

How to Use FamilyConnect®



Search Institute published research showing that people are more likely to grow in their faith when their families put faith into practice at home. According to Search Institute, “Four family practices are particularly important for helping young people grow in faith (both in childhood and adolescence): talking about faith with your mother; talking about faith with your father; having family devotions or prayer; and doing family projects to help other people.”

FaithWeaver NOW FamilyConnect® is designed around these family practices and was created to help you equip families to grow in their faith. FamilyConnect gives busy families an easy-to-use idea to start conversations about faith at least once during the week. These weekly pages reinforce what’s being learned in FaithWeaver NOW® Sunday school, and they’re a great way to keep families connected—just email the pages or print them out!

Quick Tips ■■■■

Create an email sign-up sheet for parents to fill out and return, if you don’t already have one.

In your email software, create a distribution list of parents’ email addresses.

Put the distribution list (or separate names) in the BCC field to avoid exposing email addresses to all recipients.

Set up a weekly reminder to send out the FaithWeaver NOW FamilyConnect PDFs to parents.

Consider creating a standard email cover letter to send out weekly, or copy and paste the following sample:

Dear Parent,

Thank you for your child’s participation in our Sunday school program. Attached you’ll find a simple tip to help you start a faith conversation with your child sometime during the week. You are your family’s FaithWeaver, and your actions and words are having a tremendous impact on your child’s faith! Thanks for all you do.

God Creates the World

Week 1



►Bible Point

God made the world.

Key Verse

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”
(Genesis 1:1).

We learned this week that God created the world and everything in it (Genesis 1:1–2:3). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents ■■■■

Tell about your favorite things in God’s creation—and why they’re your favorite. Perhaps you love the ocean and its fascinating creatures. Or maybe you adore the sight of snowcapped mountains. Ask your children about their favorites of God’s creations—and why they chose what they did. Then discuss ways you can appreciate God’s creation around you every day.

Pray ■■■■

God, your world is wonderful. Thank you for creating all the things we enjoy. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

Our family talks to God about:

For more great questions and age-appropriate activities, check out your child’s Week 1 Student Book page.



Sneak Peek

Don’t miss next week when we discover what’s special about the way God made us.

Powered by..

God Creates Adam and Eve

Week 2



►Bible Point

God made us.

Key Verse

“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well” (Psalm 139:14).

We learned this week that God created each of us to be unique and special (Genesis 2:4-22). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents ■■■■■

Identify unique qualities or talents in each child, and then tell your children about what makes each of them a one-of-a-kind creation of God. Your kids will be captivated and blessed by your praise! Invite your kids to tell you what’s unique and wonderful about you, too. Then discuss how you can use the talents and qualities God gave each of you to love God.

Pray ■■■■■

God, thank you for making and caring about each of us. Help us remember every day how much you value us. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

Our family talks to God about:

For more great questions and age-appropriate activities, check out your child’s Week 2 Student Book page.



Sneak Peek

Don’t miss next week when we discover that God doesn’t want us to sin—and ways to avoid sin.

Powered by...

Adam and Eve Sin

Week 3



► Bible Point

God doesn't want us to sin.

.....

Key Verse

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

.....

We learned this week that we've all sinned but God offers us forgiveness and a relationship with him through Jesus' sacrifice (Genesis 3). Strengthen your family's faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents ■■■■■

Tell your family about a time you experienced unexpected or undeserved forgiveness. Maybe a friend forgave you after you said something insulting or your supervisor showed grace after a significant mistake at work. What about your experience of forgiveness impacted you? Allow your kids to share their experiences with forgiveness. God's forgiveness of our sin is much like when we're forgiven by another person without earning it. It's a wonderful gift! God loves us so much he sent Jesus to take the punishment of our sins, and God forgives us in return.

Pray ■■■■■

God, we know every person sins and it's part of being human—ever since Adam and Eve first sinned. Thank you for sending Jesus to take away that sin and forgiving each of us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

Our family talks to God about:

For more great questions and age-appropriate activities, check out your child's Week 3 Student Book page.



Sneak Peek

Don't miss next week when we discover that God wants us to love our families and ways we can do that even when we have conflicts.

Powered by...

Cain Kills Abel

Week 4



► Bible Point

God wants us to love our families.

.....

Key Verse

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves” (Romans 12:10).

.....

We learned this week that God wants us to love our families the way he does (Genesis 4:1-16). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents ■■■■■

Develop the kind of love described in Romans 12:10 by practicing “words of appreciation” with your family. Expressing gratitude is a great way to love one another. Choose one family member at a time. Then have all family members tell what they appreciate about that person. Continue until everyone has had a turn. End with a big family hug!

