

FAITHWEAVER

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

**SPRING
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**SENIOR HIGH
LEADER GUIDE**

Group

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**SPRING
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.

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FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Senior High, Spring

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Credits

Contributing Authors: Tim Baker, Jim Hawley, Trish Kline, Joy-Elizabeth Lawrence, Amy D. Lumanog, Kelly Martin, Siv M. Ricketts, Elaine Ernst Schneider, Alison Simpson

Editors: Stephanie Martin, Amy Nappa, Jessica Sausto, Owen Shattuck, Ali Thompson

Copy Editors: Lyndsay Gerwing, Becky Helzer, Sarah Yepishin, Andrea Zimmerman

Chief Creative Officer: Joani Schultz

Cover Design and Art Direction: Jeff Spencer

Interior Design Team: Jared Bigham, Jeff Brunacci, Joyce Douglas, Kate Elvin, Suzi Jensen, Randy Kady, Dolly Palmer, Rebecca Swain

Cover Photographer: Rodney Stewart

Illustrator: Matt Wood

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* We recommend starting the quarter so that Lessons 4 and 5 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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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.
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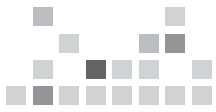


Create a vibrant family ministry that's new...that's wow...that's NOW. FaithWeaver NOW gives you a fresh strategy for being more successful than ever in bringing families closer to Jesus.

Thom Schultz Joani Schultz

Thom and Joani Schultz
Chairman and Chief Creative Officer
Group Publishing, Inc.





Jesus Teaches About Good Fruit

Luke 6:43-45

At this early stage of asserting their independence, teenagers tend to cling to being just like something or somebody else—as long as that somebody else is not their parents or other authority figures. While cliques can reinforce problematic behavior, a strong youth group support system can go a long way toward creating a secure environment for exploring spiritual convictions. Use this topic to encourage students to find common ground with one another in the shared traits and behaviors of Christians.



► Bible Point

Acting like Jesus shows we're Christians.

Key Verse

"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).

Weaving Faith Into Life


Students will reflect their faith in Jesus Christ through their day-to-day actions and attitudes.

STUDY	WHAT STUDENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Faith Connection	First Words, Sounds Like... <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Explore the idea that we recognize a tree by its fruit.		
	Media Connection (Option) <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Search the Internet for film and music award-show sites, and discuss what makes people shine both in our culture and in God's eyes.	smartphone(s) or tablet(s) with Internet access, paper, pens	
2 Bible Exploration	First Fruits <i>(about 30 min.)</i> Examine the concept of "bearing good fruit."	Bibles, paper, pens, several concordances	

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>The Apple Doesn't Fall Far From the Tree! <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Examine ways in which their daily lives can bear fruit that will identify them as Christians.</p>	Bibles, index cards, pens	
<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.





1 FAITH CONNECTION

First Word, Sounds Like...

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome students to the group. Tell teenagers they're going to begin by playing a short game of Charades, and have them form groups of 5 to 10. Ask a volunteer to demonstrate the clues for each group.

Before you begin, make sure that everyone knows how to play Charades and agrees on the rules. Tell the volunteers the object they will pantomime is "orange tree."

When the groups are ready, have the volunteers start the pantomimes. When orange tree is guessed in all groups, gather everyone back together.

Talk With Students ■■■■

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

Ask:

- Was this easy or difficult to guess? Why?
- How did the group leader show you what the object was? What clues did he or she give you?
- What specific clues do you think are seen in the lives of Christians?
- How do we show we're Christians?

Say: Today we're going to explore the characteristics God wants us to demonstrate in our lives. ► **ACTING LIKE JESUS SHOWS WE'RE CHRISTIANS.** So what's that got to do with fruit?

Media Connection (Option)

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Instead of the "First Word, Sounds Like..." activity, have your students search the Internet for TV, film, and music award-show sites. Some key words they might try in their search are "Academy Awards," "Oscars," or "Grammy Awards." Ask students to write down some of the winners from the past few years, such as "Best Actress," "Best Picture," "Best Song," or "Performer of the Year."

