

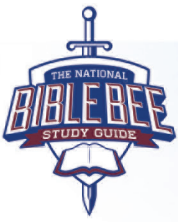
2015

# Believe



## PARENT GUIDE

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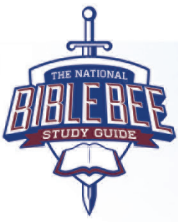
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There are many parents of participants across the country who use the *Senior Level Bible Bee Study Guide*. We would like to encourage you to do the same. We pray you will grow in the Lord seeing His marvelous truth displayed as you study the book of John. You will also be better equipped to have fruitful discussions with your children based on what you are learning together. Many of the references in this Parent Guide are based on the Senior level study, but also provide a broad overview for you as a parent regardless of what level your child might be doing. May God continue to bless your family as you study His Word.

## WEEK 4/JOHN 4

Begin your family discussion time in praise to the Lord using Psalm 147. 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. Below are possible song suggestions for your family worship time. Look in the **Family Activity** section to see the history of two of these hymns.

- *Take My Life and Let it Be* (Hymn by Frances R. Havergal)
- *Sweet Hour of Prayer* (Hymn by William W. Walford)
- *Living for Jesus* (Hymn by Thomas Chisholm)
- *10,000 Reasons* (By Matt Redman)

### Review Questions:

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

### Wading In:

1. What were some of the key words in the study and what did you learn about them?

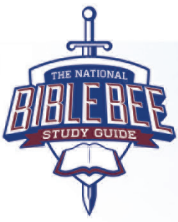
*Possible answers for discussion could be:*

- Life/live/eternal
- Receive
- Judgment/judge (condemnation/damnation)
- Sabbath

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

*Below the discussion questions are the answers your children may have put down from John 5 or the cross-references.*

- Jesus:
  - Jesus heals the lame man (John 5:6, 8).
  - Jesus heals on the Sabbath (John 5:16).



- He does His Father’s work (John 5:17).
- He called God His Father and He was making Himself equal with God (John 5:18).
- Does whatever His Father wants (John 5:19).
- Does nothing on His own (John 5:30).
- Will not accuse us; Moses will (John 5:45).
- He is the Judge whom God appointed to judge the living and the dead (Acts 10:42).

While discussing the things on your *TESTIFY* list, try and remember the 4 things that bear witness to Jesus in John 5.

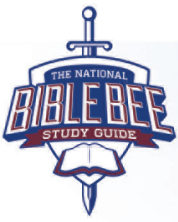
- Testify:
  - John bears witness to Jesus (John 5:33).
  - Jesus’s works were a greater testimony than John (John 5:36).
  - The Father bears witness of Jesus (John 5:37).
  - The Scriptures bear witness of Jesus (John 5:39).
  - Old Testament law demanded the testimony of two or more witness in order for the testimony to be valid (Deuteronomy 19:15).
- Believe
  - Those who hear and believe in Jesus have eternal life (John 5:24).
  - People don’t believe because they don’t have God’s Word abiding in them (John 5:38).
  - If people do not believe Moses they won’t believe Jesus (John 5:47).
  - John was the true witness (John 5:33).
  - Faith/believing comes by hearing God’s Word (Romans 10:17).

3. 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 and possibly Day 5 – Learn - Diving In so answers may vary.*)

- John 5:1-15 - Jesus heals the invalid.
- John 5:16-47 - Jesus claims to be God, the Son of God, and the one from God.

4. 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 5:24
- I John 5:9-12



## Diving In:

1. Discuss what you learned during your Greek studies and the words you looked up in your Bible dictionary. Possible discussion words include:

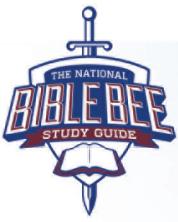
- Greek Words
  - Bethesda (*Day 1 – Learn - Diving In*)
  - Sabbath (*Day 2 – Look - Diving In*)
  - Resurrection (*Day 3 – Learn - Diving In*)
  - Glory/honor (*Day 4 – Learn - Diving In*)
- Dictionary Words
  - Sabbath (*Day 2 – Look - Diving In*)

2. A lot of people say that Jesus is just a good moral teacher. Or they say that they believe in God and they believe that Jesus was a real person, but they do not believe in Jesus' claim to be the One true God. This belief is often held in the Muslim religion, by Jehovah Witnesses, and by Mormons. What does John 5 have to say about this? As a family discuss how to answer someone who believes this lie based on what you learned from the study this week and the facts listed on your JESUS chart.

3. In chapter 5 there are many references to Jesus being testified by the Old Testament Scriptures. Discuss the ones listed in the study this week, but also other people, Scriptures, or events that testified to Christ's coming. Examples include:

- Moses (*Day 5 – Learn - Wading In*)
- Referencing Scriptures in Hebrews 1 with Scriptures in the Old Testament (*Day 4 – Look - Diving In*).
- David
- Prophets

4. Throughout this week's study and especially on Day 5 at the end of the study, we encouraged your child to think about whether or not they have believed the testimony that Jesus is God and the Savior of the world. If your child has not believed in Christ as their Savior, this might be a good opportunity to talk with your child about believing in Jesus. Feel free to refer back to the invitation at the end of Week 3 under the section labeled "Do you know Him? Do you believe?"



