

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**®

FALL
SUNDAY SCHOOL

SENIOR HIGH
LEADER GUIDE

FAITHweaver

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

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL SENIOR HIGH LEADER GUIDE



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FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Senior High Bible Studies, Fall

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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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





David Becomes King

2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37

One of the most exciting things about becoming a teenager is the increasing independence that comes with this age. Teenagers love to stretch their wings and fly! “I can do it myself! I have it all figured out!” they often think. In sharp contrast to all of this independence is the idea that human beings need to rely on God, not on themselves. It’s often difficult for teenagers to find the right balance between establishing their independence...and living in total dependence on God. Use this opportunity to help your teenagers understand that relying on God will help them to accomplish much greater and more amazing things than they could achieve by relying only on themselves.

STUDY	WHAT STUDENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Faith Connection	The Ultimate Thumbless Challenge <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Attempt to do simple tasks without using their thumbs.	roll of masking tape, pennies, paper, pens, at least 2 pairs of shoes with laces	
	Media Connection (Option) <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Listen to a song to springboard into a discussion on relying on God.	music player, song “40 Days” by Third Day	Download “40 Days,” and cue your music player so you’re ready to play it.
2 Bible Exploration	Why 2 Rely <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Explore the Bible passage together, and discover the many reasons to rely on God.	Bibles, Senior High Handbooks or 1 copy per student of the “Why 2 Rely” handout (at the end of this study), pens	



► Bible Point

We can rely on God.

Key Verse

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Students will trust God to protect and provide for them.



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

STUDY	WHAT STUDENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Can't Live Without Him <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Discuss man-made objects and the important roles they play, then talk about the huge roles God plays in our lives.	sticky notes, pens or pencils	
	Commitment Collage <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Explore the Key Verse in pairs, evaluate their own patterns of relying on God, and consider ways they can be more reliant on him.	Bibles, sticky notes from "Can't Live Without Him" activity, pens or pencils	
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.		

David Becomes King

2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

David Mourns King Saul

We begin this quarter of Old Testament studies with the anointing of David as king of Israel. Many years earlier, Israel's first king, Saul, had turned from the Lord, and God had selected David to succeed Saul. For years after that, Saul sought to have David killed. However, David had refused to act against Saul or to become king until he was certain of God's timing. He had lived a difficult life, almost as an outlaw. Now Saul was dead; after being wounded in battle, he had taken his own life. In fact, Saul and three of his sons, including David's friend Jonathan, had died in the same battle (1 Samuel 31:1-6). So the door was wide open for David to become king of Israel.

David didn't rejoice when he learned of the deaths. Instead he and all his men mourned and wept the entire day (2 Samuel 1:1-12). David even wrote a song in honor of Saul and Jonathan, which can be found in 2 Samuel 1:19-27. He was truly saddened that their lives had ended as they did.

Uniting the Kingdom

David was made king of Judah. Israel followed Abner, the commander of Saul's army, who made Ish-Bosheth, a son of Saul, king over Israel (2 Samuel 2:1-9). After years of much fighting, intrigue, and bloodshed, Ish-Bosheth was murdered, and the leaders of Israel came to David to make him king over them.

David Leads Israel

David was 37 when he became king over all Israel. He had first been anointed to succeed Saul many years earlier, while still in his teens. After his long, patient wait, David was able to lead Israel to great prosperity, fend off the Philistines, and expand the boundaries of Israel during his reign. David wasn't perfect, but as

he relied on God, God rewarded him and Israel with prosperity.

David wrote Psalm 37, which describes his trust in God even when he was surrounded by enemies. In this psalm, David says to “delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart” (Psalm 37:4). This could have been the theme of David’s life.

The Jesus Connection

Through Jesus, God showed us how to take every step of life relying on him. Because of Jesus' courage, we can believe that trusting God will always be worth it!

What past experience has God used to teach you how to rely on him?

God has a wonderful way of not letting teachable moments in our lives go to waste. What is God using to teach you right now?

Ask God for wisdom to see and strength to move forward with faith, knowing that he'll always have everything you need. You can write your prayer here.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on its right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.



