

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.

Jesus Teaches His Disciples to Pray

Week 1



► Bible Point

We pray to God.

Key Verse

“This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’ ”
(Matthew 6:9-13).

We learned this week that Jesus taught his disciples how to pray and how not to pray. We also learned that prayer is a conversation with us and God (Matthew 6:5-13). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents ■■■■■

At the end of the day, talk with your children about the events that happened throughout the day. Encourage each person to share a “high” and a “low” from the day. For example, a high might be getting picked first for the soccer team, and a low might be a bad grade on a test. Then encourage your kids to talk about when to pray, what they think prayer is, and what it looks and sounds like. Remind your children that prayer is a conversation with God where we listen to God and talk to him. Explain that just as you talked to each of them about their day and listened to what they had to say, God wants to hear about every detail of our day and wants us to listen to him as well.

Pray ■■■■■

God, thank you for giving us prayer as a way to talk to you and hear from you anytime during the day. Please help us remember to stop throughout the day to talk to you. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

Our family talks to God about:



Sneak Peek

Don’t miss next week when we discover that God meets our needs.

Jesus Feeds Thousands

Week 2



► **Bible Point**
God meets our needs.

Key Verse

“And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus”
(Philippians 4:19).

We learned this week that Jesus performed a miracle with bread and fish in order to feed thousands. As the disciples discovered, we know we can count on God to meet our needs (John 6:1-15). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents ■■■■■

Talk about a time your family had a specific need and you saw God provide for you. Maybe God provided necessary food through a meal from a friend. Or perhaps God provided money for a bill through an unexpected bonus at work. Encourage your kids to think of other examples of when they saw God’s provision in their lives. Then ask your children to share needs they have right now, and pray together that God will provide according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Pray ■■■■■

Lord, we know we can count on you to meet our needs. Please help us trust you right now with these needs: [encourage each person to pray about a need]. We love you so much! In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

Our family talks to God about:



Sneak Peek

Don’t miss next week when we discover that Jesus gives us eternal life.

Jesus Explains Eternal Life to Nicodemus

Week 3



►Bible Point
Jesus gives us eternal life.

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 heard this week that when Nicodemus came to see Jesus late at night, Jesus told Nicodemus how he could have eternal life. Like Nicodemus, we can have eternal life and live in heaven when we believe in Jesus and have a relationship with him (John 3:1-17). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents ■■■■■

Talk about what you think heaven will be like. Share what you think heaven will look like and what you’re most looking forward to about heaven. Then ask your children to share their versions of what they think heaven might be like. Encourage your kids to use their imaginations as they dream about flying, eating candy for every meal, or meeting people mentioned in the Bible. Then ask your kids to think about how the thought of having eternal life and someday getting to live in heaven affects how they live their lives each day here on earth.

Pray ■■■■■

God, thank you that we can look forward to heaven and an eternity with you because of Jesus’ death on the cross. Help us remember that this life is only a small portion of eternity, and please help us stay focused on you. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

Our family talks to God about:



Sneak Peek
Don’t miss next week when we discover that Jesus loves everyone.

Jesus Talks With the Samaritan Woman

Week 4



► Bible Point
Jesus loves everyone.

.....

Key Verse

“He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life” (1 John 5:12).

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We learned this week that when a Samaritan woman talked to Jesus at a well, Jesus offered the woman living water. Like the Samaritan woman, Jesus offers us living water and a new life if we'll accept it (John 4:5-42). Strengthen your family's faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents ■■■■

Share from your own experience (or from the experience of a family friend) about how knowing Jesus has changed your life. Talk about what's been better and even what's been harder in your life as a Christian. For example, maybe being a Christian has helped you handle difficult situations with more grace. On the other hand, maybe being a Christian has made it harder for you to relate to family members who aren't Christians. Encourage your kids to share ways knowing Jesus has changed their lives as well.

Pray ■■■■

God, thank you for allowing us to have a relationship with you. We're so grateful for the life you offer us in Jesus. Please help us tell others about Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

Our family talks to God about:



Sneak Peek
Don't miss next week when we discover that Jesus says to love others as ourselves.

Jesus Tells About the Good Samaritan

Week 5



► Bible Point

Jesus says to love others as ourselves.

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Key Verse

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you” (Ephesians 4:32).

.....

