. Eades, Kate S. Holburn, Trish Kline, Inger Koppenhaver, Joy-Elizabeth Lawrence, Katherine Martinez, Siv M. Ricketts, Tim Weber, Roxanne Wieman, Paul Meiners Yingst

Editors: Erica L. Feucht, Scott Firestone IV, Jennifer Hooks, Stephanie Martin, 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, Kate Elvin, Suzi Jensen, Randy Kady, Jeff Spencer, Rebecca Swain

Cover Photographer: Rodney Stewart

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 978-1-4707-6629-0

Printed in the United States of America.



Contents

Introduction 4

The Studies

Study 1: Prophets Foretell Jesus’ Coming—Jeremiah 33:14-16 5

Study 2: Zechariah Prophecies About Jesus—Luke 1:68-79 15

Study 3: John Prepares People for Jesus’ Coming—Luke 3:7-18 27

*** Study 4: The Son of God Is Born!**—Luke 1:26-45; 2:1-20 37

Study 5: Jesus Grows Up—Luke 2:39-52 47

Study 6: The Word Became Flesh—John 1:1-18 57

Study 7: Satan Tempts Jesus—Luke 4:1-13 67

Study 8: Jesus Performs His First Miracle—John 2:1-11 77

Study 9: Jesus Teaches in a Synagogue—Luke 4:14-21 87

Study 10: Jesus Is Rejected in His Hometown—Luke 4:22-30 97

Study 11: Moses and Elijah Appear With Jesus—Luke 9:28-36 107

Study 12: Jesus Teaches About Rewards—Luke 6:17-26 119

Study 13: Jesus Teaches About Loving Enemies—Luke 6:27-38 129

*We recommend rearranging the studies so that Study 4 aligns with the week of Christmas.



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.



Prophets Foretell Jesus' Coming

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Some senior highers have few points of reference for keeping promises. They rely on their parents, teachers, and coaches to show them what it means to stick to a commitment. And while most “role models” do an excellent job of keeping their word, some make breaking promises a habit. Most senior highers long for a God who is faithful—a God who keeps promises. Use this study to teach them that their God is the God who loves them and is faithful.



► Bible Point

Jesus fulfilled God's promise.

Key Verse

“All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ‘The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel’—which means, ‘God with us’ ” (Matthew 1:22-23).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Students will pray and share with others how Jesus fulfilled God's promise.


STUDY	WHAT STUDENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Faith Connection	People Predictions <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Try to guess other people's answers to tough questions.	paper, pens	
	Media Connection (Option) <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Watch a scene from <i>2012</i> , and discuss true vs. false prophecies.	video player, movie <i>2012</i>	Cue <i>2012</i> to 00:30:27, when Jackson (John Cusack) enters a dimly lit room.
2 Bible Exploration	A Gift From God <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Make “presents” based on Jeremiah's prophecy and fulfillment, wrap them, and exchange them to see how the prophecy compared to what happened.	Bibles, index cards, wrapping paper, markers, scissors, tape	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Every activity incorporates the FaithWeaver NOW Senior High Handbook—make sure each student has one!





STUDY	WHAT STUDENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>3</p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>Promise Gallery <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Reflect on and draw what God's promises in Jeremiah 33:14-16 mean to them, and then draw response promises to God.</p>	Bibles, paper, colored pencils, tape	
<p>4</p> <p>Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	Senior High Handbooks or 1 copy per student of the "Taking It Home" handout (at the end of this study), pens	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*





People Predictions Supplies

paper
pens

1

FAITH CONNECTION

People Predictions

What You'll Do

Welcome students to the group. Have students form pairs with people they don't know very well and decide which partner will be "A" and which will be "B." Have all the A's sit on one side of the room, across the room from their partners. Give each person six pieces of paper and a pen.

Say: **We're going to play a game to see how well you can guess your partner's answer. I'll ask some questions. You'll write down your own answer or try to guess your partner's, depending on the instructions. Write it big so we can see it. Then we'll see how the two compare.**

Ask the following questions, stopping after each to have partners hold up their answers and see if they match.

- What is partner A's favorite kind of fruit?
- What did partner B eat for dinner last night?
- Who is partner A's favorite teacher?
- What color is the floor in partner B's bedroom?
- What is partner A going to do this afternoon?
- What career does partner B aspire to?

Talk With Students

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

Ask:

- What clues, if any, did you use to help guide your guesses about your partner? How useful were they?
- Why is or isn't it possible to guess the right answers about something without prior knowledge?
- Tell about a time you were able to correctly guess something that would happen.

