

# FAITHWEAVER

Weaving faith into today's families **NOW**<sup>®</sup>

**SUMMER  
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**SENIOR HIGH  
LEADER GUIDE**

**Group**

# FAITHWEAVER

Weaving faith into today's families **NOW**<sup>®</sup>

**SUMMER  
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**SENIOR HIGH  
LEADER GUIDE**



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### FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Senior High, Summer

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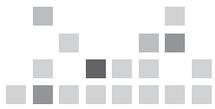
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# The future of Sunday school + family ministry is NOW.



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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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

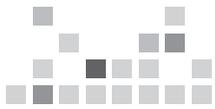


Create a vibrant family ministry that's new...that's wow...that's NOW. FaithWeaver NOW gives you a fresh strategy for being more successful than ever in bringing families closer to Jesus.

*Thom Schultz Joani Schultz*

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





# Elisha Helps a Widow and Her Sons

2 Kings 4:1-7

Without even realizing it, teenagers seek heroes. They want to be exposed to people they can respect and emulate, but some teenagers haven't developed the discernment to choose healthy influences. One doesn't have to be a movie star or a pop diva to qualify as a superhero in the eyes of teenagers—many of whom are hurting, scared, and uncertain. Use this study to help your students understand how they themselves can be heroes to the many needy people around them.



**► Bible Point**  
God cares for needy people.

STUDY	WHAT STUDENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Faith Connection	<b>I Got What You Need</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Exchange cards to fill needs.	index cards, markers	
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Needs &amp; Miracles</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Write a story about people in need, adding to it as they discover what happened in the Bible passage.	Bibles, paper, pens	
	<b>Media Connection (Option)</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Watch a scene depicting a man in need, and compare it with what happened in the Bible passage.	Bibles, video player, movie <i>Cinderella Man</i>	Cue the movie <i>Cinderella Man</i> to 00:41:17, when Jim says to a group of men, "The thing is, I can't afford to...uh...I can't afford to pay the heat."

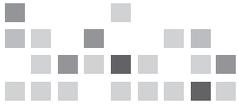
**Key Verse**  
"He [God] defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing" (Deuteronomy 10:18).

**Weaving Faith Into Life**  
Students will extend God's love and care to needy people.



STUDY	WHAT STUDENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>To the Rescue!</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> List their own personal needs and discuss how different superheroes could help them, and then turn to God with those needs.	paper, pens	
	<b>Fill the Jars</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Brainstorm ways they can help needy people, and commit to doing one.	Bibles, 5 large jars or bowls, paper, pens	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Commit to helping people in need in a specific way.	Senior High Handbooks or 1 copy per student of the "Taking It Home" handout (at the end of this study), pens	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		





## I Got What You Need Supplies

index cards  
markers

# 1 FAITH CONNECTION

## I Got What You Need

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome students to the group. Form groups of six, and then give each person six index cards and a marker. Say: **Have each person in your group pick one of the following needs: food, water, shelter, clothing, love, or air. Make sure everyone has a different need. Then decorate all six of your cards based on your word. Write the word, and then add a picture that represents it. You'll draw the same picture six times.** Allow time.

Say: **Now shuffle all 36 of your group's cards together and deal out six per person. Without talking, you'll need to trade cards with others one at a time, with the goal of getting one of each item. After all, you need all of those things to live! You can't show each other the cards before you trade them—just trade cards until you have one of each item.** Allow time for groups to play.

### Talk With Students ■■■■

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

Ask:

- What was it like playing this game without being able to say what you needed?
- Why did you need to help each other accomplish the goal?
- Why are people sometimes afraid to ask for help when there's something they need?

Say: **Our game would've been easier if you could've just asked your group for what you needed or shown them what you had to give away. But sometimes when people are in need, they don't ask for help. That's why we need to be on the lookout for people in need and consider whether we have extras of things that could help them. Today we'll look at a woman who was running out of all her basic necessities—and see how ► GOD CARES FOR NEEDY PEOPLE. And we'll see how he can use us to care for needy people, too.**



## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Needs & Miracles

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have students open their Bibles to 2 Kings 4:1-7. Form pairs, and distribute paper and pens.