We learned today how the good Samaritan in Jesus’ story showed love by rescuing the man who’d been left for dead on the side of the road. Like the good Samaritan, we can show love to others by helping people in need (Luke 10:25-37). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents ■■■■

Tell about a time you really needed help and someone helped you. Share with your kids how you felt about being helped, and encourage your kids to share examples about times they were helped. Then think together about people you can show God’s love to by helping them—maybe it’s an older person in the neighborhood or a single mom in your church. Come up with a list of creative ways you can help at least one or two of these people regularly. You might bake cookies for them, do some yardwork, or buy a special book as a gift.

Pray ■■■■

God, we want to share your love with others. Please show us people who need our help and give us the strength and courage to help and love these people the way you love them. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

Our family talks to God about:



Sneak Peek

Don’t miss next week when we discover that Jesus gives us hope.

Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead

Week 6



► **Bible Point**
Jesus gives us hope.

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Key Verse

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies’ ”
(John 11:25).

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We learned this week that Jesus brought Lazarus back from the dead. And we discovered that because of Jesus we have hope of eternal life (John 11:1-45). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents ■■■■■

Talk with your children about something you were really hoping for as a child that didn’t turn out the way you wanted. Maybe you hoped you would get a new bike at Christmas. Or perhaps you hoped your mom or dad would show up at your basketball game. Share how you felt when things didn’t work out, and talk about how disappointing it can be to have your hopes denied. Then talk about how Jesus gives us hope of eternal life. Remind your kids that our hope in Jesus will never end in disappointment, because Jesus showed he has power over life and death when he raised Lazarus from the dead. Jesus promises to give us eternal life if we believe in him. And Jesus keeps his promises!

Pray ■■■■■

God, thank you for the hope of eternal life through Jesus’ death on the cross. Please remind us to put our hope in you each day. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

Our family talks to God about:



Sneak Peek
Don’t miss next week when we discover that we praise Jesus.

Crowds Welcome Jesus to Jerusalem

Week 7



► Bible Point

We praise Jesus.

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Key Verse

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”
(Revelation 5:12).

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We learned this week that as Jesus entered Jerusalem, crowds of people laid palm branches and clothes on the road. As Jesus passed by, the people shouted praises to him. Like the people of Jerusalem, we know God deserves our praise (Psalm 118:19-29; Matthew 21:1-11). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents ■■■■■

Share with your children one reason to praise Jesus today. Maybe you saw an amazing sunrise and can praise Jesus for his creation. Or perhaps you were reminded of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross and want to tell him how thankful you are. Encourage your children to share at least one thing they can praise Jesus for as well. Encourage each other to look for one reason to praise Jesus every day this week.

Pray ■■■■■

Lord, you deserve our praise. Help us live in such a way that everything we do reflects our love and worship for you. Thank you Jesus for dying for our sins. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

Our family talks to God about:



Sneak Peek

Don’t miss next week when we discover that Jesus is alive.

Jesus Comes Back to Life

Week 8



► **Bible Point**
Jesus is alive.

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Key Verse

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

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We heard today that Jesus was arrested, crucified on a cross, and buried in a tomb. We also learned that when the women went to visit Jesus’ body they discovered that Jesus was alive (Matthew 27:27-56; 28:1-10). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents ■■■■■

Talk with your family about the time you first realized the real meaning of Easter. Maybe it was when you first came into a relationship with Jesus, or maybe it was during a particularly meaningful Easter service. Then encourage your kids to share about the first time they truly understood what Easter is about. If your children don’t know the real meaning, this could be a great opportunity to share with them. Explain to your children that Jesus died for our sins and rose again so we can have a relationship with him and live forever in heaven.

Pray ■■■■■

God, thank you for sending Jesus to die for our sins. And thank you that Jesus overcame death so we can live with you forever. Please help us focus on the real meaning of Easter this week and celebrate that Jesus is alive! In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

Our family talks to God about:



Sneak Peek
Don’t miss next week when we discover that we have faith in Jesus.

Peter Explains Belief in Jesus

Week 9



►Bible Point
Have faith in Jesus.

Key Verse

“Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope” (Romans 5:3-4).

We learned this week that Peter was one of Jesus’ closest friends. After Jesus died, Peter helped others learn about Jesus. Peter said that no matter what troubles we experience in this life, we can have faith in Jesus (1 Peter 1:3-9). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents ■■■■■

Talk about what it means to you to put your hope in Jesus, or encourage a close family friend to share with your children about when he or she first put hope in Jesus. Then talk with your children about what it means for them to hope in Jesus. Encourage your children to share personal examples of when they’ve hoped in Jesus. As a family, talk about things that keep you from having hope in Jesus, and discuss ways you can encourage each other to keep hoping, even in the midst of these things.

