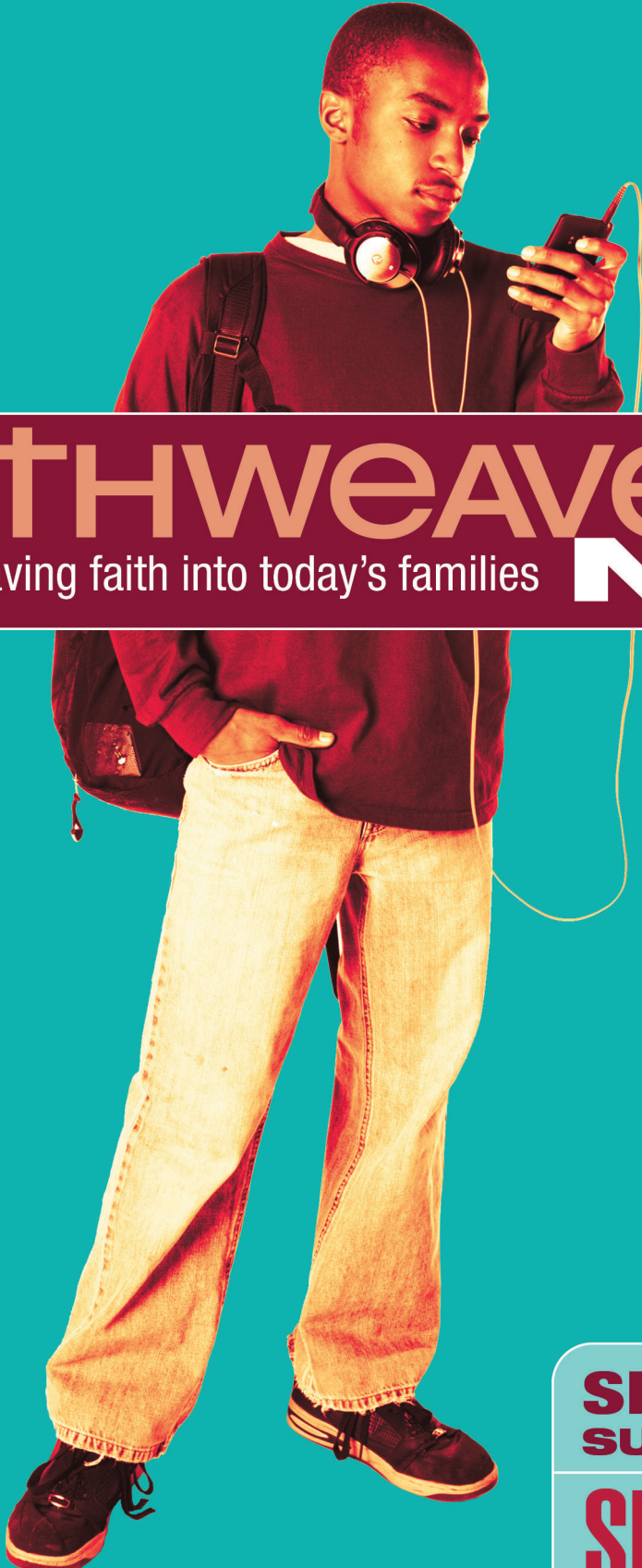


A young man with short dark hair is looking down at a small mobile device in his right hand. He is wearing large black headphones around his neck, a dark long-sleeved shirt, and light-colored jeans. A backpack strap is visible over his left shoulder. The background is a solid teal color with a vertical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

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**SPRING
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**SENIOR HIGH
LEADER GUIDE**

The logo for the Group, featuring a stylized cluster of dots above the word "Group" in a serif font.

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FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Senior High, Spring

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* Due to the way Easter falls, we recommend shifting lessons as needed so Study 7 lines up with Palm Sunday and Study 8 lines up with Easter.

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?

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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.
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Thom Schultz Joani Schultz

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





Jesus Teaches His Disciples to Pray

Matthew 6:5-13

Teenagers face a lot of stressful situations—family issues, friend issues, school issues, job issues, and more. They may run to friends, television, or the Internet for answers to problems they are facing. Help your students see that God is interested in meeting all their needs, even as teenagers, and that they can go to God in prayer with those needs. Help them see that by praising God first in their prayers and surrendering their lives to God, they'll be in a better place to encounter God's will in the stressful situations they're facing.

