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

SAMPLE LESSON

Create a foundation of faith
that lasts a lifetime.

AGE LEVEL:
Middle School

- ✓ OVERVIEW OF FAITHWEAVER NOW
- ✓ HOW FAITHWEAVER NOW WORKS
- ✓ SAMPLE LESSON
- ✓ HOW TO GET STARTED

HOPE NOW

FaithWeaver NOW weaves 3 fundamental ministry elements together to create a lasting impact for kids, families, and your church:

- ▶ Explore the entire Bible every 3 years
- ▶ Engage kids through proven, Jesus-style teaching methods
- ▶ Empower family conversation by synchronizing all age levels

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

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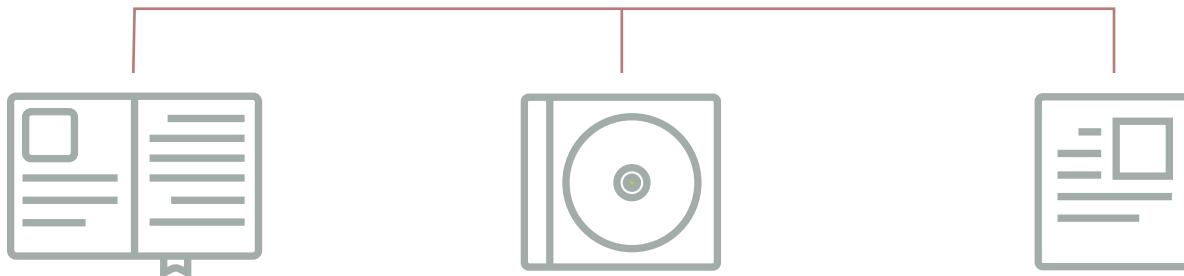
Tested and approved by thousands of churches and families

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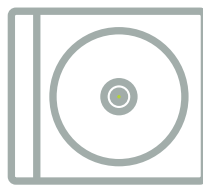
Teacher Packs

Age-appropriate Teacher Packs include:



Teacher Guide

Age-level insights and Bible backgrounds help leaders make a clear Jesus connection for kids.



Audio CD

Fun music, cool sound effects, dramatic Bible skits, and more!



FamilyConnect®

Take-home pages give parents an easy discussion starter.

Plus:



Student Books

Colorful student books for Infants-Middle School and handbooks for Sr. High-Adult include engaging take-home activities each week.



Digital Copies

PDFs of Director Manual, Teacher Guides, and FamilyConnect® with customizable Teacher Guide. Quick electronic access to lesson content for teachers and substitutes.



Teacher Guides include access to EDITABLE MS WORD Files



FAITHWEAVER NOW

Study 1 5

David Becomes King

2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37

Middle schoolers/junior highers may become more cynical about relying on others as they test their own independence. Use this study as an opportunity to help them understand that dependence on God is a strength that will take them far beyond what they are otherwise capable of.

STUDY	WHAT STUDENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Faith Connection	The Dream <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Predict their future success stories.	Bible Trek, old photos of students and/or families (optional), old yearbooks (optional), pens or pencils	Tear out the Study 1 pages from each Bible Trek student book.
	Option: Media Connection <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Watch a movie clip.	video player, movie <i>Cars</i>	Cue <i>Cars</i> to 1:16:00, the scene where Doc Hudson races in the dirt and then talks with Lightning McQueen.



► **Bible Point**
We can rely on God.

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

Weaving Faith Into Life
Students will trust God to protect and provide for them.

ONE-POINT LEARNING!
Using repetition, kids really learn the one God-focused Bible Point each week!

REAL-LIFE APPLICATION
in every lesson!



Middle School/Junior High Study 1 Fall Quarter



6

FAITHWEAVER
NOW

EASY PREP

5-10 minutes of prep
a week—sometimes
less!



THIS CHART
makes organizing
the lesson and
supplies easy!

STUDY	WHAT STUDENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
2 Bible Exploration	Choose Your Own Adventure <i>(about 25 min.)</i>		
	Adventure 1: King Campaign Design a campaign for David.	Bibles, poster board, markers, paper, pens, tape, index cards, Bible Trek	Set all the supplies on a table with chairs.
	Adventure 2: Icons Write songs for King David's coronation to perform for classmates.	Bibles, paper, pens, Bible Trek	Set the supplies out.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Take a Stand <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Use ice to discover why God is more reliable than anything.	Bible, ice, blow-dryer, pawns from a board game (1 per student)	Keep the ice somewhere it will stay frozen until this part of the study.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Trek	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	Bible Trek	Tear out the letter to parents from each Bible Trek student book.