Say: **Just as there were in Bible times, there are people with pretty severe needs today. As you read about a biblical example of someone in need, you'll be writing a parallel story that could happen today, one section at a time.** To start out, invite someone to read 2 Kings 4:1. Then have pairs write the beginning of their story by describing a person who is in such severe need they've got next to nothing.

Invite someone to read 2 Kings 4:2, and have students introduce a character who wants to help their needy person.

Invite someone to read 2 Kings 4:3-4, and have students continue their story by having the helping character suggest an unusual solution.

Invite someone to read 2 Kings 4:5-6, and have students continue their story by writing in a miraculous solution.

Invite someone to read 2 Kings 4:7, and have students write a happy ending to their story.

If time allows, have a few pairs read their stories.

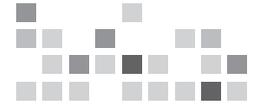
### Talk With Students ■■■■

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

Ask:

- **Talk about someone you've encountered in extreme need, like this widow.**
- **What were some roles you noticed people taking on in the way the widow was helped? How have you played one of those roles in the life of a needy person?**
- **If you had to pick percentages, what percent of the work to meet the widow's needs was God's, and what percent was done by people? Explain.**

Say: **The widow's situation was extremely severe. She was nearly out of food, in major debt, and about to lose her two sons. She'd already lost her husband! It might've seemed like her needs were too big to be met. But no needs are too big for God! And this Bible passage is a great illustration of how he wants to use people to show that ► GOD CARES FOR NEEDY PEOPLE. He let Elisha and the widow's neighbors be a part of the miraculous solution to the widow's problems. And we can be a part of God's plan to care for the needy, too.**



### Needs & Miracles Supplies

Bibles  
paper  
pens



### Media Connection Supplies

Bibles  
video player  
movie *Cinderella Man*

### Media Connection Easy Prep

Cue the movie  
*Cinderella Man* to  
00:41:17, when Jim  
says to a group of men,  
“The thing is, I can’t  
afford to...uh...I can’t  
afford to pay the heat.”

## 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](http://cvli.com) or call 1-888-771-2854 for more information.

Many clips are available at [youtube.com](http://youtube.com). This clip is available at [wingclips.com](http://wingclips.com) under the title “Asking for Money.”

### What You’ll Do

Instead of the “Needs & Miracles” activity, watch a clip from the movie *Cinderella Man*.

First, have students form pairs and read 2 Kings 4:1-7.

Say: **We’re going to watch a clip from a movie set in the 1930s. As you watch, look for similarities and differences between the Bible passage and what happens here.** Begin the clip at 00:41:17, when Jim says to a group of men, “The thing is, I can’t afford to...uh...I can’t afford to pay my heat.” In this clip, a man humbly asks for help from others when he reaches the end of his rope and can’t pay his bills. The men step up to help him by donating money. Stop the clip at 00:44:53, after Jim’s kids come home and jump on the bed, and Jim sits down.

Have students share their observations about similarities and differences between the clip and the Bible passage.

### Talk With Students

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

Ask:

- **Talk about someone you’ve encountered in extreme need, like the widow in our Bible passage or like Jim in our movie.**
- **In what ways do you see needs like these often showing up nowadays?**
- **What were some roles you noticed others taking on in the way the widow or Jim got help? How have you played one of those roles in the life of a needy person?**
- **If you had to pick percentages, what percent of the work to meet the widow’s needs was God’s, and what percent was done by people? Explain.**

Say: **The widow’s situation was extremely severe. She was nearly out of food, in major debt, and about to lose her two sons. She’d already lost her husband! It might’ve seemed like her needs were too big to be met. But no needs are too big for God! And this Bible passage is a great illustration of how he wants to use people to show that ► GOD CARES FOR NEEDY PEOPLE. He let Elisha and the widow’s neighbors be a part of the miraculous solution to the widow’s problems. And we can be a part of God’s plan to care for the needy, too, just like the men in the movie clip.**



### 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

## To the Rescue!

### What You'll Do

Have students form trios. Hand out paper and pens. Say: **Work individually to list a few needs you personally have experienced or are experiencing right now. These should be things you don't mind sharing with the others in your group. Don't just think about physical needs—maybe you need help improving your grades or healing a friendship.** Allow time.