Pray ■■■■■

God, thank you for each person in our family. Teach us how to love and care for one another the way you would. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

Our family talks to God about:

For more great questions and age-appropriate activities, check out your child’s Week 4 Student Book page.



Sneak Peek

Don’t miss next week when we discover why God wants us to obey him above all else.

Powered by...

Noah Builds the Ark

Week 5



►Bible Point
God wants us to obey.

Key Verse
“Peter and the other apostles replied: ‘We must obey God rather than men!’ ”
(Acts 5:29).

We learned this week that God wants us to obey him above all else—no matter what (Genesis 6:5-22). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents ■■■■■

Talk with your family about the reasons for rules. Invite your kids to come up with a list of rules in your house that they don’t completely understand. Then, one rule at a time, explain why you created each rule and how they keep your kids from potential harm or simply help your kids find their way to what’s best for them. God’s rules are meant to do the same—to keep us safe and lead us to what’s best for our lives.

Pray ■■■■■

God, show us how we can obey you no matter what. Please teach us to trust that your ways are best because you love us. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

Our family talks to God about:

For more great questions and age-appropriate activities, check out your child’s Week 5 Student Book page.



Sneak Peek

Don’t miss next week when we discover that God always keeps his promises. That’s amazing!

Powered by...

God Floods the Earth

Week 6



► Bible Point

We can count on God's promises.

.....

Key Verse

"The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made" (Psalm 145:13).

.....

We learned this week that God always keep his promises (Genesis 7-8; 9:8-16). Strengthen your family's faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents ■■■■■

Talk about one kept or unkept promise that you've experienced. Perhaps your parent promised to take you on a trip and it never happened. What emotions do you remember from that experience? Or perhaps your child promised to clean his room, and before you could check, your child kept the promise. How did that make you feel—happy, proud, satisfied? Then have your kids share examples of promises they've experienced. It's incredible that God keeps all his promises when we live in a world where promises are often broken. Invite each family member to complete the following sentence: "I'm glad God keeps his promises because..."

Pray ■■■■■

God, thank you for keeping every promise you make. Help us remember to put our trust in you because you're faithful. In Jesus' name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

Our family talks to God about:

For more great questions and age-appropriate activities, check out your child's Week 6 Student Book page.



Sneak Peek

Don't miss next week when we discover why it's important to put God first.

Powered by...

People Build a Tower at Babel

Week 7



► Bible Point

We put God first.

Key Verse

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength” (Deuteronomy 6:5).

We learned this week that in all our decisions and experiences, we need God—and we can put God first in our lives (Genesis 11:1-9). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents ■■■■

Talk with your family about things or people you naturally put first in what you do. It could be family members, your health, your job, being successful, or anything else important to you. Then have your kids share what they put first when making their choices. Discuss ways you can put God first and include him as you make decisions.

Pray ■■■■

God, we need you every day. Help us remember to put you first in all we do. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

Our family talks to God about:

For more great questions and age-appropriate activities, check out your child’s Week 7 Student Book page.



Sneak Peek

Don’t miss next week when we discover why we can always trust God.

Powered by..

Abram Follows God's Direction

Week 8



► Bible Point

We can always trust God.

Key Verse

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

We learned this week that we can always trust God because he always has the best for our lives in mind in what he asks us to do (Genesis 12:1-8). Strengthen your family's faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents ■■■■

Tell your children about someone you trust and why you trust him or her.

How can other people tell that you trust that person? Ask your children to tell you about people they trust and how they show it. Then discuss why you trust God and ways you can show your trust in God.

Pray ■■■■

God, thank you for being someone we can trust. Help us follow you every day. In Jesus' name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

Our family talks to God about:

For more great questions and age-appropriate activities, check out your child's Week 8 Student Book page.



Sneak Peek

Don't miss next week when we explore how God wants us to put others first.

Powered by...

Lot and Abram Divide the Land

Week 9



► Bible Point

God wants us to put others first.

.....

Key Verse

“Do to others as you would have them do to you” (Luke 6:31).

.....

We learned this week that God wants us to think about others before ourselves (Genesis 13). Strengthen your family's faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents ■■■■■

Tell kids what Luke 6:31 means to you. Then allow your children to tell you what they think the verse means. Invite your children to think of an act of kindness they'd love to receive, such as breakfast in bed, someone else cleaning their room, or someone sharing their favorite tech gadget or toy. After they've thought of something, have them tell what it is and why they'd appreciate someone doing that for them. Then challenge each family member to do that thing for someone else in your family this week.

Pray ■■■■■

God, show us how to think about others before we think about ourselves. Teach us to love others the way Jesus loves them. In Jesus' name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

Our family talks to God about:

For more great questions and age-appropriate activities, check out your child's Week 9 Student Book page.