STUDY	WHAT STUDENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Faith Connection	R U My BFF? <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Write text message prayers to God.	index cards, pens	
	Media Connection: (Option) <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Watch a scene depicting a human trying to take on God's responsibilities.	video player, movie <i>Bruce Almighty</i>	Cue the movie <i>Bruce Almighty</i> to 1:00:08, when Bruce is trying to decide how to organize the volume of prayers he's receiving—including ones he's hearing in his head.
2 Bible Exploration	How Not to Pray <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Talk about the ways not to pray.	Bibles, paper, pens	
	What to Say <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Look more closely at the meaning of the Lord's Prayer.	Bibles, lists from the "How Not to Pray" activity, pens, Senior High Handbooks or 1 copy per student of the "What to Say" handout (at the end of this study)	



► Bible Point

We pray to God.

.....

Key Verse

"This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one'" (Matthew 6:9-13).

.....

Weaving Faith Into Life

Students will consider the prayer Jesus taught his disciples and think about their own prayer lives.

.....



STUDY	WHAT STUDENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Your Will Be Done <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Think about their own prayer lives and how they might align them with Jesus' model prayer.	prayer cards from the "R U My BFF?" activity, or index cards and 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.		



Jesus Teaches His Disciples to Pray

Matthew 6:5-13

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

How *Not* to Pray

This passage begins with Jesus instructing his followers how *not* to pray. The religious leaders of that time were accustomed to praying loudly on the street corners so that the people would see them as holy and religious. Instead, Jesus says, prayer is to be between the individual and God—sincere communication that is a direct result of one’s relationship with God.

Two Basic Parts

Jesus gives this prayer as a pattern or a form—an outline for prayer. One way to understand it better is to break his prayer into two basic parts: adoration and petition.

The first verse of the Lord's Prayer expresses praise for God's majesty and acknowledges God's love for us. The single word we translate as "our father" is an intimate word that can be translated as "daddy" or "dearest father." Jesus lets his followers know that they can share in his close relationship with God.

The first petition in the prayer is not related to personal needs. Rather, it addresses seeking what God wants.

After we seek God's will, we turn to asking God to fulfill personal, daily needs for food, forgiveness, and freedom from temptation. Without God working in our lives and our world, there would be no food or forgiveness. And if Satan were not restricted from tempting us, our lives would be nearly unbearable.

Putting God First

Remember that Jesus insisted on putting God first. If God isn't first in our lives, as well as in our prayers, God will not be honored, no matter how eloquently we pray.

The Jesus Connection

Jesus showed us how to pray, but more importantly, he also set the example of putting God first. Everything Jesus did was for God, so it was only natural for his prayer to be focused on praising God and seeking God's will.

Think of the last prayer you prayed. Maybe it was a quick “God, help me impress my boss” or “Lord, give me patience with my child.” There’s nothing wrong with quick prayers seeking God’s help. But these quick prayers can reveal our real view of God. Consider the motivations behind your last prayer. Did you want to impress your boss or have patience with your child so the other person could see Jesus living in you? Stop and pray now for God to be the center of your life—and your prayers. 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 the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.



R U My BFF? Supplies

index cards
pens

Media Connection Supplies

video player
movie *Bruce Almighty*

1 FAITH CONNECTION

R U My BFF?

What You'll Do

Welcome students to the group. Give each person an index card and a pen.

Say: **Today we're going to talk about prayer. On one side of your card, please write a prayer to God that you're willing to share. Tell God what's on your heart—anything you want. But write it as a text message, using the abbreviations you'd use if you were texting your best friend. Even include emojis if you want! I'll give you several minutes to write your text message to God. Then we'll share them with each other and see if other people can understand our prayers.**

After several minutes, have students form pairs and trade cards. Have students translate their partners' messages on the blank sides of the cards. When they've finished, have them talk about how accurately they interpreted the messages.

Talk With Students

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

Ask:

- **What challenges did you encounter in understanding your partner's prayer?**
- **Do you think it matters to God what words we use when we pray? Why or why not?**
- **How does the way you normally talk to God differ from the way you talk to your friends?**

Say: **God wants to hear from us, and we don't have to use fancy words. We can talk with God and share our thoughts and our feelings no matter what they are, but Jesus did give us some guidelines on how ► WE PRAY TO GOD. We'll look at them today.**

Have students keep their prayer cards for use later.