Say: **We couldn't even guess correctly about things that have already happened! But in the Bible, there were people called prophets who could correctly talk about things that wouldn't happen for a very long time. The prophets weren't just making guesses—they were acting as God's microphone, sharing promises directly from him. Today we'll explore one of those prophecies and see how ► JESUS FULFILLED GOD'S PROMISE.**

Media Connection (Option)

Tip In general, federal copyright laws do not allow you to use videos or DVDs (even ones you own) for any purpose other than home viewing. Your church can obtain a license from Christian Video Licensing International for a small fee. Just visit cvli.com or call 1-888-771-2854 for more information.

Many movie clips are available at youtube.com. This clip is also available at wingclips.com under the title “Apocalypse.”

What You’ll Do

Instead of doing the “People Predictions” activity, show students a clip from the movie *2012* that helps them think about predictions and prophecies. Begin the clip at 00:30:27, when Jackson (John Cusack) enters a dimly lit room. In this clip, Jackson watches a video made by a man who believes that the Mayan calendar predicted the world would end in 2012. End the clip at 00:32:44, when the animated video ends.

Talk With Students

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

Ask:

- What do you think about theories like this about the end of the world?
- How might you view this prophecy differently if 2012 wasn’t already in the past?
- What would have to happen for you to believe a prophecy about the end of the world?

Say: **Clearly, the world didn’t end in 2012. It’s easy to look back and see if a prophecy came true after the time has passed! In the Bible, there were people called prophets who *could* predict the future accurately. These prophets weren’t just making guesses—they were acting as God’s microphone, sharing promises directly from him. Today we’ll explore one of those prophecies and see how**
► JESUS FULFILLED GOD’S PROMISE.



Media Connection Supplies

video player
 movie *2012*

Media Connection Easy Prep

Cue *2012* to 00:30:27, when Jackson (John Cusack) enters a dimly lit room.





A Gift From God Supplies

Bibles
index cards
wrapping paper
markers
scissors
tape

2

BIBLE EXPLORATION

A Gift From God

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Distribute Bibles. Have students form two groups. Group 1 will look at the prophecies in today's passage, Jeremiah 33:14-16. Group 2 will look at some prophecy fulfillments in the New Testament, in Luke 1:55; Matthew 1:17; John 5:26-27, 30; Luke 2:11; John 12:12-13; and the Key Verse, Matthew 1:22-23.

Give each group several index cards, markers, wrapping paper, scissors, and tape. Say: **People sometimes think about Jesus as a gift. As we gear up for Christmas, let's put on this mindset. As you read your verses, think about what kind of gift they offer. Write each gift on an index card, and wrap up each card to look like a present.**

Tell Group 1 to try to come up with at least five gifts: one from verse 14 and two each from verses 15 and 16. Group 2 should try to come up with one gift per verse. Group members will need to discuss and agree what each gift is.

After about 10 minutes, have groups exchange their gifts. Have groups open the gifts one at a time and read them aloud for everyone.

Talk With Students ■■■■

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

Ask:

- How did the gifts from the prophecy group relate to the gifts from the fulfillment group? What difference did you notice?
- In what ways might Jesus have been like or unlike what people expected?
- Which set of gifts did you like better? Why?
- Looking at both sets of gifts, how can you see that Jesus fulfilled God's promise?

Say: **Jeremiah made several promises about who Jesus would be. And throughout the Old Testament, there were many other prophecies about Jesus. ► JESUS FULFILLED GOD'S PROMISE in each of these prophecies, but not always in the way people expected. And Jesus is God's promise to us, too. Let's explore our Bible passage some more in light of what it means in our lives.**



3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Promise Gallery

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each student two pieces of paper, and set out colored pencils to share. Say: **Read back through our passage, Jeremiah 33:14-16. Choose a promise that is meaningful to you personally. Draw about that promise and what it means to you. Include your name on the picture.** Allow about seven minutes.

Say: **Now think about a response to that promise—a promise you want to make to God as a gift in return. Draw about your promise to God. Include your name on the picture.** Allow about seven minutes. As students work, hang up their pictures from the first set. As they finish their second drawings, hang those up as well.

Allow about seven more minutes for students to move around the room observing other people's artwork and asking the artists questions if they want to better understand the drawings.

Talk With Students ■■■■

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

Ask:

- What promise stood out to you from our Bible passage? Why?
- What promise did you want to make back to God?
- How does that promise show appreciation for his promises to you?

Say: ► **JESUS FULFILLED GOD'S PROMISE** from Jeremiah 33. But that doesn't mean it's over. The Bible is full of promises of how Jesus continues to work in our lives. Let's appreciate and recognize how Jesus continues to fulfill God's promises in our lives, and let's give back to him.



