



Bible Quiz Newsletter

October 2023

COACHES' TIPS

John and I (Lori) have been involved with Bible Quiz since we were teenagers. I don't care for math, so I won't tell you how many years that has been. Maybe some of you don't know that we met because of Bible Quiz! We like to tell our quizzers that BQ is a great place to find a good husband or wife – and we mean it!

No doubt there are a million different ways to run a BQ ministry, but here are some things we've found helpful:

Always have a plan.

I remember being young coaches and winging it. That didn't go so great! Well before the season starts, make a schedule for the whole quiz year. Start with league dates plus any tournaments you plan to attend and of course district, regionals, and nationals. Plan out your memorization schedule according to those dates. Be sure to leave enough time to actually practice over the material before competing on it. All of this seems obvious now, but there was a time when it wasn't!

Once you have a plan, type it up on a chart or a calendar. Whatever works for you! Just put it in a document that can be printed, emailed, and shared because you need to give this out to your quizzers. Just like a teacher will give out a syllabus to their students, give families an overview of the season ahead of them.

Don't stop there. Now that you have a long-term plan, you need to plan out your quizzers' study on a weekly basis. Again, type it up so you can put it in their hands EVERY week. We are asking teenagers to do something HARD and sometimes overwhelming. Help them break it down day by day. (We've brought a huge chocolate cake to practice before and asked a quizzer to eat the whole thing right then. Of course, they just look at us. Some of our funnier boys might try to start eating it all, but they aren't successful because it is so much! We then plate it up slice by slice and hand it out as we teach them how we tackle BIG things a little at a time.)

Experienced quizzers don't usually need you to break it down too much, but newer or younger quizzers definitely need this. And no matter how experienced the quizzer, we find they all benefit greatly from a weekly study plan that also incorporates boxes to check off and then return for accountability. (This can be for quoting, doing reference

cards, chapter analysis, or anything else.) Give prizes to each one or maybe have a drawing from all the returned study sheets each week for \$5. Teach your quizzers to have consistent study skills from the very beginning. In our own home these study sheets go on the refrigerator and it's amazing how much it keeps us on track! I like this quote from Dave Ramsey:

"Work is doing it.

Discipline is doing it every day.

Diligence is doing it well every day."

Always have a system.

You might think this is redundant since the first point is "Always have a plan" but your system is how you will put your plan and goals in action. You can decide you want your teams to memorize all the material for the season before League 4 and to advance to nationals, but HOW will you ensure they do it? How will that giant chocolate cake get eaten? Goals and plans are important, but your system is what gets you there.

"You do not rise to the level of your goals. You fall to the level of your systems." James Clear, Atomic Habits

Our basic system looks like this:

- Give out memorization schedule broken down week by week
- Break the "pre-season" into 4 parts, one for each league meet
- Set a reward date for each of those 4 meets (same day or soon after)
- Create a checkoff sheet with columns for what verses are due to be quoted that week, the date, the leader who listens, number of mistakes made, and a place to check it off.
- Each weekly practice starts with quizzers grabbing their folders with the checkoff sheet and quoting their assignment to one of the leaders. We allow up to 1 mistake per 3 verses. (A 21-verse chapter would be allowed 7 mistakes total. An 11-verse chapter is allowed 4 mistakes total since we round up.)
- After they've quoted, they can go back into the big room and hangout and eat breakfast with everyone else until we start our lesson and practice.
- Checkoff sheets are to be fully completed by the last practice before the league meet. All quizzers who are successful are invited to participate in the reward. Some things we've done are ice skating, bowling, escape rooms, whirlyball, scavenger hunts, hibachi restaurant, and a vintage arcade. (Budgets of all sizes can do something fun! Get creative! Groupon can be a good resource for finding deals. You might also find someone to sponsor one of your rewards. Businesses will sometimes give good discounts if you tell them what your group is too!)

We used to feel mean to not include those who didn't rise to the challenge, but we've learned that this model works. It's just the right level of reward for success and "punishment" for failing. Quizzers rarely fail twice in a row.

