

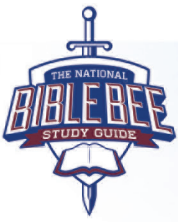
2015

# Believe



## PARENT GUIDE

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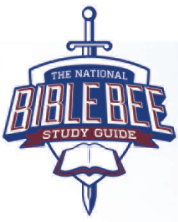
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We have many parents across the country who use the Senior Level Bible Bee Study Guide. We would like to encourage you to do the same. May God bless your family in the study of God's Word.

## WEEK 3/JOHN 3

To begin your family discussion time praise the Lord for His kindness in providing a way of salvation by using Psalm 40. Ask Him to bless your time together and give you insights into His Word. You could also start off by singing songs of praise to God either about the topics that you learned this week or just as a praise to Him. Possible options include:

- *I will Sing of My Redeemer* (Hymn by Philip P. Bliss)
- *Ye Must Be Born Again* (Hymn by William T. Sleeper)
- *In Christ Alone* (Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend)

### Review Questions:

Try and remember the answers before looking them up in the study.

### Wading In:

What were some of the key words in the study and what were the meanings discussed?

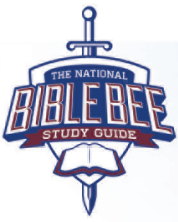
*Possible answers for discussion could be:*

- *Born (born again)*
- *Life*
- *Know*
- *Kingdom of God*
- *Condemn/judge*
- *Light and darkness*

What are some of the things that you put on your **JESUS**, **TESTIFY**, and **BELIEVE** lists?

*Possible answers from John 3 or your cross-references could be:*

- **Jesus:**
  - Ascended and descended from Heaven (John 3:13).
  - Called the Son of Man (John 3:13, 14).
  - The Son of Man must be lifted up, just like the serpent was lifted up in the wilderness, so that those who believe on Him may have eternal life (John 3:14-15).
  - He is above and before all things (John 3:31, Colossians 1:17).
  - Jesus is the bridegroom (John 3:29, 2 Corinthians 11:2).



- Testify:
  - John the Baptist bore witness to Jesus (John 3:26, 28).
  - Those who receive Christ’s testimony set their seal that God is true (John 3:32).
  - John, Jesus’ works, and the Father testify about the Son (John 5:30-38).
- Believe
  - If you do not believe earthly things, how can you believe heavenly things? (John 3:12).
  - Those who believe in Jesus have eternal life (John 3:15, 16).
  - Those who believe in Jesus are not condemned (John 3:18).
  - Those who do not believe in the Son remain under God’s wrath (John 3:36).
  - He who believes in Jesus will live even though he dies (John 11:25).

What were the two main subjects in this chapter? *(Students will probably share the summary titles that they wrote down on Day 1-Look-Wading In or Day 5-Learn-Diving In so answers may vary).*

- John 3:1-21: Jesus and Nicodemus
- John 3:22-36: John the Baptist testifies about Jesus

What were your two memory passages? *Have each family member try and remember their verses from memory. Have another family member check them as they recite.*

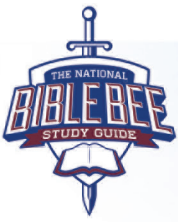
- John 3:32-36
- Titus 3:3-7

## **Diving In:**

1. What does it mean to be born again? Depending on the age of your child they might still be confused by this topic (Nicodemus is certainly not the only person to be confused by this question!) Talk with your child about the meaning of “born again” and flesh giving birth to flesh and the spirit giving birth to the spirit. Help them understand the natural and spiritual side of being born. For assistance on teaching this principle see the Family Activity section on *Be Born Again*.

- People and animals only give birth after their kind. (Flesh gives birth to flesh).
- The sinful nature gives birth to sin (Galatians 6:8).
- The Spirit gives birth to spirit (1 Corinthians 2:4).

God created natural birth and the circumstances that involve that process and He had a plan for spiritual birth. Since He is the one that originated these plans, He is the one that sets the condition of birth. Nature cannot operate outside of God’s design for producing life and man cannot be saved outside of God’s way of salvation. Discuss with your family the implications of this principle both on the physical side and the spiritual side.



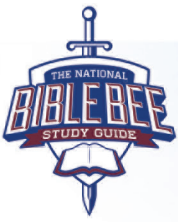
2. Are you born again? Chapter 3 is a great time to talk with your child about being born again and believing on Jesus for salvation if they have not done so already. There is an invitation to receive Christ on Day 5. You might consider going over it with them to see if they have any questions. Believing in Jesus is not a matter of age or intelligence. It is the work of the Holy Spirit. God's Spirit can reveal to a very young child their need for salvation and through God's gift of faith, they can trust in Jesus as their Savior. If your child is not ready to receive Jesus; that's okay. Do not force to them to believe. Their salvation is in the Lord's hand.

3. Humility could be described as being at peace where God has put you whether that be at the front of the line or at the end of the line. John was content and humble about his position in relation to Christ. He knew that His job was to bear witness to Christ. God has a special way for you to glorify Him. Are you content with the path that God has chosen for you whether that be in the front of the line or at the end? If you do not know what that plan is, pray and ask God to reveal to you how He wants to use you to best glorify Him. Ask in faith, knowing that He will answer clearly in His good timing.

- How does your life bear witness to Christ and the truth that Jesus speaks of?
- How can you cause yourself to decrease that Christ may increase?
- How can you demonstrate humility in your life?

