

FAITHWEAVER

Weaving faith into today's families

NOW[®]

**SUMMER
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**SENIOR HIGH
LEADER GUIDE**

Group

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**SUMMER
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**SENIOR HIGH
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ONE-TIME ACTIVATION CODE:

Group
Real. Bold. Love.

Group resources really work!

This Group resource incorporates our R.E.A.L. approach to ministry. It reinforces a growing friendship with Jesus, encourages long-term learning, and results in life transformation, because it's



Relational

Learner-to-learner interaction enhances learning and builds Christian friendships.

Experiential

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

Applicable

The aim of Christian education is to equip learners to be both hearers and doers of God's Word.

Learner-based

Learners understand and retain more when the learning process takes into consideration how they learn best.

Group

group.com/sunday-school

FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Senior High, Summer

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Credits

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ISBN 978-1-4707-6323-7

Printed in the United States of America.



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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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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 passage in age-appropriate ways.
- Kids don't just hear the Word. They experience it.
- Simple and easy lessons fit even the busiest lives.
- Kids see God in their everyday world.
- The Scope & Sequence goes through the Bible every three years.
- You can customize it however you like, with both print and digital versions.

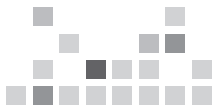


Create a vibrant family ministry that's new...that's wow...that's NOW. FaithWeaver NOW gives you a fresh strategy for being more successful than ever in bringing families closer to Jesus.

Thom Schultz Joani Schultz

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





God Tests Abraham

Genesis 22:1-18

Your students have just waded through the age where they're told to obey. At this developmental stage, teenagers are learning how to obey on their own, without being told. As you teach this study, remember that you're playing a key role in teenagers' cognitive development in this area. Help them see the value of obedience.



► **Bible Point**
Obey God.

Key Verse
"So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. Walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess" (Deuteronomy 5:32-33).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Students will commit to obedience.

STUDY	WHAT STUDENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Faith Connection	Obedience Objectives <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Try to complete tasks of varying degrees of difficulty.		
	Media Connection (Option) <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Watch a scene from <i>Big Fish</i> , and talk about the risks and rewards of obedience.	video player, movie <i>Big Fish</i>	Cue <i>Big Fish</i> to 00:27:38, when Ed's voice-over says, "There were two roads out of Ashton."
2 Bible Exploration	Awesome Obedience <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Consider the importance of obedience in action.	Bibles	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



STUDY	WHAT STUDENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Straight Path <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Discuss the blessings we receive when we're obedient and how to support others in their obedience to God.	Bibles, index cards, markers, masking tape, 2 or 3 beach balls or paper wads	
	Making It Happen <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Commit to obeying God.	Senior High Handbooks or 1 copy per student of the "I Will Obey" handout (at the end of this study), 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), pens	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

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



1

FAITH
CONNECTION

Obedience Objectives

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome students to the group. Say: **Today we're going to be talking about obedience, so let's start by seeing how well you obey my commands. For some of them, you may have to close your eyes.**

Give the following commands, and allow time for students who are able to obey to do so. Many of these commands will be impossible for most students.

- **If you're wearing red, close your eyes for this command: High five someone.**
- **Sit on the floor with your back against someone else's.**
- **If you're wearing something in your hair, close your eyes for this command: Stand up without letting your back separate from your partner's.**
- **High five everyone in this group within five seconds.**
- **Flip your eyelids inside out.**
- **Say the alphabet backward in under 20 seconds.**
- **Roll your tongue.**
- **Hum a middle C.**
- **If you're wearing socks, close your eyes for this command: Touch the ceiling.**
- **Wiggle your ears without touching them.**
- **If you have words on your clothes, close your eyes for this command: Lick your elbow.**
- **Touch your thumb to the wrist of the same hand.**
- **Touch your nose with your tongue.**

Talk With Students ■■■■

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

Ask:

- **How much effort did you put into obeying every command? Were you successful? Explain.**
- **When in your life have you tried to complete something but were unable to?**
- **How was this activity like life?**
- **How was it like obeying God?**

Say: **Sometimes it seems like God asks us to do the impossible. But today we'll look at a man who obeyed God even though it seemed to have a cost that was impossible to pay. We're going to talk about what it looks like for us to ► OBEY GOD. God calls us to a radical obedience to him and his laws, an obedience that goes way beyond what the world can imagine.**



Media Connection (Option)

Tip In general, federal copyright laws do not allow you to use videos or DVDs (even ones you own) for any purpose other than home viewing. Your church can obtain a license from Christian Video Licensing International for a small fee. Just visit cvli.com or call 1-888-771-2854 for more information. Many movie clips are available at youtube.com. This clip is also available at youtube.com under the title “Two Roads.”