## Family Activity:

### Family Worship Time

This week, put the names of each family member on pieces of paper. At the beginning of the week, each person draws a name. During the week each person prays secretly for that person they drew. Then one night or early morning, plan a prayer meeting in a special place in your home.

At your prayer meeting begin by telling the story *Take My Life and Let it Be* which was written by a little girl named Frances Ridley Havergal. She began writing verses, playing the piano, and singing at the age of seven. She was a joy-filled young lady who prayed for everyone around her and delighted to see what God would do in their hearts. Once she stayed with a family of ten for several days and noticed that they did not rejoice in all things. She decided that she was going to pray for every member of the family every day. At the end of her stay, God had blessed every one of them. She was so excited and joyful that the last night of her visit she couldn't sleep and the verses of this song came to her. God had answered her secret prayers. (Story facts taken from Wolgemuth, Bobbie and Joni Eareckson Tada, *Hymns for a Kid's Heart* (Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2003), 67-68.)

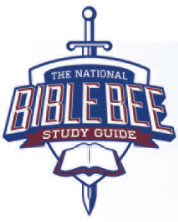
After sharing this story, sing the song together and think about how your prayers can bless others like Frances Havergal's did.

As a family think and pray about the needs of others that you know. Ask God to reveal to your family any ways that you could help meet those needs. John 5:35 says that John "...was *the burning and shining lamp*.." (NKJV). Ask Jesus to help you be a lamp that burns and gives light to others.

Following your prayer meeting conclude by singing *Sweet Hour of Prayer* by William W. Walford, a blind preacher. It is said that he had a good memory. He accurately recited verses in his sermons including the chapter and verse numbers. He had the reputation of being able to recite much of the entire Bible by heart. While Pastor Walford could not do some things because of his blindness he was definitely a lamp that burned and gave light through his sermons that were filled with memorized verses of the Bible. Think about where you can share the verses you are memorizing and be a lamp that burns and gives light. (Story facts taken from "W. W. Walford," *Hymnary.org*, Access date July 10, 2015)

Remember that praying isn't something that we do to impress others or bring glory to ourselves just like what was covered on *Day 4 - Learn - Wading In* (Matthew 6:1-4). Prayer is the time that we worship the Lord and glorify Him!

Parents, ask Jesus, the source of all wisdom and the One who knows everything about your children, to show you how to encourage them to be 1) a lamp that burns giving light, and 2) a ripple of blessing, through their memorization of God's Word.



## I, Hereby, Testify...

Discuss what a testimony is and what a legally “certified” testimony or document or “sworn statement” means. Perhaps you have a notarized or certified document in your family to show them. Talk about how people rely on them to know the truth about someone or something. Then compare and contrast that with your TESTIFY/WITNESS list, especially from John 1-5 and discuss how the legal concept of testifying relates to what you learned in your study.

Together as a family or individually, write or record a brief testimony as an eye-witness about an event in your family or your own life testifying to something that God did. Then write or record the following statement with it.

*“I hereby certify that I personally witnessed these events and testify to the truth of this testimony.”*

Then sign or speak your full name(s) and give the date. Perhaps you can keep this “certification” with family records and pictures to pass on to future members of your family and relatives.

Show your children your marriage license, will or other documents that require witnesses to help them see the importance of these legal documents.

## Praise God!

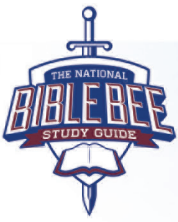
Project 1 – Make cards to give people, praising them based on verses that tell what God praises and rewards. A good place to start is in Psalm or Proverbs. Plan a fun way to deliver your cards to friends, neighbors, public officials, veterans, caregivers, pastors, and grandparents. You could also include a gospel tract. While making them, discuss how we are tempted to seek the praise of other people and discuss why.

Project 2 – Prepare cards as suggested in Project 1 and include them in a small gift to a new Christian celebrating his or her new birth in Christ and remind that person to focus on pleasing God rather than men.

Project 3 – Make a banner or poster out of material or paper where you can list verses, as you discover them, that can serve as a reminder to each member in your family of what God rewards. Perhaps you can learn some calligraphy skills and make it very elegant for your home. Younger ones can draw pictures.

He is God

Much of the focus of John 5 is that Jesus is God. Have your children learn this fun song this week and then they could sing it for your family discussion time. <https://online.cefcmi.com/mod/page/view.php?id=24399>



## Prayer

End your family devotion time in prayer based on the things that you discussed during your family activity. Below are some suggestions based on the P-R-A-Y model:

- P** Praise Jesus that He is God!
- R** He is faithful to reveal your sin to you. Ask Him to show you your sin, repent and press on!
- A** Ask God to help you glorify Him in all you do.
- Y** Yield yourself to God's truth and guidance rather than depending on your own wisdom.