The Ultimate Thumbless Challenge Supplies

roll of masking tape
pennies
paper
pens
at least 2 pairs of shoes
with laces

1

FAITH CONNECTION

The Ultimate Thumbless Challenge

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Begin the study by asking your students how many of them are up for an ultimate challenge.

Say: **All you have to do to successfully meet this challenge is pick a penny up from off the ground, sign your name, shake hands with a friend, and untie and tie someone's shoelaces. Does anybody think this will be too tough?**

Here's the catch: You have to do all of these things without using your thumbs!

Distribute strips of masking tape, and encourage students to help one another tape their thumbs snugly against the sides of their hands so their thumbs aren't usable. This may take a while, but students will laugh as they experience the difficulty of even this simple task.

Once everyone is "thumbless," toss some pennies on the floor, and make paper and pens available as students attempt to master each task without the use of their thumbs. If some students aren't wearing shoes with laces, set out the ones you brought for them to untie and retie.

Talk With Students ■■■■■■

After students have had ample time to "try their hands" at each activity, gather everyone and discuss the following questions, which can be found in the Senior High Handbooks.

Ask:

- **What was the hardest thing to do without your thumbs? Why was it so hard?**
- **What are some other everyday tasks that would be difficult to accomplish without thumbs?**
- **What are some similarities between relying on our thumbs and relying on God in our everyday lives?**
- **What are some examples of everyday things that, without even realizing it, we rely on God to do?**

Say: **It's hard to believe how much we rely on our thumbs! Even though we use them hundreds of times every day, we rarely give a thought to how important they are to us. In the same way, we need God's help whether we realize it or not. Today we'll learn how ► WE CAN RELY ON GOD.**



Media Connection (Option)

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Instead of the "Ultimate Thumbless Challenge" activity, play the song "40 Days" by Third Day. As students listen, encourage them to think about some of the toughest times they personally have gone through.

Talk With Students ■■■■

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

Ask:

- Explain whether you agree or disagree with the song.
- What's one of the hardest things you've had to go through?
- Tell about someone you most often relied on during that tough time.
- What do you think is the most important thing to do when going through tough times? Explain.

Say: **When we go through really tough stretches of life, we often lean on our friends and family to pull us through. Today we're going to be focusing on why God is the most important one to help us through all situations and that ► WE CAN RELY ON GOD.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Why 2 Rely

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **We're about to read about a really important event in David's life: his coronation as Israel's king. David had traveled a long and difficult road to reach this point. He'd been through some really trying times and difficult situations. Yet, through it all, David had relied on God.**

Ask students to look up 2 Samuel 5:1-5 in their Bibles, and ask a willing student to read the verses aloud.

Say: **God chose David to rule Israel because David had a heart for God; when times were tough, David turned to God for help. And the amazing thing is that even when times *weren't* tough, David still relied on God. God was a crucial part of David's everyday life. David's life can teach us two very important things: *how* to rely on God and *why* to rely on God. Let's take some time to learn, from David's own words, how and why he relied on God.**



Media Connection Supplies

music player
song "40 Days" by
Third Day

Media Connection Easy Prep

Download "40 Days,"
and cue your music
player so you're ready
to play it.

Why 2 Rely Supplies

Bibles
Senior High Handbooks
or 1 copy per student
of the "Why 2 Rely"
handout (at the end of
this study)
pens



Distribute pens and have students open to p. 14 of their handbooks, or distribute copies of the “Why 2 Rely” handout. Then invite half of the group to study Psalm 37 and discuss the “hows”—the many ways, according to the psalm, to rely on God. (Examples are “Trust in the Lord” and “Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him.”)

Ask the other half of the group to dig into the “whys” in Psalm 37—the reasons, according to the psalm, to rely on God. (Examples are “He will make your righteousness shine” and “He will give you the desires of your heart.”) As the students dig in, have them take notes on their findings in their handbooks or on their “Why 2 Rely” handouts.

After about five minutes, have groups each identify their top five answers. Then call all the students together to share their top hows and whys with one another.

Talk With Students ■■■■

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

Ask:

- What did you learn from David’s reliance on God that applies to your own life?
- Explain which “how” and “why” would be your personal number one answer.
- What’s an area of your life where it’s hardest to rely on God?