Say: **Now take turns reading an item off your list. For each one, discuss what Superman could do to meet that need, what Batman could do, and what Spiderman could do. Finally, discuss what God could do to meet the need and pray for him to do so. Then continue on to the next need.** Allow time.

### Talk With Students

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

Ask:

- **What were some of the solutions you thought the superheroes could offer?**
- **Explain whether God's solutions seemed better, the same, or worse than superhero solutions.**
- **Why don't God's answers to our needs always seem as glamorous as overflowing jars of oil or Superman's heroic rescues?**

Say: **When God multiplied the widow's oil so that it filled more jars than she could even borrow, it was a pretty awesome superhero move. There was no doubt God was at work there, because what happened was superhuman. But sometimes, the ways God meets our needs don't seem so miraculous. We can even question whether God was the one who helped us! When you face those times, remember the widow. Remember what her situation shows about how ► GOD CARES FOR NEEDY PEOPLE. He has the same care and concern for you, and he will always be there for you in your times of need.**

## Fill the Jars

### What You'll Do

Set out the five jars or bowls. Say: **These jars are going to represent five big needs people face in our community. To get us thinking about what some of those needs might be, let's read our Key Verse.** Invite someone to read Deuteronomy 10:18: "He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing."

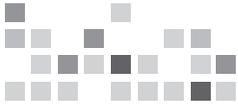


### To the Rescue! Supplies

paper  
pens

### Fill the Jars Supplies

Bibles  
5 large jars or bowls  
paper  
pens



Then ask students to think of five groups of needy people in your community. They may be inspired by the verse and think about kids in foster care, single moms, immigrants who need educational help, or people who are going hungry. Other examples could include shut-ins, people with chronic illness, victims of crime or abuse, homeless people, or elderly people who need assistance with home care. Let students share a lot of ideas and then narrow it down to the top five. Write each of the top five on a separate piece of paper, and put each paper in front of a jar.

**Say: Now it's time to fill these jars! Brainstorm ways high school students can help people in these groups. Be creative, think about your own experiences helping people, and think outside the box! When you think of an idea, write it on a piece of paper, crumple it up, and put it in the corresponding jar (or bowl). You'll have five minutes to work together to try to fill all the jars. If one fills up and you want to add more ideas, it's okay to overflow the jars!**

After four minutes, give a one-minute warning and encourage students to keep thinking and filling those jars! After one more minute, have students stop brainstorming, pick a jar that interests them most, and go stand by that jar.

**Say: The others standing by your jar will be your group now. With your group, empty out your jars and read the ideas. Discuss how those things could be helpful to the people in your category. Then you'll each pick one of the ideas that you could do this week. If you don't want to do any of the ideas in your jar, think of your own new idea.** Allow five more minutes.

### Talk With Students ■■■■

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

Ask:

- **What was it like to think so specifically about the kinds of help these people need?**
- **What were some of the most interesting ideas you read?**
- **Why do you think God uses people like us to help those in need?**

**Say: ► GOD CARES FOR NEEDY PEOPLE like the widow in the Bible. But often, he does this by giving us a heart for needy people. You picked a group that interested you the most. Pay attention to that. There are a lot of needs in the world, and individually you can't take care of them all. But God may be calling you to help one specific group of people so that together, we can show his care to people who have a variety of needs.**



## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do

Have students get out their handbooks, or distribute “Taking It Home” handouts to all students. Say: **Let’s think about how to apply what we’ve learned this week and show the world how ► GOD CARES FOR NEEDY PEOPLE.**

Direct students to find this week’s Daily Challenges in their Senior High Handbooks or on their “Taking It Home” handouts and write their commitments from the “Fill the Jars” activity.

#### Talk With Students

Have students find a partner who wasn’t in their group from the “Fill the Jars” activity and discuss the following question.

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: **God used Elisha to help a widow who was in desperate need. Let’s see how God uses us to help the needy this week as we follow through with our Daily Challenges. Remember, ► GOD CARES FOR NEEDY PEOPLE.**

### Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage students to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about God’s care for the needy. 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](http://group.com/digital).