This system works the same for XP5, Contender, and Championship. Just make different checkoff sheets to align with each memorizing schedule. We take all quizzers to the same reward, and we love that no matter which age or division, we are together as a family for that reward time.

Implement this system and you will instantly have amazing accountability for your quizzers as well as four fun outings built into your quiz season. It's great!

Always develop more leaders.

When you move away, change churches, or just get older and retire from coaching, your Bible Quiz ministry needs to continue! Make sure you are bringing other adults in and training them. Have a gathering before the season starts and brainstorm together. Keep them in the loop throughout the season. Use their strengths! Graduated students, college students, parents, and even grandparents can all be great coaches or helpers!

Always communicate.

Life is BUSY! Communicate with parents and they will love you for it. I'm a mom of 5 and my calendar is full. Last minute communication is no fun! I do my best to respect our families by communicating timely and thoroughly. Email is great but consider GroupMe for smaller announcements or reminders throughout the week. (GROUPME is a free app and is very easy to use.) Make sure your parents and quizzers all have a calendar, a memorization schedule, upcoming travel plans, and any other information you have. Be organized and communicate!

Always set a high bar.

Cast some vision and show them WHY you expect so much. First off, God's Word is a weapon, and I can think of nothing better to equip our kids with. Our culture is warring against them, and they must be firmly grounded in Truth.

Second, mastering the material is the only way to be strong competitors. Some people might say competition isn't important and it's not about winning. While winning obviously isn't the most important thing (after all, only one team is going to win it all each year!), it IS important to strive for excellence even in competition. It's more fun to win! Students who have fun will want to stick around. Being good also attracts others. Most people don't want to come be a part of something that is struggling or losing all the time. That's just facts.

Next, break it down and show them HOW they can accomplish what you are expecting. Here's where your goals, plans, and the system I already mentioned can keep your team on track. Bring out the gigantic chocolate cake and spur them on to consistent greatness in the daily things. Small routines practiced consistently yield incredible progress.

Always have fun.

Your practice should NEVER be boring! Be sure to incorporate challenges, games, prizes, and of course some good hang out time as well. When it comes to games, I have 4 rules. The game must be:

1. Productive – don't waste time. Know exactly what is being accomplished.
2. Quick paced – if it's slow it will get boring or won't accomplish much.
3. Easy to set up – "Ain't nobody got time for that" is my motto.
4. Simple to understand – if it takes 10 minutes of practice to explain it, just NO.

Here are 5 tried and true games or activities we use in practice:

1. X Factor – Each quizzer gets a column on the board with 10 X's. Each time a quizzer buzzes in and answers correctly, they get to choose 2 X's from other people's columns to be erased. (You or another leader should erase so it's quick paced!) The object is to be the last one with X's left. They will often form alliances, so this gets entertaining.
2. Mystery Questions – Before starting a question set, go through and secretly mark about 5 of the 20 questions with a star. Prepare 5 envelopes with various amounts of money in each one. Ours will vary between \$1 and \$10. (You could also just have a prize box with stickers, candy, or whatever. The point is to have a reward.) Read the questions and don't tell quizzers which questions are marked until AFTER you read one. If someone got it correct, they get to choose an envelope. Remember to keep it moving fast!
3. Quizzing for quarters – This is exactly what it sounds like. We quiz and give out quarters for correct answers. For more experienced quizzers, we only give quarters for correct interrupted questions. If the question is read all the way to the end, it is not awarded anything. You could do 1 quarter for 10's, 2 quarters for 20's, and 3 quarters for 30's. Or keep it simple with 1 or 2 no matter the point value. (If you're mean you might make them give back a quarter for an incorrect answer!)
4. Hungry Hungry Quizzo – Every quizzer gets an empty cup (put a picture of the Hungry Hungry Hippo on it for more fun!) and leaders are stationed around the room with cups of poker chips plus a stack of reference cards. Quizzers can go to any leader (just not the same one twice in a row) and quote the verse for the reference card shown to them. If they're correct, they are given a poker chip and quickly move to another leader. If they're wrong, they get nothing and still move on. Set a timer and award the person who earned the most chips when time is up.
5. Chips – Start practice time by giving each quizzer an empty cup. Throughout practice give out poker chips for everything you do. Questions, returning study sheets, quiz outs, best quoting, whatever. Award those

with the most chips at the end. Easy yet effective!