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 clips are available at youtube.com. This clip is available at wingclips.com as "Yes to All Prayers."



What You'll Do

Instead of the "R U My BFF?" activity, watch a clip from the movie *Bruce Almighty*.

Explain that the main character, Bruce, had been complaining that God wasn't taking care of Bruce's life well enough, so God gave Bruce his powers to see what he could do to better the world. In this scene, Bruce is overwhelmed with the prayer requests he is supposed to answer. Begin the clip at 1:00:08, when Bruce is trying to decide how to organize the volume of prayers he's receiving—including ones he's hearing in his head. Stop the clip at 1:02:59, after Bruce says yes to every request.

Talk With Students

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

Ask:

- How well does this clip line up with the way you think God handles incoming prayers?
- When have you felt like God was too busy with other "more important" things to answer your prayers?
- In this clip, Bruce says everyone would be happy once he decided to answer all of their prayers. Do you think it's true that we'd be happy if God answered all of our prayers with a yes? Why or why not?
- When has God said no to one of your prayers, but you eventually saw that it was the right, best answer? What did you learn from that experience?

Say: God wants to hear from us, and he doesn't just gloss over our prayers like Bruce did. We can talk with God and share our thoughts and our feelings no matter what they are, but Jesus did give us some guidelines on how ► **WE PRAY TO GOD**. We'll look at them today.

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

How Not to Pray

What You'll Do

Say: Jesus taught his disciples many things during his time on earth. He taught them the importance of loving others. He taught them what it means to follow God. He taught them why he came to earth—to die for our sins. The Bible tells us that one day, after watching Jesus pray, one of his disciples asked Jesus to teach the disciples how to pray. These Jewish men, who had probably attended synagogue their entire lives and knew the prayers of their tradition, were asking Jesus to teach them to pray.

Have students form trios, and make sure they have Bibles, paper, and pens. If you have fewer than six students, stay together as one group.



How Not to Pray Supplies

Bibles
paper
pens



Say: **Let's look at Scripture and see what Jesus told the disciples about prayer. Jesus taught his disciples how ► WE PRAY TO GOD. But first, he told them how not to pray. In your groups, make a "don'ts" list for prayer. Try to come up with the top 10 things you think are no-nos in prayer.** Allow time for trios to come up with their lists, and then have everyone share their lists.

Say: **Let's see what Jesus said are the "don'ts" of prayer. With your trios, read Matthew 6:5-8.**

Allow trios time to read.

Talk With Students ■■■■

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

Ask:

- **What's most surprising to you about Jesus' instructions in these verses? Why?**
- **If Jesus isn't saying that it's always wrong to pray in public or to offer long prayers (and he's not), then what does he want us to understand about prayer?**
- **Look at verse 5. How is it possible to be someone who prays while also being a hypocrite? What is Jesus telling us in this verse?**
- **Jesus said in verse 8 that our Father knows what we need before we even ask. So why even bother to pray at all? What's the point of prayer?**

Say: **Sometimes people are afraid to pray because they think they might do it wrong. But people put a lot more rules on prayer than Jesus did. Jesus' point was simply that when ► WE PRAY TO GOD, our hearts and motivations matter. Let's read on to see what "do's" we can learn from his prayer example.** Have students hold on to their "don'ts" lists.

What to Say

What You'll Do ■■■■

Have students stay in their trios.

Say: **After Jesus taught some ways not to pray, he gave us a model of prayer we can still follow today when ► WE PRAY TO GOD. Let's look a little more closely at this model prayer. In your trios, read Matthew 6:9-13 now. Next to your "don'ts" list, make a "do" list as you read, based on what Jesus prayed.**

Allow time to read the verses, and then have students turn to page 14 of their handbooks or give a copy of the "What to Say" handout to each student. Assign a section of the handout to each trio, and ask them to read the Scripture passages and then discuss them. If you have fewer than five trios, assign two or three sections to trios. If you have more than five trios, assign the same section to more than one trio. Give trios about five minutes for discussion.