What You’ll Do

Instead of doing the “Obedience Objectives” activity, show students a clip from the movie *Big Fish* that helps them think about decisions and the risks and rewards of choosing to obey. Begin the clip at 00:27:38, when Ed’s voice-over says, “There were two roads out of Ashton.” In this clip, Ed decides to take a rarely used, scary path instead of taking the easy road. End the clip at 00:30:37, when Ed walks into a sunny neighborhood.

Talk With Students

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

Ask:

- How was Ed’s choice like or unlike choosing the path of obedience?
- What risks are there to obeying?
- What are the rewards?

Say: **Sometimes obeying God definitely looks like taking the hard road. But today we’ll look at a man who obeyed God even though it seemed to have a cost that was impossible to pay—and he was rewarded for it. We’re going to talk about what it looks like for us to ► OBEY GOD. God calls us to a radical obedience to him and his laws, an obedience that goes way beyond what the world can imagine.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Awesome Obedience

What You’ll Do

Have students form groups of four. Distribute Bibles as needed, and have everyone open to Genesis 22:1-18. Say: **As we read today’s passage, we’re going to take turns sharing stories about our experiences with obedience. But since obedience is all about action, you won’t just tell your story. Someone from your group will act out every verb you use as you tell about your experience.**



Media Connection Supplies

video player
movie *Big Fish*

Media Connection Easy Prep

Cue *Big Fish* to 00:27:38, when Ed’s voice-over says, “There were two roads out of Ashton.”

Awesome Obedience Supplies

Bibles



To begin, read **Genesis 22:1-2** with your group. Allow time, and then say: **One person in each group, share a story about a time you knew God wanted you to do something. Include how you responded to God’s call. As you share, the person to your right will act out all your verbs.** Allow time.

Have groups read **Genesis 22:3-6**. Say: **Another person in each group, share about a time you sacrificed something in order to obey. As you share, the person to your right will act out all the verbs.** Allow time.

Have groups read **Genesis 22:7-14**. Say: **Another person in each group, share about a time you felt a lot of trust in God as you obeyed. As you share, the person to your right will act out all the verbs.** Allow time.

Have groups read **Genesis 22:15-18**. Say: **The last person in each group will now share about a time you obeyed and received a reward for it. As you share, the person to your right will act out all the verbs.** Allow time.

Talk With Students ■■■■

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

Ask:

- Why is it important to *do* the right thing—not just talk about it?
- What can you learn from Abraham about how to actively obey?
- In what ways does obedience require trust in God?

Say: **Obedience usually involves risks and sacrifice. A lot of the time, obeying God costs us something that we want. For Abraham, it meant being willing to sacrifice the most precious thing in his life—his own son. But he was willing to ► OBEY GOD no matter what the cost. Let’s see how we can have that commitment.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Straight Path

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Have everyone open to the Key Verse, **Deuteronomy 5:32-33**. Say: **Today’s Key Verse talks about whom we are supposed to obey. Deuteronomy 5:32-33 says, “So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. Walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess.”**

God expects us to do what he asks. It’s easy to want to do only so much of what God commands and then quit. But that’s not obedience. God wants us to completely follow him.

Straight Path Supplies

Bibles
index cards
markers
masking tape
2 or 3 beach balls or
paper wads





Have students form groups of three. Give each trio an index card and markers. Have groups brainstorm about the blessings that come from obeying God and write those ideas on their index cards. For example, students might write ideas such as “adventure,” “deeper trust,” or “a stronger walk with God.” As students are brainstorming, stick a long strip of masking tape to the floor of the room.

When groups have finished, have them take turns reading their cards aloud and then place the cards faceup on the tape an equal distance from other cards. Give two or three students a large beach ball or a paper wad each, and have those students stand on either side of the line, about 3 feet from it. Have everyone else stand at one end of the line.

Say: **Let’s see how well you walk this line when distractions come your way.**

Have students begin walking down the line. The students with the balls or paper wads will try to force the others to step off the line by throwing the beach balls at them. As students step off the line, have them go back to the beginning and try again. Congratulate students who are able to walk the entire distance without stepping off the line. Get into the game yourself and your students will find it especially entertaining—they’ll probably get more into it themselves.

Allow time at the end for those who were throwing the balls to have a turn trying to walk the line while new students take the throwing role.

Talk With Students

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

Ask:

- **How is this activity like trying to obey God?**
- **What might the beach balls (or paper wads) represent? Be specific.**
- **What types of things tempt you to disobey God?**
- **What might you gain by “staying on the line”?**

Say: **Now let’s try another approach.**

Have students form groups of three and gather at one end of the tape. Signal the students with the beach balls to get ready. Instruct trios to walk down the line together, each student with his or her hands on the shoulders of the person in front. Give students the signal to begin. As groups begin to walk, signal the beach ball throwers to begin bombarding the trios. Let all trios walk the line; then discuss.