What about prizes? There are many different budgets, but you can have prizes no matter how big or small it is. And don't tell me quizzers don't want prizes. They do! Here are some thoughts:

- Stickers (Redbubble.com is a fantastic resource for unique ones but Amazon and many other places have them as well.) Stickers can go on their quiz books, water bottles, phones, and more! There are some really fun possibilities. Memes, video games, favorite cartoon characters, Christian ones, sports, and animals to name a few.
- Candy box (Big or small is fine! Your budget can dictate this.)
- Money – quarters, dollar bills, unique things like a \$2 bill or dollar coins from your bank are fun too. A crisp \$5 bill is great for a drawing or something bigger. We will sometimes announce a hard study challenge with a \$25 drawing at the end of the month.
- An outing – a trip to Marble Slab, bowling, ice skating, escape room, cookout at coach's house, and on and on. Lot of possibilities at all different price points here.

What about traveling and attending tournaments? This definitely falls into the FUN category! This is your chance to make BIG memories with your team while gaining super valuable quizzing experience. You can't replicate this in your practice time. Do everything in your power to travel at least once every season. (XP5 teams might be the exception here. It's often best to keep this group simple!)

Always be a family.

Develop relationships with your quizzers and their families too. We tell our group all the time that we are a FAMILY and it's true. Be there for each other. Celebrate all the good stuff and help each other in hard times. Share each other's burdens. This is Biblical and you can minister on a deeper level when you care about the practical things. Make your quiz families your people!

Bible Quiz is a family ministry, and we stress this throughout the season. We can't have the strong quiz family we want and need if it's just us and the quizzers. Parents are important! Invite them and involve them in practices, meets, and outings.

Disciple your quizzers. Speak into their lives. Be there for them every day and not just at practices and meets. Challenge them to be better people, not just better quizzers. LOVE them. Have inside jokes, share funny pictures or memes in group texts or GroupMe, and hang out together. Be a FAMILY.

These are the things that work for us! Here it is one more time:

- Always have a plan.
- Always have a system.
- Always develop more leaders.
- Always communicate.
- Always set a high bar.
- Always have fun.
- Always be a family.

Lori & John, Sullivan, Trinity Church, Cedar Hill, TX National BQ Champions July 2023

(Reprint from Oct BQ newsletter Oct 2022)

- Need a quiz set?

Steve Kirkman, www.quizequipment.com

- Need to find other BQ information?

· Looking Ahead: ***Bible Quiz Season 2023-2024 Romans & James***

CHAMPIONSHIP	CONTENDER	XP5
MEET 1 Romans 1-7 186 verses	Romans 8 39 verses	Romans 1-5 138
MEET 2 Romans 8-11 129 verses	James 1 27 verses	Romans 6-8 87
MEET 3 Romans 12-16 117 verses	Romans 12-14 58 verses	James 2-3 44 verses
MEET 4 James 1-5 108 verses	James 1-5 108 verses	James 4-5 37 verses
TOTAL verses	540 verses 147 verses	391

* No Romans 16:24

DISCIPLESHIP BOOK: ROMANS & JAMES

“IF” by Mark Batterson

“That tiny two-letter word is the hinge on the door of possibilities. Some of us are stuck in *if only*, living lives marked by regret. But God can turn your *if only* regrets into a *what if* attitude, a faith that looks forward to the future with holy confidence. There are 1,784 *ifs* in the Bible. The most significant? “If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Romans 8:31. It’s the game changer! God is always on our side-every day, in every way. That one little *if* changes everything”

DISCIPLESHIP AWARD:

With the new Romans & James materials you will notice the more streamlined Discipleship award requirements this year. They will be more focused on actual scripture. In addition to the *Commentary* there will also be *Discussion Questions* at the end of each of the 21 chapters for Romans & James.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

Can be found at www.biblequiz.com

YOU TUBE READINGS OF ROMANS & JAMES

I was a quizzer in the 80’s and then a coach and official in the 90’s
It’s called Bible Reading by Dr. B.