What to Say Supplies

.....
Bibles
lists from the "How Not
to Pray" activity
pens
Senior High Handbooks
or 1 copy per student
of the "What to Say"
handout (at the end of
this study)





Talk With Students

Have students form new trios to share insights from the Scripture study. Allow a few minutes for students to share in their new trios, and then lead all the students in this discussion. Students can find these questions in their Senior High Handbooks.

Ask:

- Share some of the highlights of your discussion.
- In what ways did Jesus' prayer or the other verses you read cause you to think differently about prayer?
- What's one change you want to make to the way you pray based on what you've explored today?

Say: **Jesus said his prayer was an example of how to pray. You don't have to pray with those exact words. But if you're wondering what kinds of things to talk to God about, take your "do" list home and use your own words to talk to God. Remember, when ► WE PRAY TO GOD, it's our heart that matters most.**

.....

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Your Will Be Done

What You'll Do

Students will use the index cards from the "R U My BFF?" activity. If you didn't do that activity, have participants write prayers to God on index cards. Tell them they can say or ask God for whatever they want, and then give them a couple of minutes to write their prayers.

Say: **I'm going to read a list of the five categories Jesus included when he gave us the model prayer, plus one extra category. On your card, write the number next to the section where it best belongs. Number 1: "Praise You, Father." Number 2: "I Want Your Will." Number 3: "Thanks for Daily Provisions." Number 4: "Forgive Me." Number 5: "Keep Me From Sin." And number 6: "Give Me This."**

Allow teenagers time to do this. You may want to read through the list one or two more times. Then go through the list and ask how many of the students' prayers fell into each category. Continue with any observations you make about where the cards ended up on the list.

Say: **Did you notice that the Lord's Prayer doesn't include a section of asking for all our wants? That doesn't mean we can't ask God for those things. But if we truly make it a priority to honor and praise God first in our prayers, and if we submit our lives to God, we'll have a different mindset about the "stuff" we may want. We'll see the world a little more through God's eyes and love the things God loves.**



Your Will Be Done Supplies

.....
prayer cards from the
"R U My BFF?" activity,
or index cards and
pens





Talk With Students

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

Ask:

- What elements of Jesus' prayer come most naturally to you? Explain.
- Which categories of Jesus' prayer come least naturally to you? Why do you think that is?
- What are some ways you could pray differently about how you use your money? your time? your skills and abilities?

Say: Instead of praying for a shiny new car, you may ask God which ministry you could donate your money to. Instead of asking God to help you get even with someone who has hurt you, you might pray for that person to come to a friendship with Jesus. Instead of asking God to help you pass that test you didn't study enough for, you might ask to be more organized so you have more time for things that matter. When we worship God and allow God to lead us, we will want to continue to honor God even after we say amen.

Jesus began his model prayer with "Our Father." The word Jesus used for "father" could just as easily be translated "daddy" or "dearest father." Jesus wants us to have an intimate relationship with the Father. When ► **WE PRAY TO GOD**, we can approach him as our Father—like a trusting child comes to his or her daddy for every need and believes that he knows best.

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 to apply what we've learned this week when ► WE PRAY TO GOD.**

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:

- **This week when you pray, instead of asking God what he can do for you, ask God to guide you in helping others. Then look for ways to actively be the hands and feet of Jesus to someone this week.**
- **If you haven't already, memorize the main themes of Matthew 6:9-13 and use this passage as the model for your prayers.**





- Thank God for your daily bread this week, and then share some with someone else! Is there a family in your neighborhood who would really appreciate a word of encouragement or friendship? Write a card with a meaningful Scripture passage—maybe even the Lord's Prayer—and deliver that card this week. Be sure to tell your neighbors that you're praying for them!

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. Allow time.

Say: **Jesus gave us a perfect model for making our prayers meaningful and powerful. Let's see what we experience as ► WE PRAY TO GOD when following 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 prayer. 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 an open prayer for students to praise God first in their prayers and surrender their lives to God, so they'll be in a better place to encounter God's will.



What to Say

.....

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.”

Matthew 6:9; Revelation 4:8-11

Talk about God’s holiness and what you think of the vision in Revelation.

.....

“Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

Matthew 6:10; Romans 12:1-2

Talk about how you can know and follow God’s will.

.....

“Give us today our daily bread.”