Say: David’s life wasn’t free from trouble. He had his share of down times—when he was afraid for his life, when he felt really depressed, when people thought he was a nobody. In each of those times, he relied on God for protection, comfort, and worth. David knew how to rely on God, and he knew why: the only thing he could count on was God. Now, let’s consider how we can follow David’s example and how ► **WE CAN RELY ON GOD.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Can’t Live Without Him

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Ask students to share about adventurous things they’ve done, such as bungee jumping, hiking in a wilderness area, scuba diving, or other adventures. For each adventure, have students share what equipment they used and what the experience was like.

Say: **We rely on certain objects in extreme situations because our lives depend on them. For example, a bungee jumper *absolutely* relies on that bungee cord! A hiker in the wilderness *absolutely* relies on good shoes to keep from slipping off a cliff.**

Can’t Live
Without Him
Supplies

.....
sticky notes
pens or pencils





Have students form teams of four to six, and give each team sticky notes and a pen or pencil. Ask teams to brainstorm a list of situations in which people absolutely rely on certain objects and then create a list of reasons for relying on those objects. Have students write each reason on a separate sticky note. Challenge students to think of as many situations and reasons as they can in three minutes. For example, students might say, “The compass leads them in the right direction” or “The parachute protects them from getting hurt.”

After three minutes, invite teams to share their ideas with the whole group. As each team shares, have its members attach their sticky notes to the wall. As students create the wall of sticky notes, pay attention to the words or phrases that could describe God’s characteristics—“leads in the right direction” or “protects,” for example.

Talk With Students ■■■■

Have students take a new look at what’s written on the wall of sticky notes. Then lead students in this discussion. They can find these questions in their Senior High Handbooks.

Ask:

- Which words or phrases on our wall of stickies apply to how we rely on God?
- Tell about a time you relied on God and he responded in one of the ways listed on the wall.
- Based on what we’ve read and talked about today, what’s one way you need to rely on God more?

Say: **Unfortunately, sometimes these objects let people down. Compasses can get broken, parachutes can fail, and even bungee cords can snap. But God will never let us down. David knew that well, because in all his hard times, God always protected him. Because God will never let us down, ► WE CAN RELY ON GOD.**

Commitment Collage

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Have students form pairs and read Psalm 46:1 together: “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”

Ask partners to share what the verse means to them in light of what they’ve discussed today. Then say: **We’ve talked about many reasons to rely on God. Take just a moment to ask yourself this question: “Why would it be good for me to rely on God, and what’s the best way I can actually rely on him in the next week?”**

When you’ve thought of a good answer, come look at our wall of sticky notes. Pick the one that’s closest to the way you thought of relying on God. Take that sticky note down, and write your commitment on the back of the sticky note. Then stick it back to the wall and pray silently by the wall, talking to God about your commitment.



Commitment Collage Supplies

.....
Bibles
sticky notes from “Can’t Live Without Him” activity
pens or pencils





Allow plenty of time for students to reflect, write on their sticky notes, and pray.

Talk With Students ■■■■

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

Ask:

- If you're willing to share, what did you write on your sticky note and talk to God about?
- How did this prayer activity change the way you view relying on God?
- How has God shown you he's worthy of your reliance?

Say: **God is more than worthy of our total dependence on him. When we rely on ourselves and our own abilities, we inevitably fail or get off track. David lived almost his entire life in true reliance on God, and that helped him succeed. This week, let's follow through on our commitments and remember that ► WE CAN RELY ON GOD.**

.....

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)

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 RELY ON GOD more deeply every day!**

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:

- **Search for other verses in your Bible that remind you that God is always in control, and that we can always rely on him no matter what we're going through. Write those verses down and keep them where you can look at them as you need them.**
- **Where do you take God for granted right now? Invite him into those areas of your life. You could pray before every test, practice, or important event, asking for God's help and wisdom.**
- **Who do you know who really needs to rely on God right now? Share with him or her what God has done in your own life, and show God's faithfulness by being there for that person.**



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.