Romans NLT: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mcaW89Eabi4>

James NLT: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Euj4oqk8-c>

Main channel page: <https://www.youtube.com/@biblereadingbydrb>

Mark Banas

MASTER MEMORIZATION AWARD

All of Romans & James within 55 minutes, 11 mistakes or less and must be quoted consecutively, in one sitting.

QUESTION WRITER TIPS ROMANS & JAMES: CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION

Jesse Czubkowski

General Tips

Generally, questions will be easy to interrupt except Statement and Questions or Scripture-text Questions. Pay attention to what the introductory remarks say as well as what they do not say.

Knowing unique words, chapter analysis, conditional “if” statements, “let us” commands, and “do not” commands will be valuable for teams.

Application Questions will be used for Leagues 1 – 4 only

Locators will shift from section titles to chapters as we approach

Regionals/Nationals

10-point Questions

The difficulty will be similar for all levels. (League Meet 1 and National Finals are identical in difficulty.) All answers will come from a single verse and will *usually* require 7 words or less

League Meet 1-4

20s: These questions will typically be 8 words or more and will come from a single verse. I will emphasize an understanding of fundamental knowledge at this level. (Giving verses in essence, chapter analysis, references, and knowledge of unique words are paramount at this stage)

30s: These questions will require answers almost always from a single verse, but answers will be longer than 20-point questions. It will be important to know how to quote by verse reference, know all section titles and verse references, as well as understand some basic cross-referencing from within the same chapter.

League Meet 5/League Finals

20s/30s The difficulty will remain the same as League Meet 1-4, but cover all material cumulatively.

District Finals

20s: Question difficulty will increase slightly, with many questions coming from 2 verses. Chapter analysis will be used in greater capacity and basic concordance-type questions will be introduced.

30s: Question difficulty will increase significantly, with questions coming from 3 verses on average. Chapter analysis will be used in greater capacity and basic concordance that cross references different chapter and books (i.e. from both Romans and James) will be introduced.

Regional Finals

20s: Mastery of the material will be highly advantageous. Questions will cover 1 – 3 verses, and concordance questions appearing with greater frequency,

30s: Mastery of the material will be highly advantageous. Questions will cover 3 – 4 verses, with the introduction of chapter analysis by book and concordance-type questions increasing in difficulty.

National Finals

20s: Mastery of the material will be required. Questions will typically cover 1 – 4 verses, along with knowing chapter analysis, references, and unique words over all the material. Concordance-type questions will be asked frequently.

30s: Mastery of the material will be required. Questions will typically cover 4 – 7 verses, along with knowing chapter analysis, references and unique words over all the material. Concordance-type questions will be asked frequently.

CONTENDER/XP 5

Rev. Micah Van Gorp

General Style

I favor questions that will help you understand the text being studied. In my questions, I rely on the wording from the Scripture rather than use my own. There will be a few cases where the Scripture would make the question too wordy or complicated so I do use my own. However, when in doubt use the Scripture to finish interrupted questions. I attempt to use all the varieties of question and answer types. I like lists and multi-part answers. My Statement and questions are focused on understanding Scriptural truths, thus they will be difficult to interrupt until after the statement is complete. The Contender Study and Practice questions will show a sampling of all the types of questions you will see throughout the quiz season.

By Point Value

10-point questions will be no longer than three words throughout the entire season (articles don't count ie. the Lord Jesus Christ.) This is not a contestable standard but is the pattern I am using. Early in the season expect the 20-point questions that are not from the Study Questions to be small segments of verses, and growing in length as the season progresses.