Matthew 6:11; Matthew 6:25

Talk about what these verses mean about how God will provide for your needs.

.....

“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

Matthew 6:12; Acts 10:43

Talk about why God is willing to forgive you.

.....

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

Matthew 6:13; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Ephesians 6:16

Talk about who the evil one is and how you can resist temptation.

.....

OK
TO COPY

Spring Quarter

Study 1

Senior High



**Jesus Teaches His Disciples to Pray**—Matthew 6:5-13**► Bible Point**—We pray to God.**Key Verse**—“This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one’” (Matthew 6:9-13).

Daily Challenges

- This week when you pray, instead of asking God what he can do for you, ask God to guide you in helping others. Then look for ways to actively be the hands and feet of Jesus to someone this week.
- If you haven’t already, memorize the main themes of Matthew 6:9-13 and use this passage as the model for your prayers.
- Thank God for your daily bread this week, and then share some with someone else! Is there a family in your neighborhood who would really appreciate a word of encouragement or friendship? Write a card with a meaningful Scripture passage—maybe even the Lord’s Prayer—and deliver that card this week. Be sure to tell your neighbors that you’re praying for them!

**TAKING
IT HOME**

Faith Journal

How will you remember to keep the right priorities in your times of prayer this week?

Talk With Your Family

Read James 5:13-16 with your family, and discuss the following questions:

- Who do you know right now who is sick or in trouble? How can you pray for that person?
- When have you seen God answer prayer in an unexpected way?
- How can you worship God in prayer when you are hurting?
- If God doesn’t answer a prayer the way you want, how can you get on board with his will?

As a family, spend some time in prayer using Jesus’ model in Matthew 6:9-13. First, praise God. Then tell God you want his will to be done in your lives. Thank God for daily provisions. Ask God for forgiveness for any sins you may have committed, and ask God to help you flee from temptation and to keep the evil one at bay.

Quotables

“When our will wholeheartedly enters into the prayer of Christ, then we pray correctly.”
—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

**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 His Disciples to Pray (Matthew 6:5-13)	"This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one' " (Matthew 6:9-13).	We pray to God.
WEEK 2	Jesus Feeds Thousands (John 6:1-15)	"And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).	God meets our needs.
WEEK 3	Jesus Explains Eternal Life to Nicodemus (John 3:1-17)	"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).	Jesus gives us eternal life.
WEEK 4	Jesus Talks With the Samaritan Woman (John 4:5-42)	"He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life" (1 John 5:12).	Jesus loves everyone.
WEEK 5	Jesus Tells About the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)	"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32).	Jesus says to love others as ourselves.
WEEK 6	Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead (John 11:1-45)	"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies' " (John 11:25).	Jesus gives us hope.
* WEEK 7	Crowds Welcome Jesus to Jerusalem (Psalm 118:19-29; Matthew 21:1-11)	"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" (Revelation 5:12).	We praise Jesus.
* WEEK 8	Jesus Comes Back to Life (Matthew 27:27-56; 28:1-10)	"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).	Jesus is alive.
WEEK 9	Peter Explains Belief in Jesus (1 Peter 1:3-9)	"Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope" (Romans 5:3-4).	Have faith in Jesus.
WEEK 10	Jesus Returns to Heaven (Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:1-11)	"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).	Tell others about Jesus.
WEEK 11	Christians Care for One Another (Psalm 23; Acts 2:42-47)	"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24-25).	God's family takes care of each other.
WEEK 12	Stephen Forgives His Accusers as They Stone Him (Acts 6:8-7:60)	"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15).	We stand up for Jesus.
WEEK 13	Paul Teaches in Athens (Acts 17:16-31)	"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth" (Isaiah 40:28).	God created heaven and earth.

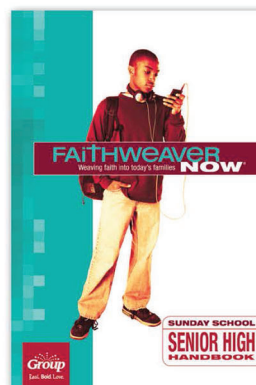
* Due to the way Easter falls, we recommend rearranging the lessons as needed so Lesson 7 lines up with Palm Sunday and Lesson 8 lines up with Easter.

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