Ask:

- **How was this experience different from the one before?**
- **What does this experience teach you about others’ support?**
- **When have you needed a friend to help support your obedience?**
- **What types of people can you surround yourself with as you attempt to obey God?**





Making It Happen Supplies

Senior High Handbooks
or 1 copy per student
of the “I Will Obey”
handout (at the end of
this study)
pens

Say: **Obedience isn’t easy. Abraham did it without support from friends, but think how much easier it would’ve been if he’d had friends to encourage him. As we seek to ► OBEY GOD, we can help and encourage one another. Let’s commit right now to how we’ll ► OBEY GOD.**

Making It Happen

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Give everyone a pen and a copy of the “I Will Obey” handout, or have students turn to page 14 in their handbooks. Say: **Previously in Genesis, God had made a covenant with Abraham to give him a son. It was kind of like a modern-day contract. Now, God had fulfilled his contract but was asking Abraham to give his son back! Let’s make contracts with God that we’ll obey. Complete the sentence starters on your handout, and sign it as a commitment to follow God.**

When teens have finished, have them form pairs and share the highlights of their contracts.

Talk With Students ■■■■

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

Ask:

- What do you think will be the hardest part of keeping your contract?
- Why did you include the promises you did in your contract?

Say: **Maybe Abraham had his covenant with God in mind as he hiked along with Isaac. Maybe he remembered that God had promised him many descendants—and since Isaac hadn’t had grandkids for Abraham yet, God couldn’t possibly take Isaac away. We know that God is faithful. The question is, are we faithful to ► OBEY GOD? Let’s be faithful by following through on the promises we made in our contracts.**

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 what it takes to ► OBEY GOD. Let’s discuss how we’ll fulfill our commitments to obey this week.**

Daily Challenges Supplies

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

Summer Quarter

Study 1 ■ Senior High



Direct students to find this week's Daily Challenges section in their Senior High Handbooks or on their "Taking It Home" handouts. They'll fill it in with at least one line from their obedience contract.

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: **Abraham's son was the most important thing in his life—except God. And that meant he would ► OBEY GOD no matter what the cost. Let's commit to obedience 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 obedience. Students can also do the "Talk With Your Family" activity in their handbooks or on their "Taking It Home" pages with their families.

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

Close in prayer, having students silently talk to God about the things they wrote in their contracts.



I Will Obey

- I want to obey God because

- Some of the things that are competing with my relationship with God are

- Some of the things I'm willing to sacrifice to obey God are

- I commit to obeying God in these ways

- These are the names of three friends I will ask to support me in my walk with God:

Signed,

! **OK**
■ TO COPY

Summer Quarter

Study 1



Senior High

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	God Tests Abraham (Genesis 22:1-18)	"So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. Walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess" (Deuteronomy 5:32-33).	Obey God.
WEEK 2	Isaac Marries Rebekah (Genesis 24)	"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).	Pray for God's direction.
WEEK 3	Jacob Deceives Esau and Isaac (Genesis 25:27-34; 27:1-40)	"The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful" (Proverbs 12:22).	Honesty is important to God.
WEEK 4	Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel (Genesis 29:15-30)	"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).	God uses hard times to help us grow.
WEEK 5	Joseph Dreams Disturbing Dreams (Genesis 37:1-11)	"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34).	Show Jesus' love in our families.
WEEK 6	Joseph's Brothers Sell Him Into Slavery (Genesis 37:12-36)	"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth" (1 John 3:18).	God wants us to do what's right.
WEEK 7	Pharaoh Puts Joseph in Charge (Genesis 39:20-41:49)	"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23).	We can serve God anywhere.
WEEK 8	Joseph Forgives His Brothers (Genesis 42-45)	"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13).	God wants us to forgive.
WEEK 9	God Protects Moses (Exodus 1:1-2:10)	"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).	God protects us.
WEEK 10	Moses Meets God at the Burning Bush (Exodus 2:11-3:20)	"I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13).	God can use us.
WEEK 11	The Israelites Receive Cruel Treatment (Exodus 5:1-6:1)	"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:31).	God wants us to hope in him.
WEEK 12	God Sends Plagues on Egypt (Exodus 7:8-10:29)	"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).	God uses his power to help us.
WEEK 13	The Israelites Escape From Egypt (Exodus 11:1-12:36)	"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36).	Jesus sets us free.

PLUS...

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

- **FREE digital copies of Leader Guides** in Word and PDF format so you can easily customize any lesson to 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.