4. Some people say that there are many ways to God and eternal life, but this chapter in John makes it very clear that there is only one way to Heaven—Jesus. Look at this chapter. Make a list that describes those who say that Jesus is not the only way to Heaven. (Descriptions might include not born again, fleshly, doesn't receive Jesus' testimony, condemned, in darkness, loves darkness, subjects of God's wrath, disobedient to the Son). Look at your list. Do you want to trust their opinion about how to get to Heaven or are you going to trust God's true Word and what He has said through His Perfect Son?





## Family Activity:

### Nighttime Discussion

John 3:1 says that Nicodemus came to Jesus at night. If possible, it would be fun if you could have your family discussion outside after it gets dark. If there is a gentle breeze blowing that would be a perfect time to discuss about the Spirit (John 3:8).

### Be Born Again

Below are ideas for helping your child understand the meaning of being “born again.” For discussion questions see the first question underneath the Diving In section of the **Review Questions**.

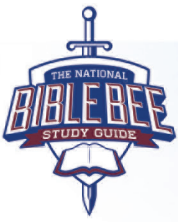
- *The process of birth:* Watch a video about the birth of a child or animal and discuss its origin.
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eB1287Em03M> This clip doesn't show an actual birth but shows x-rays of the puppies in the mother's body. This video was made by a veterinarian and shows puppies growing from the time they are in their mother's womb to when they are weaned.
  - Or you could do a search on YouTube to find a video for the live birth of puppies.  
DISCLAIMER: Please personally view each video before showing them to your child to make sure that they are appropriate for your family.
- Make a display of adult animals and their corresponding baby. You can use this to emphasize what “like-kinds” means in a discussion about creation. You could create a funny drawing of a mother and daddy turtle “giving birth” to a baby red bird. While it will be funny, talk about how that is not God's design.

### Huff and Puff

Do a Google search on how to make a weather vane or pinwheel together. Go outside and let the wind blow it. Ask your child about the characteristics (visible and invisible) of the wind and discuss the “origin” of the wind. Compare and contrast the old life in the flesh and new life in the spirit.

### God Provides DVD

Crown Financial Ministries produced a dramatic short film, called *Lifted Up*, combining the stories of the Bronze Serpent in Numbers 21, Jesus' discussion with Nicodemus in John 3, and Jesus' crucifixion. It shows the connection between the three stories in a unforgettable way. This short drama is recommended for older children (15 years and older) due to intense moments. Even just viewing the trailer and discussing your Day 2-Learn-Diving In study of these stories would be beneficial if you are unable to purchase the video. <http://www2.crown.org/godprovides/pub/LiftedUp.aspx>



## The Voice of the Martyrs

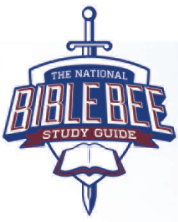
On *Day 4—Learn-Diving In* the student learned about John the Baptist's martyrdom. It mentioned how people might have thought that John was foolish for proclaiming Christ and how many are seen as fools today when they die for Christ. But hopefully your student saw that even though a martyr's death may be misunderstood by the world, they are far from foolish. Rather, they are following in Christ's steps and their suffering is a testimony of God's truth. Learn more about past and current Christians who have suffered for their faith and how to bring encouragement to those suffering for their faith right now. At the close of your time today, pray for your persecuted brothers and sisters. Resources for learning more about the persecuted church include:

- The Voice of the Martyrs <http://www.persecution.com/>
  - VOM radio broadcasts:  
<https://secure.persecution.com/radio/default.aspx?source=WEBC0615J>
  - Free monthly newsletter: <https://secure.persecution.com/newslettersignup.aspx>
  - Write letters to Christians in prison through Prisoner Alert:  
<http://www.prisoneralert.com/> (Let your persecuted brothers and sisters know that their witness for Christ does not go unseen).
  - Prayer Map: <http://www.persecution.com/public/prayermap.aspx?clickfrom=%3d6d61696e5f6d656e75>
  - icommit to Pray: <http://www.icommittoprayer.com/> or you can download the Prayer Calendar App.
  - The Torchlighters Series <http://www.torchlighters.org/>

*Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also. Hebrews 13:3 NKJV*

## God's Secret Service Agent: Mission 2

If your family participated in *God's Secret Service Agent: Mission 1* from the Parent Guide-Week 2 then every day this week each member of your family tried to do something kind for another member without that member knowing it. This week's mission, if you choose to accept it, is to do a secret service act for someone outside your immediate family. Maybe an elderly neighbor needs their lawn mowed or a church member could use a meal or some cookies. As a family, think and pray about what act you could do that would magnify Christ. Try to keep it a secret if possible because the goal of the act is to bear witness of Christ (bear witness of His love and care) and for you to decrease that Christ might increase.



## Prayer

Pray based on the things that you discussed during your family activity. Below are some suggestions based on the P-R-A-Y model:

- Praise God for His grace in providing a way for you to be saved.
- Praise God for the seal of His Holy Spirit if you are His child.
- If you have never repented before, you can repent and trust in Jesus right now.
- Search your heart to see if there is a time that you need to repent of when you did not testify of Jesus.
- Ask God to reveal to you whom you can serve this week.
- Ask God to reveal His way of salvation to someone you know who is still under condemnation.
- Ask the Lord to help you be a faithful witness and to strengthen other brothers and sisters in Christ that are suffering for their testimony in Christ.
- Yield yourself to God so that you are ready to be used by Him to help lead someone to salvation in Christ.
- Yield yourself to Him so that He might increase and you might decrease.