30-point questions will be longer sections of verses or the entire verse depending on verse length for league meets, getting longer with League 5/League Finals, District Finals, and Regional Finals. The last few sets of the Practice Questions will show samplings of the harder questions that will appear in these later meets.

Contender

Questions will come in no particular order and I like to mix up where point values appear.

League meets 2-4 will have 75% of the new material with 25% review from previous material.

Application questions will appear in questions 11-20. They will come only from the new material for the league meet.

League 1 will have 10 questions from the Contender Study Questions in each round. Leagues 2-4 will have 5 in each round.

XP5

The first 12 questions will be matched so that the same point value is read to both teams.

Of the first 12 questions 10 will be from the Contender Study Questions.

Question number 13 will be a 30 that will either be an application question or harder 30-point question.

There will be a total of two application questions between questions 13 and 18.

They will only come from the chapters being studied for this league meet.

There will be no review questions from previous material.

BQ TOURNAMENTS

39th Annual Gold Cup

October 21, 2023

Trinity Church, Cedar Hill, Texas

Writers Shreanna Powell

Gold and Silver Division, XP5 if enough teams

Contact: Lori Sullivan safkids@gmail.com

6th Annual Bluegrass Classic

October 28, 2023

Lexington First Assembly, Lexington, KY

Divisions: Championship, Contender, XP-5

Email tbq.kentucky@gmail.com for more information!

30th Gobblefest Bible Quiz Tournament

November 17-18, 2023

Championship; Contender; XP5

University of Valley Forge, PA

Contact: Bernie Elliot ElliotBQ@gmail.com

412-999-9330

Mid-Winter Classic BQ Tournament

January 12-13, 2024

Sioux Falls, SD

Divisions: Championship, Contender, XP5, Adult

Contact: Don Batty debatty00@gmail.com

608-566-6255

39th Friendship Classic

January 26, 27, 2024

Oxford AG, Oxford, FL

Championship only

Contact: Bernie Elliot ElliotBQ@gmail.com

Razorback XP5 Invitational

February 3, 2024

Place: First Assembly of God, [2466 US-65, Clinton, Arkansas, 72031](#)

Contact: Johnny Hunter arkansastbq@outlook.com

574-214-5166

Presidents Cup

February 3, 2024, NJ

Championship & Contender.

Contact: Jesse Czubkowski jesseczubkowski@gmail.com

Windy City Classic

March 1 & 2, 2024

Calvary Church, Naperville, IL

Contact: David Powell wheatonpowells@yahoo.com

Emerald City Tournament

April 19-20, 2024

Deeper Church, Burien, WA near Seattle

Championship only

Richie Nelson: richiedn@gmail.com

253-232-9995

Jersey Shore Pre-Nats

May 31 & June 1, 2024

Tinton Falls, NJ

All material covered

Wrap-ups from BQ Training:

Penn-Del BQ Camp:

We had sessions for adults that covered everything from BQ and Beyond to rules training. The last session all adults were put into quiz rooms to officiate. Quizzers were given tips on how to study and rules for quizzing. There were great times of worship each day. We had a motivational message from Matthew Blake, a quizzer who just graduated. Over 150 people attended and 36 were new quizzers!!!!

Patty Blake, DBQC, Penn-Del District

Southern Advance BQ Training:

The first annual BQ training for both NC and SC was held at Lake Wiley, SC. 26 people attended, and we were encouraged by many new quizzers attending.

Craig & Beth Barnes, DBQC from NC invested in the adults that day.

Jean Elliot, DBQC, SC District

“Nothing In All Creation” Midwest Bible Camp, Camp Rimrock, Rapid City, SD

Recently 28 quizzers (6 new) and 20 leaders gathered in the beautiful Black Hills to learn NOTHING . . . that is, NOTHING can separate us from God’s love.

Students participated in 5 quizzing related workshops plus a geocache challenge. We had so much fun with group games and tubing down Rapid Creek. Thought provoking devotions were given about NOTHING. The 3 students and 3 leaders who led these were incredible. We basked in the presence of God praying and singing around a campfire on a star filled night. While this was a quiz training camp, it was such a blessing seeing students discover their identity in Christ and forge deeper relationships within the quizzing community.