Promise Gallery Supplies

Bibles
paper
colored pencils
tape



Daily Challenges Supplies

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

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: **Today we’ve seen that ► JESUS FULFILLED GOD’S PROMISE. Let’s discuss how we’ll appreciate the gift of Jesus this week.**

Direct students to find this week’s Daily Challenges in their Senior High Handbooks or on their “Taking It Home” handouts. They may choose one or more of these three options:

- **Search online for a list of prophecies about Jesus. Consider how Jesus has already fulfilled those prophecies and what that tells you about God. Pray about the way those promises have impacted your life.**
- **Search online for a list of predictions people have made about when the world would end. Many of these predicted times have come and gone already. Go over the list with a friend, and talk about what it means to you that God’s prophecies *did* happen.**
- **Take home your artwork about promises. Commit to following through on your response promise to God.**

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: **Jeremiah lived way before Jesus was born. The two never got to meet. But Jeremiah knew all about what God promised to do. And ► JESUS FULFILLED GOD’S PROMISE. Let’s recognize Jesus’ promise as we follow through with our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage students to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about the promise of 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. Lead students in silently praying through the passage. Pray: **God, you declared that you would fulfill your promises. Thank you for the promises you've made to us.** Pause for students to pray silently. **You promised to send a Savior from David's line, and you did.** Pause for students to thank God for sending Jesus. **You promised that you would save your people. Thank you for saving us.** Pause for students to thank God for salvation. **In Jesus' name, amen.**



Prophets Foretell Jesus' Coming—Jeremiah 33:14-16

► **Bible Point**—Jesus fulfilled God's promise.

Key Verse—"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel'—which means, 'God with us' " (Matthew 1:22-23).

Quotables

"Let God's promises shine on your problems."—
Corrie Ten Boom

TAKING
IT HOME



Daily Challenge

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

- **Search online for a list of prophecies about Jesus. Consider how Jesus has already fulfilled those prophecies and what that tells you about God. Pray about the way those promises have impacted your life.**
- **Search online for a list of predictions people have made about when the world would end. Many of these predicted times have come and gone already. Go over the list with a friend, and talk about what it means to you that God's prophecies *did* happen.**
- **Take home your artwork about promises. Commit to following through on your response promise to God.**

Faith Journal

What difference does it make to you that Jesus fulfilled God's promise?

Talk With Your Family

Read Deuteronomy 31:6, and discuss the following questions with your family:

- **What does this promise of God mean to you right now?**
- **When have you experienced this promise in action?**
- **When has it been hard for you to believe in God's promise?**
- **In what way did Jesus help make this promise possible for us?**

Have family members stick a piece of tape on an article of clothing for the day. (It can be in a pocket or inside a pant leg if you want it to be hidden.) At the end of the day, reflect on how well the tape stayed with you and discuss how that is like or unlike God's promise of his presence in your life.

! **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:

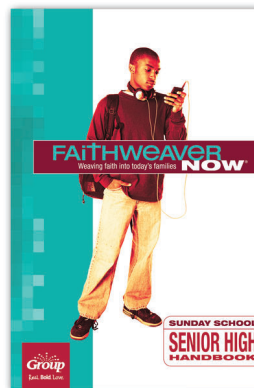
	BIBLE CONTENT/SCRIPTURE	KEY VERSE	BIBLE POINT
WEEK 1	Prophets Foretell Jesus' Coming (Jeremiah 33:14-16)	"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel'—which means, 'God with us'" (Matthew 1:22-23).	Jesus fulfilled God's promise.
WEEK 2	Zechariah Prophesies About Jesus (Luke 1:68-79)	"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him" (John 3:17).	The world needs Jesus.
WEEK 3	John Prepares People for Jesus' Coming (Luke 3:7-18)	"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).	Repenting prepares us for Jesus.
WEEK 4	The Son of God Is Born! (Luke 1:26-45; 2:1-20)	"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).	Celebrate Jesus' birth.
WEEK 5	Jesus Grows Up (Luke 2:39-52)	"I and the Father are one" (John 10:30).	Jesus is special.
WEEK 6	The Word Became Flesh (John 1:1-18)	"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).	We can be God's children.
WEEK 7	Satan Tempts Jesus (Luke 4:1-13)	"Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted" (Hebrews 2:18).	Jesus helps us resist temptation.
WEEK 8	Jesus Performs His First Miracle (John 2:1-11)	"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31).	Jesus can do miracles.
WEEK 9	Jesus Teaches in a Synagogue (Luke 4:14-21)	"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost" (Luke 19:10).	Jesus came for all people.
WEEK 10	Jesus Is Rejected in His Hometown (Luke 4:22-30)	"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:5).	Believe in Jesus.
WEEK 11	Moses and Elijah Appear With Jesus (Luke 9:28-36)	"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).	Jesus is God's Son.
WEEK 12	Jesus Teaches About Rewards (Luke 6:17-26)	"Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things" (Colossians 3:2).	Jesus blesses people who have faith.
WEEK 13	Jesus Teaches About Loving Enemies (Luke 6:27-38)	"Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31).	Jesus says to treat others as we want to be treated.

PLUS...

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

- **FREE digital copies of Leader Guides** in PDF format so you can easily download any lesson for 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.

