

A young man with short dark hair is looking down at a small mobile device in his right hand. He is wearing large black headphones around his neck, a dark long-sleeved shirt, and light-colored jeans. A backpack strap is visible over his left shoulder. The background is a solid teal color with a vertical strip of lighter teal squares on the left side.

FAITHWEAVER

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

**WINTER
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**SENIOR HIGH
LEADER GUIDE**

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Relational

Person-to-person interaction enhances spiritual growth and builds Christian friendships.

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What we experience through action and discussion sticks with us up to 9 times longer than what we simply hear or read.

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The aim of ministry is to equip people to be both hearers and doers of God's Word.

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Experiences transform the heart, moving faith beyond the walls of church and into everyday life for years to come.

Group

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FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Senior High, Winter

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* Due to the way Christmas falls, we recommend moving the studies as needed to line up Study 3 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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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 point 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.



Solomon Tells of Jesus' Coming

Psalms 72:1-19

Students today are in a culture where they can check on pretty much anything to verify its accuracy. They can easily look up information on their phones to find out what's true and what's not. There's often photographic or video evidence to prove or disprove the things they hear. And in this age of "see it to believe it," Jesus' miracles may seem too far removed to be believable. Students may accept the Bible as truth, but the sense of wonder that Jesus' great acts really happened can be diminished without video and pictures to show it. Use this study to help your students understand that the great things Jesus did were known before he even came to earth, and are shown by the great things he's still doing today.

STUDY	WHAT STUDENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Faith Connection	Go Ahead, Amaze Me! <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Demonstrate their "amazing" talents or abilities.		
	Media Connection (Option) <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Find online video clips of amazing feats.	smartphones	
2 Bible Exploration	The Greatest Thing <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Consider and portray the amazing works of God's royal Son.	Bibles, paper, scissors, markers, tape	



► 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).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Students will remember great things Jesus has done and will be thankful for the difference he is making and will make in their lives.



STUDY	WHAT STUDENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	If Jesus Had Never Been... <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Evaluate statements about how the world would be different if Jesus hadn't come to earth.		
	My King <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Rewrite statements from Psalm 72 to reflect how Jesus can be King in their lives.	Bible, paper, 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)	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Solomon Tells of Jesus' Coming

Psalm 72:1-19

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

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.

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.

[illegible]



1

FAITH
CONNECTION

Go Ahead, Amaze Me!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have students form pairs.

Say: I'd like you to think of an amazing talent or ability you have. When you've thought of something, demonstrate that ability for your partner. For example, you might be able to wiggle your ears, do a great celebrity impersonation, roll your tongue, recite the Gettysburg Address, make a totally wacky face, do 10 one-arm push-ups, recite an entire comedy routine from a movie, or stand on your head.

When teenagers have performed for their partners, have a few people demonstrate their amazing abilities for the entire group. Enthusiastically applaud each person. End with a big round of applause for everyone.

Say: **Wow! You're all incredibly talented. Amazing!**

Talk With Students ■■■■

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

Ask:

- 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?

Say: We just witnessed some pretty amazing things. But I think we can all agree that as amazing as we are, Jesus is way more amazing. Even so, if we're not careful we sometimes overlook Jesus and the amazing things he has done and continues to do for us. Or perhaps the miracles Jesus did seem so far removed that they almost don't seem real. But Jesus did and continues to do great things every day. Let's look to see how ► **JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS**—things that were predicted before Jesus even came to earth!

Media Connection (Option)

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Instead of the "Go Ahead, Amaze Me!" activity, have students form as many groups as you have smartphones. Then have them search youtube.com for videos using the keyword "amazing feats."

Media Connection
Supplies

smartphones



Talk With Students

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

Ask:

- 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?

Say: **We just witnessed some pretty amazing things. But I think we can all agree that as amazing as those videos were, Jesus is way more amazing. Even so, if we're not careful we sometimes overlook Jesus and the amazing things he has done and continues to do for us. Or perhaps the miracles Jesus did seem so far removed that they almost don't seem real. But Jesus did and continues to do great things every day. Let's look to see how ► JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS—things that were predicted before Jesus even came to earth!**

.....

