

One-Half Million U.S. Public School Students Expected to Participate in #BringYourBible to School Oct. 5

Colorado Springs, Colo. – About 500,000 public school students from all 50 states will join the Bring Your Bible to School movement on Thursday, Oct. 5, participating in the fourth annual student-led religious freedom event.

Kids and teens will also be on social media using #BringYourBible to explain why they're taking part in this day: to share the hope and love they receive from reading their Bibles, and to let others know their faith is part of who they are.

Refusing to be silenced

Many Christian students feel there's an unspoken pressure to stay silent about their faith. Others report overt efforts to silence them from presenting their Bible-based viewpoints in class discussions or in assignments. Yet, the First Amendment recognizes the rights of students to talk about their faith and read their Bibles outside of classroom time.

"Over the years we've heard from many kids and teens who want to meaningfully engage in conversations with peers to share their perspective on important issues," said Focus on the Family President Jim Daly. "The good news is – they can. The Constitution recognizes students' rights to share their biblical viewpoints in a way that doesn't disturb instruction time, and to exercise their faith at school. 'Bring Your Bible to School Day' celebrates these rights and gives Christian students a chance to share a bit about their faith, which is an important part of who they are."

Help from high places

"Bring Your Bible to School Day" has grown exponentially since it first started in 2014 with 8,000 students to an estimated 356,000 students last year. It's also garnered the attention of influential Christian influencers like the award-winning band Newsboys and Sadie Robertson of Duck Dynasty fame.

Newsboys is partnering with Focus on the Family for the third year to help increase awareness of "Bring Your Bible to School Day." Like last year, individuals who sign up to participate will have a chance to win a free trip for four to a Newsboys concert and meet the band in person.

Sadie Robertson is also helping promote the event, saying "I think that's so important in making that stance to hold [the Bible] right in front of you and walk in the school building—it's absolutely amazing."



Finally, Christian legal group [Alliance Defending Freedom](#), which recently [won a big religious liberty case at the Supreme Court](#), is again partnering with Focus on the Family to offer students free legal representation if their rights are violated at school.

Sharing an important message

Focus on the Family may sponsor the event – but it's children and teens like Lettie, 13, from Virginia, who lead it.

"We put posters around the school and on our lockers a few weeks before Bring Your Bible to School Day. Some of us didn't wait till that day. We brought our Bibles every day when we learned about it," [Lettie shared](#). "We have also started praying at lunch. I never knew that we were allowed to do that. My friends and I wanted to do it to share the Bible with each other and talk to others who don't know about Jesus!"

Students can [sign up to participate](#) and get free, downloadable guides. Elementary, teen and pastor/parent editions are also available.

Students can also follow "Bring Your Bible to School Day" on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) and find more information, including the [official video](#) and stories from students and parents, at www.bringyourbible.org. The official hashtag is #BringYourBible.

To learn more about "Bring Your Bible to School Day," or to coordinate an interview with Focus' Education Analyst and #BringYourBible spokesperson Candi Cushman, please contact Allison Meggers at news@fotf.org or 719-266-7557.

About Focus on the Family

Focus on the Family, which reaches about 38 million people in 120 countries, is a global faith-based ministry that helps families thrive. We provide help and resources for strengthening believers in their faith and sharing the gospel; building resilient marriages that reflect God's design; equipping parents to raise their children with a thriving faith; advocating for the preborn, orphaned and life at every stage; and engaging the culture through a biblical worldview. Visit Focus at FocusontheFamily.com or on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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