Fall Quarter

Study 1

Middle School/Junior High





David Becomes King

2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37

BIBLE BACKGROUND FOR LEADERS

David Mourns King Saul

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

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

Uniting the Kingdom

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

David Leads Israel

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

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

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

The Jesus Connection

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

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

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

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

BIBLE BACKGROUNDS

give teachers a deeper understanding of the Scripture for their own spiritual growth!

JESUS CONNECTION

and life application of the lesson—to help teachers reflect and pray!



EASY-TO-READ LAYOUT
makes leading lessons simple!

SUPPLIES
the supply list is included with each activity for easy reference.



1 FAITH CONNECTION

The Dream

The Dream Supplies

- Bible Trek
- old photos of students and/or families (optional)
- old yearbooks (optional)
- pens or pencils

The Dream Easy Prep

Tear out the Study 1 pages from each Bible Trek student book.

Media Connection Supplies

- video player
- movie *Cars*

Media Connection Easy Prep

Cue *Cars* to 1:16:00, the scene where Doc Hudson races in the dirt and then talks with Lightning McQueen.

What You'll Do

Start by getting students thinking about their futures. You may choose to provide (or have students bring in) old photos of students and their families. Or you may have some of your own old yearbooks on hand to help generate discussion. As students laugh at goofy pictures, share thoughts about old classmates who may have been voted things such as “most likely to succeed,” “most likely to become a rock star,” or “most likely to collect belly lint.” Ask students to consider what things might await them 20 years down the road.

Give them a few minutes to brainstorm their own personal, zany “success” stories. Encourage even the wildest and unlikeliest ideas! Provide each student an opportunity to share his or her story with others. If you have a small group, you may have each student share with everyone; if you have a large group, you may have students form smaller groups and share their stories there. Then have students write answers to the questions on the “David Becomes King” section of their Bible Trek papers.

Talk With Students

Say: **It's hard to imagine exactly how our lives will go, but today we'll look at some important keys in making sure they're headed in the right direction.**

Ask:

- **How would you define success?**
- **What are society's formulas for success? How do you recognize this?**
- **What role do you think God plays in our successes?**

Say: **Let's take a look at someone who was successful by any standards—he was a king. We'll learn his secret for a life of accomplishment and favor, and we'll talk about why ► WE CAN RELY ON GOD.**

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. The second part of this clip makes the point and is available at screenvue.com as *Cars* clip #5.

Fall Quarter

Study 1

Middle School/Junior High





What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Instead of using "The Dream" activity, show a brief clip from the movie *Cars*. Start the movie at 01:16:00, when Lightning McQueen sees Doc Hudson on the dirt racetrack. In this scene, students will see that success is fleeting and unreliable. You'll end the clip at 1:19:54 as Doc Hudson leaves Lightning in his garage.

Talk With Students ■■■■

Ask:

- What did this clip teach you about success?
- What are society's formulas for success?
- Based on this clip, why are those formulas unreliable?
- What role do you think God plays in our successes?

Say: Lightning McQueen was obsessed with success. He wanted to get back to the track and win as many races as possible. But Doc Hudson had learned that success only gets you so far. In the end, you can't count on people who only care about success. But you can rely on people who care about others. And no one cares about others as much as God! That's why ► **WE CAN RELY ON GOD.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Choose Your Own Adventure

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: In our adventures today, we have two activities you can choose from. Adventure 1 uses campaign-creating, and Adventure 2 uses songwriting. The directions are on your Bible Trek papers. Look them over and decide which activity you want to do. You can work with the others who choose the same activity. Allow time for students to decide which adventure they want to do. You can see the summaries of the adventures below.

ADVENTURE 1—CAMPAIGN-CREATING: KING CAMPAIGN
In this adventure, students will create a campaign to highlight King David's kingly qualities. They will then discuss what qualities God values most.

ADVENTURE 2—SONGWRITING: ICONS
In this adventure, students will write songs for King David's coronation. They'll go on to discuss popular competitions on television that choose a winner based on various criteria and talk about the criteria God considers.



GET STUDENTS THINKING
Rich discussion questions help students make discoveries and own their faith.

Choose Your Own Adventure Supplies

Bibles
Bible Trek

Adventure 1:
poster board
markers
paper
pens
tape
index cards

Adventure 2:
paper
pens

Choose Your Own Adventure Easy Prep

Set the Adventure 1 supplies on a table with chairs. Set the Adventure 2 supplies elsewhere in your room.

LEARN BY DOING
Creative experiences take kids deeper into the Bible.

Middle School/Junior High Study 1 Fall Quarter

10 FAITHWEAVER NOW



Say: **After you finish your adventure, you'll present some of what you experienced, so keep that in mind. When everyone has finished, we'll talk about what we've learned. You have 15 minutes to complete your adventures.** Move between the stations, and offer assistance as needed. Let groups know when they have about five minutes left so they can wrap up their work.