Talk With Students ■■■■

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

Media Connection Supplies

smartphone(s) or
tablet(s) with Internet
access
paper
pens



Ask:

- **What kind of attention do these people get? Why do they get this attention?**

Say: **Some of the “shiniest” people in the world today are those who win awards by making movies or songs. They are recognized by their talent.**

Ask:

- **How are the rest of us recognized? What kind of attention do we get, and why?**
- **What kinds of things do you think God places value on? How is it similar to or different from what the world values?**
- **How do we show we’re Christians?**

Say: **Today we’re going to explore the characteristics God wants us to demonstrate in our lives. ► ACTING LIKE JESUS SHOWS WE’RE CHRISTIANS.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

First Fruits

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Have students sit in a circle. Tell them that since the very beginning, God has asked his people to offer to him their “first fruits” — the best of whatever they had to offer. These offerings were burnt as a way of becoming right with God. In the New Testament, Christ became our “burnt offering” through his sacrifice for all of our sins, now and forever. His purity and sacrifice are the permanent “fix” that blocks our sins from God and allows us to come into his presence.

Say: **After Christ came and became our means of salvation, God no longer required burnt offerings. Let’s read some related Scriptures from the New Testament. I need six volunteers to read them aloud.**

Give each volunteer a Bible, and assign volunteers these New Testament Scriptures:

- Matthew 7:16-20
- Luke 6:43-45
- Romans 8:23
- Philippians 1:11
- James 1:18
- Galatians 5:22-23

Ask:

- **What does it mean that trees bear after their own kind?**
- **If we bear after Christ, what should our fruits be?**



First Fruits Supplies

Bibles
paper
pens
several concordances



Say: **Christ is the living tree from which we grow. Growing in Christ means his life nourishes our lives in much the same way as a tree sustains its fruit.**

Ask:

- **If we are to bear a resemblance to Christ, what would some of the fruits in our lives be?**

Have teenagers form groups of three or four, and give each group paper, a pen, and a concordance. (Some Bibles have concordances in the back of them.) Have group members work together to create a stage reading about the fruits that should be apparent in their lives. Ask members of each group to choose one fruit and create a reading that demonstrates how that fruit might be visible in their lives. Each person must be involved in the group's presentation.

One good way to do this is to make the reading into a litany. For example, if a group chooses love as its fruit, group members would first need to find a Scripture about this fruit and then share a reading such as this:

Group: **Love thy neighbor.**

Person 1: **I will help my neighbor by mowing her lawn.**

Group: **Love thy neighbor.**

Person 2: **I will give food to my neighbors who don't have anything to eat.**

Group: **Love thy neighbor.**

Person 3: **I will visit with my neighbor who is lonely.**

Group: **Love thy neighbor.**

Person 4: **I will give clothes and shoes to my neighbors who are in need.**

Group: **Love thy neighbor.**

After small groups have created their readings, have them share them with the whole class.

Talk With Students ■■■■

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

Ask:

- **Did you learn anything new about how we should show we're Christians? Explain.**

Say: **One of the ways we can show we are Christians is by imitating Jesus in all we do. "Bad fruits" come from human attitudes, but good fruits come from the Holy Spirit. When we have the Holy Spirit's help, we can display these attitudes in our everyday lives through our actions. ► ACTING LIKE JESUS SHOWS WE'RE CHRISTIANS.**





3

**WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE**

The Apple Doesn't Fall Far From the Tree!

What You'll Do

Say: "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree." This is a very old saying, meaning that children grow up to be very much like their parents in appearance, in beliefs, in actions, or in attitudes. It can also apply to the effects the people we live with have on our attitudes, likes, dislikes, and feelings.

Think about how you resemble a parent or a grandparent. Do you look like him or her? talk or walk like him or her? like the same foods? have the same interests or hobbies?

Have each student explain one way in which he or she resembles a family member.

Say: **From all these examples, it's obvious that the fruit really does resemble the tree! Now I'd like you to think about Christ. First listen while we read the Key Verse.**

Have a volunteer read the Key Verse, Matthew 5:16, aloud: "In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Talk With Students

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

Ask:

- **What does this verse tell you about how we can show we're Christians?**
- **What does it tell you about why we should show others we're Christians?**

Give each student an index card and a pen.

Say: **Now think of three ways that you can look or talk or "walk" that would resemble Christ. Write them on your card.**

Give students a few moments to think and write. Be sure students understand that the fruits are inner qualities that lead people to do good deeds and that the fruits are not the good deeds themselves.