Sneak Peek

Don't miss next week when we discover that God has good plans for each of us.

Powered by...

God Makes a Covenant With Abram

Week 10



► Bible Point

God has good plans for us.

Key Verse

“ ‘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 learned this week that God has good plans for us and for our future (Genesis 15:1-18). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents ■■■■

Tell about a plan you made that didn’t go the way you thought it would but turned out for the best. Maybe your occupation isn’t what you thought it would be as you were growing up but you’re happy in what you’re doing. Or you’d made plans to travel the world and have adventures and then your kids became a greater adventure than you could’ve planned. Why are you satisfied with the way things turned out despite not being exactly what you planned? Invite your kids to tell about plans they’ve made for their future. You can invite God into all of your plans and trust that if plans change along the way, God always has the best for you in mind. Even when life is difficult, God has a plan for good things to come through hardship.

Pray ■■■■

God, thank you for your perfect plans and for knowing what’s best for us. Please help us to trust your plans when we face struggles. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

Our family talks to God about:

For more great questions and age-appropriate activities, check out your child’s Week 10 Student Book page.



Sneak Peek

Don’t miss next week when we discover that God does amazing things.

Powered by...

Abraham's Visitors/Sodom and Gomorrah

Week 11



►Bible Point

God does amazing things.

.....

Key Verse

"For nothing is impossible with God"
(Luke 1:37).

.....

We learned this week that God did amazing things for Abraham and his wife, Sarah, (Genesis 18:1-19:29) and that God still does amazing things today. Strengthen your family's faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents ■■■■■

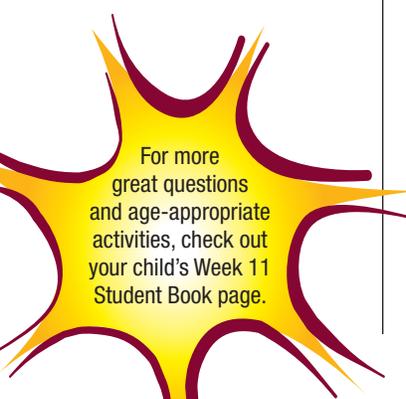
Talk with your family about something you've seen or heard about that amazes you, and why. Point out some amazing things around you and your family right now, such as gravity that keeps us on the ground or the air we breathe or the sun that comes up every single day. Then invite your kids to tell you about things they find amazing in the world around them. God's amazing things surround us every day; we simply have to keep watch for them.

Pray ■■■■■

God, thank you for all the amazing things you do. Help us pay attention to and appreciate the amazing things you do every day. In Jesus' name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

Our family talks to God about:



For more great questions and age-appropriate activities, check out your child's Week 11 Student Book page.



Sneak Peek

Don't miss next week when we discover that we can thank God for his gifts.

Powered by..

Isaac Is Born

Week 12



► Bible Point

Thank God for his gifts.

.....

Key Verse

“Rejoice in the Lord
always. I will say it
again: Rejoice!”
(Philippians 4:4).

.....

We learned this week that God gives great gifts and we can respond with joy and thankfulness (Genesis 21:1-6). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents ■■■■■

Think about a gift that gave you immense joy. Tell your kids about that gift and your experience in receiving it. Then ask them to tell about the greatest gift they’ve ever received. What made it great? What about receiving great gifts reminds you of receiving God’s gifts? Discuss what you can do to show God your joy and thanks for his gifts.

Pray ■■■■■

God, we have happy hearts for all the good things you’ve done. Thank you for your gifts and blessings. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

Our family talks to God about:

For more great questions and age-appropriate activities, check out your child’s Week 12 Student Book page.



Sneak Peek

Don’t miss next week when we discover that God always hears us when we pray.

Powered by...

God Cares for Hagar and Ishmael

Week 13



►Bible Point

God always hears us when we pray.

.....

Key Verse

“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you” (Luke 11:9).

.....

We learned this week that God hears everything we say to him (Genesis 21:8-21). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents ■■■■■

Tell your kids what it means to you to know that God always hears you when you pray. Tell about times you’ve prayed and God has answered your prayer. Did you have to keep asking? What helped you continue to believe God was listening even when he didn’t answer right away? Invite your kids to tell you things they’ve been praying about and why they do or don’t believe God hears their prayers. Talk about needs and concerns your family would like to pray about together.

Pray ■■■■■

God, thank you for listening to all our prayers. Help us to not give up praying when you don’t answer immediately. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

Our family talks to God about:

For more great questions and age-appropriate activities, check out your child’s Week 13 Student Book page.



Sneak Peek

Don’t miss next week when we discover how we can prepare our hearts for Jesus.

Powered by...