“Camp was really fun! It was my first time at Bible quiz camp, and I made a bunch of new friends. I learned a lot about "nothing." How nothing can separate us from Jesus. Out of nothing is what God creates from. We can trust Jesus when we feel as if we have nothing. And because of Jesus' sacrifice, we have nothing to brag about, but Jesus.”

“Camp reminded me that God is in control of everything and we have nothing without Him.

“Camp was amazing. So many great people helping us learn more about God. Fun activities and great services with amazing worship time. I was just so inspired this week. It was one of the best camps I have ever been to.”

David Sullivan, South Dakota DBQC

South Central BQ Camp

We had 30 quizzers in attendance from 6 different churches, despite temperatures in excess of 105. We also had 14 adults in attendance for part or all of the camp. The two-day camp was full of great information for the quizzers who put in the effort to learn and grow.

Micah Van Gorp, N. Texas, DBQC

LIBERTY CLASSIC, NJ Saturday Sept 23, 2023

CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION – 8 teams

Top 3 teams listed	W	L	AVG
1. Redeemer Church, Utica, NY # 1	7	0	209
2. Calvary Temple, Wayne, NJ	6	1	236
3. Living Hope WC, Swedesboro, NJ	4	3	105

Top 5 Individuals: AVG Quiz Outs

1. Aaron Hoffmann, Utica, NY # 1	102	6
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2. Kelechi Oriaku, CT, NJ	99	6
3. Ian Horn, Utica, NY # 1	91	6
4. Johan Ajoy, CT, NJ	91	5
5. Claire Cook, Utica, NY # 2	76	4

CONTENDER DIVISION – 5 teams

Top 3 teams listed	W	L	AVG
1.UCEF, Westfield, NJ # 1	9	1	197
2. UCEF, Westfield, NJ # 2	9	1	135
3. Redeemer Church, Utica, NY	6	4	80

Top 5 Individuals:	AVG Quiz Outs	
1.Andrew Vellore, Westfield, NJ #1	96	6
2. Ashriel, Westfield, NJ # 1	87	9
3. Viraj Sandela, Westfield, NJ # 2	71	4
4.Andre Mikhailouski, Utica, NY	55	6
5. Blessy Devi, Westfield, NJ # 2	32	2

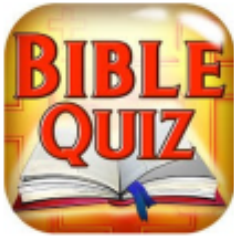
XP5 DIVISION – 4 teams

Top 3 teams listed	W	L	AVG
1.Fountain of Life, Burlington, NJ	8	1	176
2. UCEF, Westfield, NJ # 3	6	3	158
3. Calvary Temple, Wayne, NJ	4	5	131

Top 5 Individuals:	AVG Quiz Outs	
1.Samrudh Ghanta, Westfield, NJ # 3	109	7
2. Chisom Joy Oriaku, Wayne, NJ	107	7
3. Iheoma Ozioma, Burlington, NJ	98	8
4. Kaitlyn Mwaba, Burlington, NJ	78	6
5. Rohan Muthyala, Westfield, NJ # 3	29	1

Facebook Group

If you have not joined us, please do so on our Facebook page.
Take part in great discussions and sharing of ideas about the
Bible Quiz Ministry: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/
agbiblequiz](https://www.facebook.com/groups/agbiblequiz)



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Philippians 4:13

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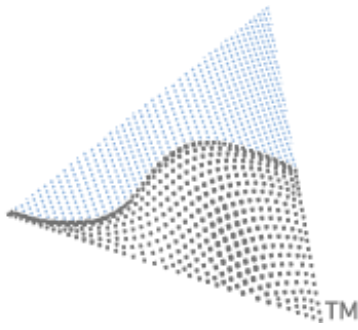
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Assemblies of God Youth Ministries
1445 N Boonville Ave, Springfield, MO 65802 | 417-862-2781