

# LifeWise PRESS KIT

Decades ago, our nation systematically removed Bible education from the public school day. LifeWise Academy is bringing it back. Under a little-known Supreme Court ruling, LifeWise empowers communities to provide Bible education for their public school students DURING SCHOOL HOURS.

Tens of thousands of public school students attend LifeWise Bible classes each week.



SCHOOLS SERVED

**447**



STUDENTS ENROLLED

**36,356**



STATES SERVED

**15**



**FOUNDED IN 2019**

✦ Headquartered in Hilliard, OH

✦ Frequently Asked Questions  
[lifewise.org/FAQ](https://lifewise.org/FAQ)

✦ Joel Penton, Founder & CEO  
[headshot](#)

✦ Classroom, Staff, Student and Transportation Photos  
[photos](#)



[lifewise.org](https://lifewise.org)



## JOEL PENTON BIO

Joel Penton is the Founder and CEO of LifeWise Academy, a program that provides Bible education to public school students during school hours. Since its launch in 2019, LifeWise has quickly grown to serve hundreds of schools across the U.S. each week, with tens of thousands of students attending LifeWise to receive a Bible class as part of their public school day.

Joel's 15-year career as a ministry leader has been marked by the relentless pursuit of impacting students. He honed this skill playing defensive tackle at The Ohio State University with a relentless pursuit of impacting quarterbacks for a national championship football team. In his senior year at OSU, Joel received the Danny Wuerffel trophy, known as the "Humanitarian Heisman," which is awarded to one college football player each year for outstanding community service.

Upon graduating, Joel founded Relevant Speakers Network, a speakers' bureau that has touched more than 3,000 public schools and 2 million students nationwide. As a public speaker, Joel has presented to more than 2,000 live audiences and over 1,000,000 people across the country. He is also the author of three books including *DURING SCHOOL HOURS: Why and How LifeWise Academy is Reinstalling Religious Education into the Public School Day*.

Joel lives in Columbus, Ohio, with his wife, Bethany, and their five children, where they all enjoy telling stories at the dinner table, watching sci-fi movies, and playing full-contact monkey in the middle.