Say: **God alone can provide the true success, worth, protection, and blessings we are looking for. As we grow closer to him and rely on him alone, he makes our lives something very special. Let's rely on him by following 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 relying on God. Students can also do the "Talk With Your Families" activity in their handbooks or on their "Taking It Home" pages with their families.

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

Invite students to take a few minutes to pray for each other. Then close by leading them in this one-sentence prayer based on Psalm 46:1: **God, you are our refuge and our strength, our ever-present help in trouble. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Why 2 Rely

Psalm 37

How?

.....

List the many ways David says we should rely on God.

Why?

.....

List the many reasons David mentions that we should rely on God.

OK
TO COPY





2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37

► **Bible Point**—We can rely on God.

Key Verse—"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble"
(Psalm 46:1).

TAKING
IT HOME



Daily Challenges

- Search for other verses in your Bible that remind you that God is always in control, and that we can always rely on him no matter what we're going through. Write those verses down and keep them where you can look at them as you need them.
- Where do you take God for granted right now? Invite him into those areas of your life. You could pray before every test, practice, or important event, asking for God's help and wisdom.
- Who do you know who really needs to rely on God right now? Share with him or her what God has done in your own life, and show God's faithfulness by being there for that person.

Faith Journal

What is the hardest thing about relying on God?

Talk With Your Family

As a family, go online to find pictures or information about concentration camps during the Holocaust. Look through them together in order to get a good idea of Corrie ten Boom's living conditions as she wrote her letters. Then discuss these questions:

- What strikes you about Corrie's attitude? What is so amazing about it?
- How do you think Corrie found the strength to maintain that attitude?

Read Psalm 46:1-3, 10-11 with your family, and discuss these questions:

- When in your life have the mountains seemed to be falling and the oceans roaring?
- How do you usually respond to really difficult situations?
- Why do you or don't you believe that you can rely on God even in the most difficult moments of life?

Corrie's letters from prison and concentration camp are amazing testaments to her faith. As a family, write your own faith letters recounting difficult times in your lives and how God saw you through them. Seal the family's letters in an envelope, and keep them in a special place as a reminder that you can rely on God even in the most difficult times.

(To find out more about Corrie ten Boom and her family, read *The Hiding Place*.)

Quotables

"We did not know what was ahead of us, but I was certain of one thing—that Jesus would never leave us nor forsake us and that, for a child of God, no pit could be so deep that Jesus was not deeper still."
(Corrie ten Boom, who hid Jews during the Holocaust and was sent to a concentration camp, in *Prison Letters*)

! **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	David Becomes King (2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37)	"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).	We can rely on God.
WEEK 2	David Is Merciful to Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9)	"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves" (Romans 12:10).	Being kind honors God and others.
WEEK 3	God Forgives David (2 Samuel 11:1-12:10; Psalm 51:1-12)	"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).	God wants us to repent when we sin.
WEEK 4	Absalom Rebels and Is Defeated (2 Samuel 15:1-12; 17:1-12; 18:1-18)	"He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).	A self-centered attitude hurts God and others.
WEEK 5	Solomon Asks for Wisdom (1 Kings 2:1-4; 3:3-28)	"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5).	God gives us wisdom.
WEEK 6	Solomon Writes Many Proverbs (1 Kings 4:29-34; Proverbs 1:1-7)	"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding" (Proverbs 9:10).	We become wise by following God's Word.
WEEK 7	Solomon Turns Away From God (1 Kings 11:1-13)	"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).	Be devoted to God.
WEEK 8	The Kingdom Divides (1 Kings 11:28-12:24)	"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).	Choose to follow God.
WEEK 9	Elijah Helps a Widow (1 Kings 17:7-24)	"So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all those things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:31-33).	Trust God completely.
WEEK 10	Elijah Challenges the Prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:16-40)	"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:2-3).	Choose to serve God.
WEEK 11	God Speaks to Elijah in a Whisper (1 Kings 19:9-18)	"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).	When we feel alone, God is with us.
WEEK 12	God Takes Elijah to Heaven (2 Kings 2:1-15)	"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).	God wants us to be faithful.
WEEK 13	Jehoshaphat Trusts God for Victory (2 Chronicles 20:1-30)	"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).	God helps us with our problems.

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.