2

BIBLE EXPLORATION

The Greatest Thing

What You'll Do

Form trios. Give each trio a Bible, paper, markers, scissors, and tape. Say: **With your trio, you're going to read Psalm 72:1-19. This psalm is considered a prophecy about the kind of king Jesus would be. As you read, jot down words that you think demonstrate Jesus' greatness. When you're done, revisit those words and write them on various pieces of paper. You'll write each word in a size that you think corresponds with how great it is. For example, if you think *rule* is super important, you'll fill a whole piece of paper with it. If you think *rescue* is only a little important, you'll cut out a smaller piece of paper to write it on. Do this for every word you think is important in Psalm 72, and tape all your words to the wall to make a word collage.** Allow at least 10 minutes for students to read the psalm and make their word collages.

When students are done, have them look at the other word collages and compare which words other trios thought were most important.

The Greatest Thing Supplies

.....

Bibles
paper
scissors
markers
tape



Talk With Students ■■■■

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

Ask:

- 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?

Say: God isn't distant from us or indifferent toward us. It's important for us to recognize how active Jesus is in our world and in our lives. His greatness shows up in big and small ways. It did before he even came to earth when Solomon wrote this Psalm, and it still does today as ► **JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS.**

.....

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

If Jesus Had Never Been...

What You'll Do ■■■■

Have students remain in their trios from the previous activity. Say: **Solomon knew Jesus would make a huge impact on the world, long before Jesus was ever born. And Jesus sure did leave an impact—a greater one than we could probably realize.**

Christian writer John Ortberg wrote a whole book about the influence Jesus had on our culture—and not just on religion. Let's look at some of the things Ortberg believes Jesus influenced, and see if you agree or not. Point out an imaginary line on one side of the room that means strongly agree and one that means strongly disagree. As I name each category, stand in the place that demonstrates where you are on the scale of strongly agreeing or disagreeing. It can be all the way at one end of the line or somewhere in the middle. Read the following categories. After students arrange themselves, have a few willing students from various places on the lines share why they picked that spot.

compassion
human dignity
art
education
humility
value of children



Talk With Students

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

Ask:

- 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?

Read the Key Verse, 1 Timothy 2:5, aloud: **"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."**

- How does this verse speak to Jesus' influence on our world?

Say: **Whether or not you agree that Jesus influenced all the fields Ortberg says he did, the fact remains that Jesus is significant to our lives today. Jesus did great things in his life on earth, and ► JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS today. His influence in our lives changes everything!**

My King

What You'll Do

Hand out paper and pens. Say: **Turn back in your Bibles to Psalm 72:1-19. Pause. Solomon wrote a lot of "may he..." statements. Now you're going to do that for your own life. Think about ways you need Jesus to be king over your life, and write about it in the style of this psalm. For example, one line might say, "May he show me what I should do after high school" or "May he keep my faith strong even when my friends try to lead me astray."**

Allow time for students to write their new psalms. Then have a few willing students read some of their favorite lines aloud.

Talk With Students

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

Ask:

- 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?

Say: **When we rely on our own plans and our own strength, it's harder to see Jesus' greatness. We're just focused on ourselves. But when we let him be King over our lives, we'll see that ► JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS. We can watch for the great things he does this week as we let him rule our lives.**



My King Supplies

Bibles
paper
pens



Daily Challenges Supplies

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

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 how we can see that ► JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS.**

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:

- **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.**

Talk With Students ■■■■

Ask:

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

Say: **It’s hard to imagine life without Jesus. ► JESUS DOES GREAT THINGS so often to strengthen us, guide us, protect us, embolden us, heal us, inspire us, and make us more like him. Let’s focus on those great things this week 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 Jesus’ greatness. 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 with this prayer, pausing for students to repeat after you. Pray: **Jesus, we thank you for coming to us.** Pause. **We thank you for hearing us.** Pause. **We thank you for seeing us.** Pause. **We thank you for coming to earth and living life as we do** (pause) **so that you know what it’s like.** Pause. **We thank you that your life is bringing life to us.** Pause. **Thank you for connecting us to God.** Pause. **In your name, amen.**



**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).

Daily Challenge

- 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.

- 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.

TAKING IT HOME

Quotables

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

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	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.

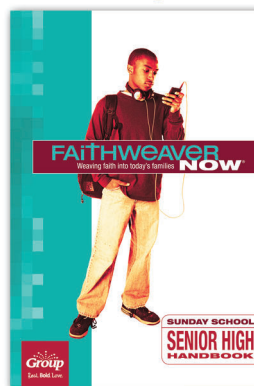
* Due to the way Christmas falls, we recommend moving the lessons as needed to line up Lesson 3 with the week of Christmas.

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.

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