Pray ■■■■■

Lord, we put our faith in you. Please teach us to trust you more each day. Thank you for giving us hope and a future. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

Our family talks to God about:



Sneak Peek

Don’t miss next week when we discover that we tell others about Jesus.

Jesus Returns to Heaven

Week 10



► Bible Point

Tell others about Jesus.

Key Verse

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20).

We learned today that before Jesus ascended into heaven, Jesus commanded his disciples to go into the world and tell everyone about who Jesus is and what he has done. We also discovered that we’re supposed to follow that same command because God wants us to tell the world about heaven (Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:1-11). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents ■■■■■

Talk with your kids about how you first learned about Jesus. You might share experiences of people telling you about Jesus and heaven. Maybe someone scared you by talking about hell. Or perhaps someone shared with you what it would look like to have a meaningful friendship with Jesus. Talk with your kids about the best way to share your faith in Jesus. Then encourage your children to each pick one person they’d like to tell about Jesus this week. Check back at the end of the week to see how each person followed through.

Pray ■■■■■

God, thank you for Jesus and the chance to live forever in heaven with you if we believe in Jesus. Please help us tell others this week how they can know Jesus and live forever in heaven, too. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

Our family talks to God about:



Sneak Peek

Don’t miss next week when we discover that God’s family takes care of each other.

Christians Care for One Another

Week 11



►Bible Point

God's family takes care of each other.

.....

Key Verse

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10:24-25).

.....

We learned this week that God shows his amazing goodness and love to us each day. And we learned that we can treat other Christians with that same loving care (Psalm 23; Acts 2:42-47). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents ■■■■■

Talk with your children about ways that your church has shown you or your family loving care. Perhaps your church brought meals when a baby was born or helped out when someone had died or was sick. Even teachers at church show loving care to your children and you. Tell your family what it has meant to you to receive loving care from your church. Then think of ways that your family can show loving care to others at church as well.

Pray ■■■■■

God, we don’t deserve your loving care, but we’re so thankful for it. Please help us show other Christians that same loving kindness every day. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

Our family talks to God about:



Sneak Peek

Don’t miss next week when we discover that we stand up for Jesus.

Stephen Forgives His Accusers as They Stone Him

Week 12



►Bible Point

We stand up for Jesus.

.....

Key Verse

“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect” (1 Peter 3:15).

.....

We heard today how Stephen was arrested because of his faith in Jesus. We also learned that Stephen continued to stand up to share the truth about God even when he was stoned to death. Like Stephen, we need to share our faith in Jesus with words and actions (Acts 6:8–7:60). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents ■■■■■

Ask your kids the following questions, and encourage a family discussion on sharing your faith. How can we share our faith with words? What are some actions that share our faith? What gets in the way of sharing our faith? Why is it important to use both words and actions when we’re sharing our faith? How have you seen someone use both words and actions to share faith in Jesus? What’s one way you’ll commit to sharing your faith in words and actions this week?

Pray ■■■■■

Lord, we want to be like Stephen and stand up for Jesus. Please give us courage to share the truth about you with others. And help us demonstrate your love through our actions. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

Our family talks to God about:



Sneak Peek

Don’t miss next week when we discover that God created heaven and earth.

Paul Teaches in Athens

Week 13



►Bible Point

God created heaven and earth.

Key Verse

“Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The Lord is the
everlasting God,
the Creator of the
ends of the earth”
(Isaiah 40:28).



Sneak Peek

Don't miss next week
when we discover that
God cares for needy
people.

We learned this week that Paul was upset to find the city of Athens full of idols to false gods. And we heard how Paul told the people of Athens that God is the creator of heaven and earth (Acts 17:16-31). Strengthen your family's faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents ■■■■

In two minutes, share with your children the most important things you know about God. You might talk about how God created the world and every person in it. Or you might share how God sent Jesus to die for the sins of the world. When the two minutes are up, encourage your children to tell what they know about God. Talk about the amazing things God has created and what those things reveal about God, such as a love for color, creativity, and being very big.

Pray ■■■■

God, there is no other like you. You are the Creator of heaven and earth. We will worship only you. Thank you for making such wonderful things for us to enjoy. In Jesus' name, amen.

Our family thanks God for:

Our family talks to God about:
