

## 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.**

# John the Baptist Prepares the Way for Jesus Week 1



**► Bible Point**  
We prepare our hearts for Jesus.

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**Key Verse**  
“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me” (Psalm 51:10).

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**W**e learned this week that John the Baptist told the people to prepare their hearts for Jesus by repenting (Mark 1:1-8) and that God wants us to do the same. Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

**Parents** ■■■■■

**Tell about a time a special guest came to your home.** Maybe it was the first time you invited your in-laws to see your new house or perhaps you had your pastor over for dinner. Talk with your children about how you prepared for your special guest. Share things you might do again or things you would do differently the next time you invited a guest into your home. With your children, think about how you would get ready if you knew Jesus was your special guest. Talk about how getting ready for Jesus to visit your home is similar to or different from getting your heart ready for Jesus.

**Pray** ■■■■■

God, help us get our hearts ready for Jesus. Show us what you want us to clean and help us to listen to you so we can please you in everything we do. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

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Our family talks to God about:

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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 who Jesus really is.

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## God Dwells With Us

Week 2



### ► Bible Point

Jesus is God.

### Key Verse

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

We learned this week that Jesus came to earth as a man but that Jesus is more than a man—he’s also the Son of God (John 1:1-14). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

### Parents ■■■■

**Share a favorite memory of time spent with a parent or guardian.** Maybe it was a once-in-a-lifetime camping trip, or maybe it was a nightly reading from a favorite book. Encourage your children to also share some favorite times they spent with you. Use this conversation to talk with your children about how Jesus came to earth as a man although he is more than a man—Jesus is also God’s Son.

### Pray ■■■■

God, thank you for being a loving parent to all of us. Thank you for sending your Son to earth so we can know you. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

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Our family talks to God about:

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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 Jesus was born for us.

Powered by..

## Jesus Is Born

Week 3



### ► Bible Point

Jesus was born for us.

### Key Verse

“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11).

We learned this week that we celebrate Jesus’ birth at Christmas because he came to earth to be our friend and our Savior (Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-20). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

### Parents ■■■■

**Ask your children why they want to celebrate Jesus’ birth.** Encourage each person in your family to name a different reason to celebrate Jesus’ birth. Then talk about ways your family celebrates Jesus’ birth at Christmas, and evaluate whether you already celebrate Jesus’ birth in your Christmas traditions. Come up with some new ideas you might want to carry out to make your Christmas traditions even more about Jesus.

### Pray ■■■■

God, thank you for sending Jesus to be born. Remind us during this busy Christmas season to focus our hearts and thoughts on you. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

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Our family talks to God about:

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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 how we can thank God for Jesus.

Powered by...

# Faithful People Thank God for Jesus

Week 4



### ► Bible Point

We thank God for Jesus.

### Key Verse

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name” (Psalm 100:4).

**W**e learned this week how we can thank God for Jesus (Luke 2:22-40). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

### Parents ■■■■■

**Talk with your family about ways you’ve shown thanks for Jesus.** Maybe you dedicated some time to teach Sunday school so others will know about Jesus. Perhaps you traveled overseas on a mission trip. Or maybe you show thanks for Jesus each day by the way you choose to follow Jesus in everything you do. Let each family member tell ways he or she shows thanks for Jesus. Keep thanking God for Jesus every day. Your children are closely watching your example!

### Pray ■■■■■

God, show us how to express our thanks every day for the amazing gift of Jesus. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

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Our family talks to God about:

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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 that Jesus deserves our worship.

Powered by...

# Wise Men Find Jesus

Week 5



**► Bible Point**

Jesus deserves our worship.

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**Key Verse**

“For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations” (Psalm 100:5).

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**W**e learned this week that there is no one like Jesus and he deserves all of our worship (Matthew 2:1-12). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

**Parents** ■■■■■

**Talk about a struggle you might have (or once had) to keep Jesus first in your life.** Perhaps washing your brand-new car consumes all your free time. Or maybe you think you spend more time than you need to focusing on your personal appearance. Be open and honest in your evaluation, and allow your children to see what different types of worship can look like. Then talk with your family about ways you can worship Jesus both one-on-one and in a family setting. Encourage your family members to have at least one personal worship time this week.

**Pray** ■■■■■

God, you deserve all of our worship. Please teach us to make Jesus most important in our lives. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

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Our family talks to God about:

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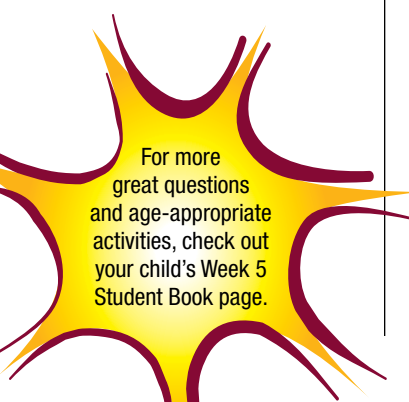
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For more great questions and age-appropriate activities, check out your child’s Week 5 Student Book page.



**Sneak Peek**

Don’t miss next week when we discover why God sent Jesus.

Powered by...

# John Baptizes Jesus

Week 6



► **Bible Point**  
God sent Jesus.

**Key Verse**

“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).

We learned this week that God sent Jesus to earth because of his great love for us (Mark 1:4-11). When we believe in Jesus, we can live with God for all eternity. Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

**Parents** ■■■■■

**Tell your children about your great love for them.** Talk about how you felt the first time you saw each child. Let your children know how much you value each of them individually, and share some things that make them uniquely special to you. Then talk about how much greater God’s love is. God loves each of us so much that he sent his one and only Son to die for us so we can live with him forever. Encourage your children to let you know when they want to begin a relationship with Jesus—if they haven’t done so yet.

**Pray** ■■■■■

God, I pray that you would help us understand your great love for us and that we would accept your gift of eternal life through Jesus. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

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Our family talks to God about:

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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 that Jesus knows all about us.

Powered by...

# Jesus Surprises Nathanael

Week 7



► **Bible Point**

Jesus knows all about us.

**Key Verse**

“O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways”  
(Psalm 139:1-3).

We learned this week that Jesus cares about us and knows everything about us (John 1:43-51). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

**Parents** ■■■■■

**Play “What do you know about me?” with your children.** Ask your children to tell what they know about where you lived growing up, what your favorite hobby is, or something else specifically about you. When your children have shared what they know, fill in the blanks. Then have your children ask you a question or two. Maybe they’ll ask what you know about how they like to spend their free time or what they want to be when they grow up. End the game by talking about how it makes you feel to know that Jesus knows every single thing there is to know about you.

**Pray** ■■■■■

God, thank you for knowing and loving everything about us. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

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Our family talks to God about:

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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 how we can follow Jesus.

Powered by..



# Disciples Follow Jesus

Week 8



**► Bible Point**  
Follow Jesus.

**Key Verse**

“ ‘Come, follow me,’  
Jesus said, ‘and I will  
make you fishers of  
men’ ” (Mark 1:17).

**W**e learned this week that we follow Jesus like the disciples did (Mark 1:14-20). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

**Parents** ■■■■■

**Read Matthew 10:37-39 and Matthew 16:24-26 as a family.** Talk about how Jesus told his disciples twice to take up the cross and follow him. Together, make a list of specific things your family does to follow Jesus. Think about where in your lives you’re following Jesus: with your family, at school, with friends, or in sports, for example. Then talk about how you can commit as a family to follow Jesus in each of these areas in the coming week.

**Pray** ■■■■■

God, we know your plans for us are perfect. Help us to follow you every day. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

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Our family talks to God about:

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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 discover that Jesus is all-powerful.

Powered by...

# Jesus Demonstrates His Authority

Week 9



**► Bible Point**

Jesus is all-powerful.

**Key Verse**

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39).

**W**e learned this week that we can trust Jesus with anything because he is all-powerful (Mark 1:21-28). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

**Parents** ■■■■■

**Talk about a time you discovered how powerful Jesus is.** Perhaps you were able to walk away from a serious car accident, or maybe God provided a miraculous way to pay the bills. Lots of things in our world promise the power that only Jesus has and can give. Spend time talking with your children about commercials and TV characters and the promises they make. Think about which of these empty promises you have individually or as a family looked to for power. Then make a pledge as a family to trust the power of Jesus in your lives.

**Pray** ■■■■■

God, we’re so thankful for your power and miracles in our lives. Teach us to trust you with our lives. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

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Our family talks to God about:

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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 how much Jesus cares for us.

Powered by...

# Jesus Heals, Prays, and Preaches

Week 10



**► Bible Point**

Jesus cares for us.

**Key Verse**

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest”  
(Matthew 11:28).

We learned this week that Jesus demonstrated his care by healing, praying, and preaching (Mark 1:29-39). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

**Parents** ■■■■■

**As a family, brainstorm about new holidays that would reflect how Jesus cares for us.** You might invent Forgiveness Day, when all debts and slates are wiped clean in the family, or Pray Day, when you retreat to a quiet spot to pray together about family concerns. See if you can come up with at least three holidays to celebrate over the next three months, and set dates for them. Have fun sharing your ideas with friends and neighbors and telling them about how the new holidays worked in your family.

**Pray** ■■■■■

God, your care for us is amazing. Thank you for sending Jesus to show your great love for us. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

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Our family talks to God about:

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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 how we can turn to Jesus when we’re afraid.

Powered by...

## Jesus Calms a Storm

Week 11



### ► Bible Point

We turn to Jesus when we're afraid.

### Key Verse

"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

We learned this week how Jesus calmed the storm (Mark 4:35-41) and how Jesus will help us when we're afraid. Strengthen your family's faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

### Parents ■■■■

**Talk about a time you or a member of your family felt afraid.** Maybe your child struggled with being afraid of the dark. Or perhaps you were scared when your child wandered off in a store. Then discuss the following: Tell about a fear you can ask God to help you with right now. What can you do to give that fear to God? What difference does it make to know that God will take care of us?

### Pray ■■■■

God, please help us when we're afraid. Remind us that Jesus is with us no matter where we go or what we face. In Jesus' name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

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Our family talks to God about:

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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 Jesus forgives us.

Powered by...

# Four Friends Help a Paralyzed Man

Week 12



### ► Bible Point

Jesus forgives us.

### Key Verse

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

We learned this week that when we confess our sins, Jesus will forgive us (Mark 2:1-12). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

### Parents ■■■■

**Talk about a time someone in your family wanted forgiveness from someone else in your family.** Talk about how the conflict was resolved. If it hasn’t been resolved, talk about what can be done to bring about forgiveness in the situation. Then discuss how we can know when to ask God to forgive us. What does it mean to you that God is a forgiving God? What kinds of things do we ask forgiveness for? What do you want to ask forgiveness for this week?

### Pray ■■■■

God, thank you for sending Jesus to give us forgiveness for our sins. Please help us to believe in you. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

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Our family talks to God about:

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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 learn to have faith in Jesus.

Powered by...

# Jesus Heals the Blind Man

Week 13



**►Bible Point**

We have faith in Jesus.

**Key Verse**

“He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5).

We learned this week that we can have faith in Jesus because we know he hears us and cares for us (Mark 10:46-52). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

**Parents** ■■■■■

**Choose a time to call each of your children on the phone at some point during the week.** (If your children are too young to talk on the phone, set aside a couple of minutes to have a conversation with them one-on-one.) Spend a few minutes focusing on each child, and tell your children why you love and care for them. Remind your children that even though sometimes you might seem too busy to listen, God is always listening. Offer to pray for something that concerns your child, and remind him or her that we can have faith in God to meet all our needs.

**Pray** ■■■■■

God, thank you for listening to us when we talk to you. This week, help us remember to have faith in you to meet all our needs. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

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Our family talks to God about:

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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 commit to follow Jesus.

Powered by...