Say: **Take your card with you as a reminder to live out good fruit through your actions during the coming week. If you have difficulty displaying these fruits, ask God to help you.**



The Apple Doesn't Fall Far From the Tree! Supplies

-
- Bibles
 - index cards
 - pens



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 ► ACTING LIKE JESUS SHOWS WE’RE CHRISTIANS. Let’s discuss how we’ll act like 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:

- **Do one random act of kindness in secret for someone at school this week. (Don’t get caught, or it doesn’t count!)**
- **In what areas do you bring honor to Christ by your actions? In what areas do you fall short? Choose one behavior that you could improve upon, and resolve to do things differently for the next seven days.**
- **Make a fresh fruit salad for your family. As you serve your family members, share with them what you’ve learned this week about what it means to bear good fruit for Jesus Christ.**

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: **► ACTING LIKE JESUS SHOWS WE’RE CHRISTIANS. Let’s act like Jesus 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 acting like 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 by saying the Key Verse together as a choral reading. Have students form four groups. Assign the first group this part of the Key Verse: “In the same way, let your light shine.” Assign the second group: “before men, that they may see”; the third group: “your good deeds and”; and the fourth group: “praise your Father in heaven.” Have each group say its line in turn, and repeat the verse several times.



Jesus Teaches About Good Fruit—Luke 6:43-45

► **Bible Point**—Acting like Jesus shows we're Christians.

Key Verse—"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).

TAKING
IT HOME



Quotables

"You should do identically as Jesus did. He did the Father's Will. He lived the Father's Will. He spoke the Father's Words."
—E.W. Kenyon,
In His Presence

Daily Challenge

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

- **Do one random act of kindness in secret for someone at school this week. (Don't get caught, or it doesn't count!)**
- **In what areas do you bring honor to Christ by your actions? In what areas do you fall short? Choose one behavior that you could improve upon, and resolve to do things differently for the next seven days.**
- **Make a fresh fruit salad for your family. As you serve your family members, share with them what you've learned this week about what it means to bear good fruit for Jesus Christ.**

Faith Journal

People are to know we are Christians by our fruits—our inner qualities and the actions that flow from them. One thing I do that might not reflect Christ is _____ . But I can change that by _____ .

Talk With Your Family

Read Matthew 7:16-20 with your family, and then discuss these questions together:

- **Do you think people can recognize you by your fruits? Explain.**
- **Why is it important to act on our good fruits, rather than just talking about them?**

On a piece of poster board, draw a tree with four to six leafless branches. Discuss activities you might do as a family that would show the fruits of God's love and Christ's presence in your lives. For example, you might volunteer at a food bank or a homeless shelter or visit elderly shut-ins or people in a nursing home. Identify an un-met need that you and your family can help to meet. List the possibilities, one on each branch of the tree. As you undertake the activities, have each family member draw and color a leaf on the appropriate branch of the tree. Soon the tree will be filled with leaves, and your fruits will be bringing God's love to those who need it most.

! **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 Good Fruit (Luke 6:43-45)	"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).	Acting like Jesus shows we're Christians.
WEEK 2	Jesus Tells the Parable of the Lost Son (Luke 15:11-32)	"But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love" (Nehemiah 9:17).	God will forgive us when we sin.
WEEK 3	Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet (John 13:1-17)	"If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all" (Mark 9:35).	Jesus wants us to serve others.
*WEEK 4	Jesus Is Tried and Crucified (Luke 19:28-40; 23:1-49)	"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).	Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins.
*WEEK 5	Jesus Appears to Mary (John 20:1-18)	"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).	Jesus is alive.
WEEK 6	Apostles Defend Their Faith (Acts 5:12-42)	"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance" (James 1:2-3).	Keep following God, even when it's hard.
WEEK 7	Saul Meets Jesus Near Damascus (Acts 9:1-20)	"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17).	Jesus changes our lives.
WEEK 8	Peter Raises Tabitha From the Dead (Acts 9:36-43)	"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (James 5:16).	God answers when we pray.
WEEK 9	An Angel Frees Peter From Jail (Acts 12:1-18)	"For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways" (Psalm 91:11).	Angels protect and help God's people.
WEEK 10	Lydia Is Converted (Acts 16:9-15)	"Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season" (2 Timothy 4:2).	Be prepared to tell others about Jesus.
WEEK 11	Paul's Jailer Believes in Jesus (Acts 16:16-34)	"They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved'" (Acts 16:31).	Jesus saves us.
WEEK 12	Paul Describes Living by God's Spirit (Romans 8:9-17)	"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23).	When we live by God's Spirit, God changes us.
WEEK 13	Paul Describes Genuine Love (1 Corinthians 13:1-13)	"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs" (1 Corinthians 13:4-5).	God teaches us how to love.

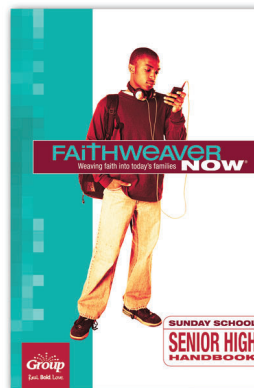
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PLUS...

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.