Close with a prayer that God would fill the needs that feel like empty jars in your students’ lives, and overflow those jars so that they can help others in need.



#### Daily Challenges Supplies

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

**Elisha Helps a Widow and Her Sons**—2 Kings 4:1-7

► **Bible Point**—God cares for needy people.

**Key Verse**—“He [God] defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing” (Deuteronomy 10:18).

TAKING  
IT HOME



## Daily Challenge

This week, I will help people facing this need \_\_\_\_\_ by

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Quotables

.....

*“We can at last turn to Him saying, ‘You know the needs of the world better than I do. You know where best you can relieve and meet them through me. Here I am, use me.’ Whereupon, trusting Him, we find our prayer does achieve, does meet the world’s need.”*  
—A. Graham Ikin, *Life, Faith and Prayer*

## Faith Journal

**What needs—physical, emotional, social, or some other type—do you want God to help you with?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Talk With Your Family

With your family, read John 6:1-13, and then discuss these questions:

- **What are the most obvious needs in this passage? less obvious?**
- **What can you tell about God from Jesus’ attitude toward these people?**
- **What’s significant to you about the source of the food—the little boy?**
- **The boy gave all the food he had, but was still able to eat lunch. When have you given to someone in need and felt more blessed as a result?**
- **What does this passage show about what God can do with our acts of service?**
- **What can you offer to God that will help meet the needs of those around you?**

Pray together about activities you’re already involved in that offer help to others, such as volunteering, charitable donations you give regularly, or people in your life that seek you for personal counsel. Ask that God would multiply your efforts to show his care for people in need.

**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:*

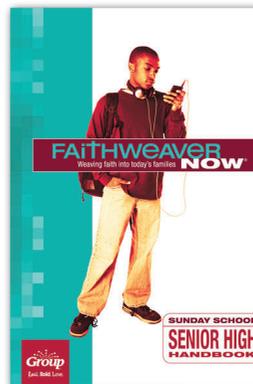
	BIBLE CONTENT/SCRIPTURE	KEY VERSE	BIBLE POINT
WEEK 1	Elisha Helps a Widow and Her Sons (2 Kings 4:1-7)	"He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing" (Deuteronomy 10:18).	God cares for needy people.
WEEK 2	God Heals Naaman's Leprosy (2 Kings 5:1-16)	"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time" (1 Peter 5:6).	God wants us to be humble.
WEEK 3	Jonah Learns a Lesson (Jonah 1-3)	"The ways of the Lord are right; the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them" (Hosea 14:9).	Following God is always the right choice.
WEEK 4	Jonah Complains About God's Compassion (Jonah 3:10-4:11)	"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).	God wants us to love everyone.
WEEK 5	God Calls Isaiah (Isaiah 6:1-8)	"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker" (Psalm 95:6).	God is holy.
WEEK 6	Josiah Promises to Follow the Lord (2 Chronicles 34)	"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).	God's Word changes our lives.
WEEK 7	Daniel's Friends Are Safe in the Fiery Furnace (Daniel 3)	"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong" (1 Corinthians 16:13).	Stand strong for God.
WEEK 8	God Protects Daniel in the Lions' Den (Daniel 6:1-23)	"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).	God protects us.
WEEK 9	God Promises to Restore Israel After the Exile (Jeremiah 29:4-14)	"'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'" (Jeremiah 29:11).	We seek God no matter what happens.
WEEK 10	Nehemiah Seeks God's Forgiveness for Israel (Nehemiah 1:1-2:9)	"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).	We seek God's forgiveness.
WEEK 11	Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall (Nehemiah 2:11-6:19)	"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23).	God helps us face challenges.
WEEK 12	Esther Saves Her People (Esther 2-9)	"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10).	Everyone can serve God.
WEEK 13	Job Remains Faithful in Suffering (Job 1:1-2:10; 42:1-6, 10-17)	"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 brings us hope when we're hurting.

### PLUS...

Access all these **FREE FaithWeaver NOW digital resources** at [group.com/digital](http://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.**

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