After 15 minutes, have groups take turns presenting what they experienced.

Talk With Students ■■■■

Ask:

- How did David's approach to life show that he relied on God?
- Why would you say David was a good candidate for king?
- What did you learn about relying on God from David's experiences?

Say: **David's life wasn't free from trouble. He wasn't born into the kind of advantages that would pave the way for someone to become something special. He had his share of down times—when he was afraid for his life, when he felt really depressed, when people thought he was a nobody. In each of those times, he relied on God for protection, comfort, and worth. As a result, God provided for him and blessed him beyond what David could have imagined. David knew that the only thing he could count on was God. He knew ► WE CAN RELY ON GOD. Now, let's consider how we can follow David's example.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Take a Stand

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have students sit fairly close together, near the blow-dryer. Give each student an ice cube and a pawn. Have students each place their pawn on their ice cube.

Say: **The world is full of empty promises of what will bring success and well-being—things like wealth, fame, and popularity. As I turn on this blow-dryer, call out things people rely on that really won't last.** Use the blow-dryer to melt the ice as students share. Aim low to avoid blowing over the pawns.

Say: **There's only one thing we can always rely on: God. Set your pawn on the Bible. As I blow the blow-dryer, pray silently about ways you can rely on God this week.** Blow the blow-dryer on the Bible as students pray. Be careful not to blow the pawns off the Bible.

Take a Stand Supplies

-
- Bible
- ice
- blow-dryer
- pawns from a board game (1 per student)

Take a Stand Easy Prep

.....

Keep the ice somewhere it will stay frozen until this part of the study. Plug in the blow-dryer when you're ready to begin.

Fall Quarter

Study 1

Middle School/Junior High



LIFE APPLICATION
Engaging activities help students apply Bible truths to everyday life.





Talk With Students ■■■■

Ask:

- How was the ice like or unlike things in the world that people rely on?
- What makes God more reliable than those things?
- Have a student read aloud Psalm 46:1. What are some ways you've seen God protect and strengthen you?

Say: The only thing that's a lasting, true blessing is from God, found only when we rely on him completely. A close relationship with Jesus is the only thing out there that holds up forever. That's why ► **WE CAN RELY ON GOD.**



4 LASTING
IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: Let's think about how ► **WE CAN RELY ON GOD** more deeply every day!

Direct students to find this week's Daily Challenges in their Bible Trek papers and to choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- Find other verses in the Bible that remind you that God is always there for us and that we can always rely on him. Write them down and keep them where you can look at them when you need them.
- Think of more ways you can invite God into your everyday life. You could pray before every test, project, practice, or important event and ask God to help you through it.
- Have that conversation with the friend or family member that you know God's been wanting you to have, let God guide you with what to say, and then trust him with whatever happens.

Talk With Students ■■■■

Ask:

- What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Share a time, place, or other ideas.

Say: God alone can provide the true success, worth, protection, and blessings we are looking for. As we grow closer to him and rely on him alone, he makes our lives something very special. Let's rely on him by following through with our Daily Challenges this week.

Daily Challenges
Supplies

Bible Trek

DAILY CHALLENGES

Daily Challenge options give students a faith that weaves into their lives.





Weaving Faith at Home

Hand out the letter to parents from the Bible Trek student books, one to each student. Also encourage students to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about relying on God. Students can also do the activities on the “Bringing It Home” page of their Bible Trek papers with their families.

Talk to your Director about e-mailing the FREE FamilyConnect Express to all your church’s families! Available at group.com/familyconnect.

End the study with a prayer, asking God to bless your students’ lives in special ways and to help them rely on him.

WEAVING FAITH AT HOME

Each week, students are encouraged to talk to their parents about what they've learned.

Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

Bible Trek

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

Tear out the letter to parents from each Bible Trek student book.



Bible Trek

BIBLE TREK STUDY 1

BIBLE POINT: We can rely on God.

KEY VERSE: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."—Psalm 46:1

STUDENT BOOK

Learners use the Student Book during each study.

David Becomes King

2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37

Imagine the headlines: "Football-Lovers' Dream: Boy Single-handedly Defeats the Lions, the Bears, and the Giants!"... "King Saul Goes Berserk—Dr. Phil to the Rescue"... "Stars and Swipes—The Bid for King gets Uh-gly."

A no-name kid from the sticks had become a national celebrity, a beloved king with more power, fame, and riches than he could have imagined. Yet it wasn't his good looks that captured people's attention, or his privileged upbringing that caused them to take notice. It wasn't even perfect judgment or flawless instincts that made him a heroic role model. What was King David's secret to success? He sought God. No matter what situation David found himself in, he relied on God to see him through.

