

# youthESource Bible Study

## Alones, but Never Alone

### Part Three: To God Alone Be Glory - Student Guide

by Sara Borgstede

#### Introduction:

#### Who is this famous person?

- Both of his parents died within a year of each other when he was 10 years old, and he went to live with his older brother for the next 7 years.
- He had 20 children, although not all of them lived.
- Born in 1685, he was a Lutheran musician who wrote scores of church worship music throughout his life.
- People complained about his music during his time. It was said about his music, "The music is too showy. Some of our members even think it is sinful. Music should be simple so that it draws attention to God, not to the music or the performers." He got into fights and went through several jobs during his lifetime. His music wasn't famous until after he died.

Do you know who this famous person is?

Answer: He is Johann Sebastian Bach, considered to be one of the most brilliant composers ever to write music.

Here is a link to listen to some of Bach's music:

The Best of Bach: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6JQm5aSjX6g>

See this article to read more history about Bach and his life:

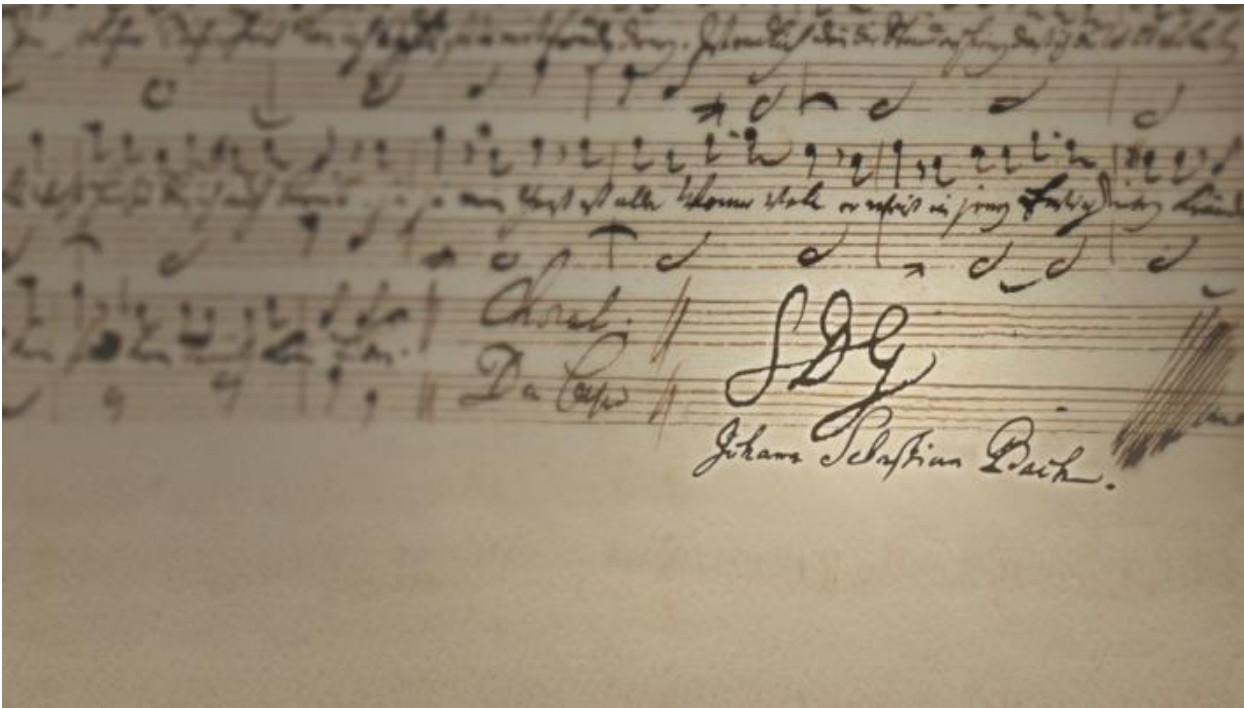
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ch/2007/issue95/1.8.html?start=1>)

#### Discussion Questions

1. Were you surprised to learn Bach's life was difficult? Do you think talented people often live difficult lives? Why or why not?
2. Why do you think Bach's music was considered "sinful" and "too showy" during his time? Why is it not considered that way today? How does this influence your thoughts about the music we use in worship now?

#### Digging Deeper

Bach once said, "I play the notes as they are written but it is God who makes the music." He began writing "Soli Deo Gloria" or SDG at the bottom of the scores of his music to show that he wanted to give God full glory for the music that was written.



(Public domain photo. Source: <http://www.bach-cantatas.com/Scores/IndexScoresSources.htm>)

Our entire lives are lived before God and are for God. We live with the desire to give God glory. When we worship, we are not seeking to get our own needs met but to worship an amazing God who deserves all our praise. When we accomplish a task, we don't want to make ourselves famous but we want to make God famous. God works through us, but He is the one who deserves all the credit for the good we do.

*Soli Deo Gloria* becomes our only ambition in life. Think of it as the invisible signature on everything you do in your whole life.

Read 1 Corinthians 10:31. Everything we do is for the glory of God. How does that play out in your daily life?

Look up Romans 10:9-10. We want to live lives that bring honor and glory to God. Do these actions give us salvation? What saves us?

What does Matthew 5:16 say about what our lives can do?

### **Your Life and Mine**

Think back to your day yesterday. Jot down some of your memories from yesterday:

What activities did you do? (Consider: Work, school, home, sports, pets, eating, sleeping)

Who did you talk to? Text? Hang out with? Think about adults and teens. What were some of the topics of conversation?

What media did you use – TV, computer, phone, Internet, music?

**Discuss:**

1. Looking back over your day yesterday, could you write an invisible “SDG” on everything you did? Why or why not?
2. Every task we complete is holy when done for God and His glory. It doesn't need to be a “church” activity to be valuable to God and His kingdom. A garbage collector who is doing his job with a great attitude and working for the Lord is just as much working in a holy occupation as a pastor preaching a sermon. How does this idea influence the way you look at your day?
3. Is there anything about your day you would like to change and do differently in light of what you have learned? How might your day look tomorrow when you go into it with an invisible “SDG” signature at the bottom of all you are doing?

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youthESource is published on the Web by the LCMS Office of National Mission—Youth Ministry. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, 1333 South Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295; 1-800-248-1930; [www.youthesource.com](http://www.youthesource.com). Editor: Sherrah Holobaugh Behrens. VOL. 11 NO. 9. September 2014.