

A large, stylized sunburst graphic with numerous thin yellow lines radiating from a central point, set against a light yellow background. The sunburst is partially obscured by a red arrow-shaped banner.

How to Start a  
**Bible Quizzing Ministry**



[SeniorBibleQuizzing.com](http://SeniorBibleQuizzing.com)



So you're interested in starting  
a Bible Quizzing ministry?

Even if you have no  
experience with this  
life-changing program,  
you **CAN** begin a successful  
ministry.



# What is Bible Quizzing?

The purpose of Bible Quizzing is to teach students the precious, infallible Word of God. The ministry of Bible Quizzing provides an incentive for students in the US and Canada to spend hundreds of hours of their personal time each year studying God's Word. It is unlike any other ministry available.

## Division Breakdown

### Junior

Junior Bible Quizzing is a ministry of the UPCI Sunday School Division and is supported by Save our Children.

Beginner - ages 8 and under - approximately 180 verses

Junior - ages 9-11 - approximately 275 verses

### Senior

Senior Bible Quizzing is a ministry of the UPCI General Youth Division and is supported by Sheaves for Christ.

Intermediate - ages 12-14 (or first year quizzers) - approximately 400 verses

Experienced - ages 12-18 - approximately 500 verses

## Yearly Schedule

**Late July:** UPCI headquarters releases the coming year's list of verses

**September-December:** Teams are assembled, weekly practices begin

**January-June:** Monthly district tournaments are hosted

**March-April:** Regional Extravaganzas are hosted

**Late July:** Junior Bible Quizzing Nationals is hosted

**Early August:** Senior Bible Quizzing Nationals is hosted



# Promotions

Promotions do two things: inform and inspire. Here is a list of promotional ideas:

1. One-on-one conversations with parents and quizzers
2. Visit each Sunday school class and give a short promotion to the children
3. Present a skit or PowerPoint to the congregation
4. Refer people to existing Bible quizzing videos: [SeniorBibleQuizzing.com](http://SeniorBibleQuizzing.com)

## *First things first!*

*Before you start promoting a new ministry, contact your pastor first. Don't set sail without your pastor on board! Second, contact your district Bible Quizzing coordinator for more information, including tournament registration details.*

# Orientation

Once you have a group of interested candidates, it would be wise to hold an orientation meeting before the season begins. In this meeting, you can vision-cast for the coming year, hand out schedules, convey your expectations for parents and quizzers, discuss ordering study materials, etc.

# Materials

Many great quizzer and coach materials are provided by Gary and Jo Ann Powers at [BQPowers.com](http://BQPowers.com). Most quizzers will use two study items during the season: a set of laminated sheets listing all the verses for that year and a box of verse cards. CDs and DVDs that present the verses as songs are often effective with very young quizzers. New coaches can expect to buy a buzzer system, a set of laminated sheets listing all the verses for that year, a rules manual, a concordance, practice questions, and score sheets. Other helpful tools and links are available [here](#).

# Fundraising

All this talk about buying materials leads us to the topic of fundraising. Monthly registration fees, gasoline, food, hotels for occasional overnight tournaments (like extravaganzas and nationals) all add up. Oftentimes, fundraising is a regular part of a coach's to-do list. Here are a couple great fundraising ideas.

## 1. Quote-a-thon:

Quizzers recruit sponsors to pay a certain amount of money per verse quoted at a special quote-a-thon event.

## 2. Quizzer sponsorships:

Individuals sponsor a particular quizzer for an entire season, covering all of their associated expenses.

# Weekly Practices

A coach's main responsibility is to run weekly practices. Once you decide when and where to practice, here are a few tips on how to practice:

1. Find assistants to help you
2. Pray together
3. Study the meaning of the verses
4. Review the rules of quizzing (see rules manual)
5. Read practice questions (tournament-style quizzes can be purchased at [BQPowers.com](http://BQPowers.com))
6. Quoting drills
7. Games involving their verses

## Monthly Tournaments

Bible quizzing is facilitated on the district level. From January to June, many districts host one tournament per month. Coaches are responsible for registering their team prior to each tournament. Contact your district's Bible quizzing coordinator for registration information.

Coaches must also communicate tournament information with parents. The coach relays the time, location, driving arrangements, and possible hotel information for that particular tournament.

When tournament time comes, the coach assumes the part of his or her responsibility that most people attribute to coaching. You've prayed, petitioned, promoted, oriented, fundraised, practiced, and planned...now you coach! It is wise for every coach to read the rules manual and ask plenty of questions.





## Extravaganzas & Nationals

Extravaganzas are special tournaments hosted in March and April. There is always one extravaganza in each region of the country: North Central, South Central, Eastern, and Western. These tournaments last 2-3 days, and generally include teams from many other states. In Senior Bible Quizzing, the first and second placing teams from each extravaganza will automatically qualify for nationals.

To qualify for nationals, a team must place 1st or 2nd at their district finals tournament in June. If the district has 10-14 teams in a division, 3 teams will qualify for nationals. If the district has 15-19 teams in a division, 4 teams will qualify, and so on. Junior nationals (NAJBQT) is hosted the last full week of July. Senior nationals (NABQT) is hosted in early August.

## Common Pitfalls

### Uninvolved parents:

Parents are invaluable in Bible quizzing! Spend time articulating the benefits of Bible quizzing to parents. Enlist parents as practice assistants to spark a fire inside of them. Encourage every parent to attend every tournament.

### Lack of success:

The best way to curb a quizzer's disappointment is to find other ways to reward their hard work. As coaches, it can be difficult when we don't see tangible fruit for our labor as well. Keep the faith! Your labor of love is always seen by the One who matters most. You can't outgive God (Luke 6:38).

### Mid-year burnout:

As a coach, you can use monthly tournaments, the prospect of attending an extravaganza, and simple rewards to keep your Bible quizzers motivated. Keep your practices fresh and keep parents updated.

You've begun the journey that for decades has changed the lives of many. May God richly bless you for your love of His Word and His children.  
Just remember...have fun!

**SeniorBibleQuizzing.com**

North American Senior Bible Quizzing headquarters  
Extravaganza & NABQT information  
Promotional resources

**GeneralYouthDivision.com**

Official sponsor of Senior Bible Quizzing

**SundaySchoolDivision.com**

North American Junior Bible Quizzing headquarters  
Extravaganza & NAJBQT information

**BQPowers.com**

Official BQ study material distributor

**UPCQuiz.com**

International tournament data and statistics  
Buzzer system & software purchasing  
Online games



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