People around you—other students at your school, perhaps—may seem really ambitious. They may spend all their time and energy trying to be important and successful, but that road is a dead end. Instead, we should pour our energy into seeking God and relying on him alone.

• **What things do you hope to achieve in life? Why?**

• **How has God been worthy of your trust in the past?**

• **How can you rely on God to move your life in the right direction?**

"I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust' "
—Psalm 91:2.



Just for Fun

Come up with your own wacky definitions for these wild words, and then look them up in a dictionary and see how close you came!

- Higgledy-piggledy
- Ytterbium
- Flummox



Choose Your Own Adventure

ADVENTURE

1

King Campaign

Here's What You Need to Do...

1. TO START OFF...

Say hi to the other people in your group. Then with your group, follow the rest of the instructions for your adventure!

2. CHECK IT OUT.

Get your heads together and read 2 Samuel 5:1-5. Spend some time talking about what was so special about Israel's new king. Read Psalm 37 for an idea of how God looked after King David and how he takes care of us!

3. GET TO WORK.

Put on your thinking caps! You're in charge of an entire campaign. Work on a campaign for King David, focusing on his strong points.

Here's what you need to develop—a catchy slogan, a poster, and a brief persuasive speech introducing your audience to David, plus any other extras you think will show

3. PEN TO PAPER...

Form smaller groups of three or four, and work with your group to write your own song for King David's coronation. Be prepared for stardom as you'll soon present your masterpiece!

4. TALK TIME...

When your song is finished and before the class is reunited, spend some time thinking about TV shows that choose a winner based on talent, good looks, and so on.

• How are winners usually chosen in our culture?

• What things do you think God considers when choosing his "winners"? Why?

• From reading the passages, what do you think God has in store for people who rely completely on him?

ADVENTURES

Middle-schoolers own their faith when they choose and facilitate an activity.

Choose Your Own Adventure

ADVENTURE

2

Icons

Here's What You Need to Do...

1. TO START OFF...

Say hi to the other people in your group. Then with your group, follow the rest of the instructions for your adventure!

2. HIT THE BOOK.

Read 2 Samuel 5:1-5 and Psalm 37 aloud in your group. Briefly talk about anything that jumps out at you from the passages.



that David is a great candidate for king. Think about class elections from your school, and campaign like you would for that.

4. SHOW OFF.

Now decide how you will present your campaign.

- What qualities made David a standout to be a good king?

- From reading these passages, what "criteria" might God have for people? What does he value?

- What do you think God has in store for people who rely completely on him?



homeconnect®

Bringing It Home

LEARNING CONTINUES ALL WEEK LONG

with take-home papers filled with family activities.

Read this quote with your family, and then talk it over.

“With a strong belief in God and yourself, truly all things are possible.”

—KURT WARNER, *ALL THINGS POSSIBLE*

- Explain whether you agree or disagree with this quote.
- How can your faith in God affect your life, including your hopes and goals for the future?
- What would it mean for you to rely on God completely?

Daily Challenge

- Find other verses in the Bible that remind you that God is always there for us and that we can always rely on him. Write them down and keep them where you can look at them when you need them.
- Think of more ways you can invite God into your everyday life. You could pray before every test, project, practice, or important event and ask God to help you through it.
- Have that conversation with the friend or family member that you know God’s been wanting you to have, let God guide you with what to say, and then trust him with whatever happens.

Try This

Create a sort of “traveling trophy” with your family. It could be an old trophy cup or even just a cool-looking decoration or dish your family has. It should symbolize the times your family members rely on God no matter how difficult! The award should change hands several times throughout the week—passed along every time a family member is “caught” living out the kind of reliance and trust you know God is pleased with.

Reading the Bible This Week

Sunday/PHILIPPIANS 3:7-9 • **WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO GAIN BY SEEKING CHRIST OVER PERSONAL SUCCESS?**

Monday/MATTHEW 10:37-39 • **WHAT ARE SPECIFIC WAYS YOU CAN MAKE GOD YOUR FIRST PRIORITY?**

Tuesday/MATTHEW 13:44-45 • **WHAT’S THE POINT OF THIS SHORT STORY?**

Wednesday/MATTHEW 6:19-21 • **WHY IS THE PURSUIT OF EARTHLY SUCCESS POINTLESS?**

Thursday/MATTHEW 6:33 • **WHAT PROMISE IS FOUND IN THIS VERSE?**

Friday/PROVERBS 23:4 • **WHAT IS A MORE WORTHWHILE PURSUIT?**

Saturday/PROVERBS 21:21 • **WHAT IS THE FOCUS OF YOUR LIFE?**

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