BUILDING
A SUCCESSFUL
BIBLE QUIZ
MINISTRY
WALKER, FAUBERT, COHEN

BUILDING A SUCCESSFUL BIBLE QUIZ MINISTRY

2016 | VERSION 1.1

MARVIN & CLAUDETTE WALKER

RUSS FAUBERT

BEN COHEN

UPCI general youth DIVISION SBQ SENIOR BIBLE QUIZZING

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION
BUILD WITH A PURPOSE 4

CHAPTER ONE
HAVE A BLUEPRINT 7

CHAPTER TWO
LAY THE FOUNDATION 13

CHAPTER THREE
HONE YOUR CRAFT 22

CHAPTER FOUR
MAINTAIN MORALE 28

CHAPTER FIVE
PREPARE FOR INSPECTION 33

CONCLUSION
FROM PETE ROSE TO DONALD DUCK 45

FROM THE DESK OF MARVIN WALKER:

All who have conscientiously involved themselves in Bible Quizzing have discovered that this ministry is much more than a game! Your foremost question as a quiz coach must be, "What is my concept of Bible Quizzing?" If quizzing is little more than Bible jeopardy to you, you won't sustain Bible Quizzing in your church. Determine as you begin to build a ministry, not just assemble a team.

As a quiz coach, you should naturally seek to develop the best possible team that you can, but to make that the primary objective is to put the cart before the horse. Your primary purpose is to minister to your quizzers through the scriptures they study and honor God with a healthy attitude about the whole quizzing experience.

What is a "healthy attitude?" In a nutshell, winning is wonderful, but learning the lessons God has to teach requires both winning and losing graciously in order to build Christ-like character. In that sense, even a loss can be a win, if your team learns God's lesson and exhibits an excellent spirit. Attitude is what makes winners out of losers…or losers out of winners. Every quizzer with a right attitude is a winner!

As the quiz coach, you will, wittingly or unwittingly, guide the attitude of your quizzers. If you encourage them to reach for not only the content of the Word of God, but also for the God of the Word, you will build an effective ministry whether the team wins or loses in competition. Quizzers who learn to reach for God through the quiz experience, rather than for trophies and recognition, will be long-term winners. If this all sounds too spiritual or idealistic for a competitive venture, let me remind you that Bible Quizzing is much more than a game!

The second thing to understand is the responsibility in directing a quiz ministry. As in any endeavor, those being led will rarely rise above the level of their leadership. A leader is known by his followers and the leader must gain the respect and confidence of the group before he earns the right to lead. A quiz coach leads the team in deed, as well as in word. The quizzing experience demands much from both the quizzers and the coach, and the coach's heart will be tested in developing a quiz ministry by the weight of this responsibility.

When a quizzer feels like quitting, the coach must impart "stick-to-it-iveness." When a quizzer feels dejected after losing, the coach must believe in him, and teach him to believe in himself. If the coach is a quitter, his team will not learn to be good competitors; if the director does not learn to control his own emotions, his temperament will be transmitted to his quizzers.

A quiz coach does not need to have had quizzing experience. He does need to have an intense desire, born of love, to minister into the lives of his quizzers. This desire and love will cause him to accept the responsibility of blending much time, hard work, consistency, patience, understanding, and firmness into the quiz ministry.

The third matter to consider is how you will motivate your quizzers to apply themselves to disciplined study. The harder your quizzers work, the greater the potential for an effective quiz ministry throughout the entire quiz season and beyond. Motivation requires gentle firmness on the part of the quiz coach: a quality that he must exhibit in order to minister effectively into the lives and character of his quizzers.

I once read a sign in the foyer of a church that has an active quiz ministry: "Bible study is not just to gain knowledge, but to change lives." In my years involved with quizzing, I have learned that the primary purpose of a quiz ministry is to change lives–not just to demonstrate knowledge to win awards. Time spent studying God's Word is time spent with God, in that God reveals Himself through His Word. When practice sessions and personal study times are covered with prayer, a climate for spiritual growth is created.

Through Bible Quizzing, a student can learn and appreciate:

- *to treasure God's Word,*
- *the value of hard work and responsibility,*
- *the importance of faithfulness,*
- *that it is possible to win even when you lose,*
- *a proper respect for authority,*
- *right conduct and attitudes in difficult, pressure-packed situations,*
- *the strength of teamwork,*
- *the beauty of being sensitive to the needs and feelings of others.*

Encourage your quizzers to be involved in a variety of ministries so they won't just be a quizzer, but a student dedicated to all aspects of God's work. Learning and growing through Bible Quizzing will make the difference in a student living a well-adjusted and fruitful life for the Kingdom of God.

Marvin G. Walker

FROM THE DESK OF RUSS FAUBERT:

As the first emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang, consolidated his power, it came to light that he had two half-brothers between the ages of four and seven, who had been hidden from him. With his mother distracted and eventually placed under house arrest, the emperor had these two young boys killed. They were killed not because of any power or influence they held at the time–the emperor, twenty years their senior, was supreme over his growing empire–but because of the potential threat they posed when they would come to maturity years down the road. The emperor eliminated them when it was easiest to do so.

Satan views our students in general, and Bible Quizzers in particular, in the same way. He seeks to eliminate them not necessarily because of the threat they currently pose, but because of the substantial threat they will pose when they fully mature, full of the Word and Spirit. This is why the devil fights Bible Quizzing tooth and nail; he knows that now in their young lives is the easiest time he's ever going to have to marginalize and defeat them. As their quiz coach, partnered with their parents and pastor, you cannot allow that to happen.

If Satan has long-term vision, certainly we can have no less. It has been said that, "Impatience is the cardinal sin of youth." By some who have yet to be involved, Bible Quizzing is, even unwittingly, deemed unattractive because it yields few short-term results relative to the investment of time, money, and effort. But the Word of God in the lives of students is like compound interest that builds over time and yields incredible long-term results, if you have the vision and patience to see it happen.

The Lord, in His vision and patience, requires a lifestyle of learning from His people. Memorization through repetition was a staple of Old Testament life, as evidenced by God's commands to Moses in Deuteronomy 6:6-7.

> » *6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*

The oral tradition that God ingrained into families ensured that each successive generation preserved the Scripture we hold sacred today. A Biblical model of student ministry then is one that must include, among other things, 1) family, and 2) memorization.

A core strength of Bible Quizzing is its alignment with this Biblical model. As a multi-generational ministry, parents and even grand-parents are involved to varying degrees, from attending tournaments to fundraising to coaching quizzers themselves. You will never go wrong adopting a Biblical model, so be sure to involve parents as much as possible, communicate regularly, and encourage them to support their student's quizzing. Despite some unavoidable friction at times, you and your quizzers' parents have the same goal for their student: his or her spiritual well-being and overall development.

Bible Quizzing is student ministry on steroids. It just takes more: more commitment, more intensity, more time, more money, just…more. And because it takes more, it exposes more in the lives of your quizzers. Issues that would otherwise take months to reveal themselves, often come to light in just two or three weeks because the Word is a discerner and quizzing is a crucible. But, thank God, in the light is where issues are best addressed.

Other than their parents, it's most likely that no one else of influence will spend more time, either one-on-one or in a small group, with your quizzers than you will as their coach. You have a wonderful opportunity and weighty responsibility. Hall of Fame football coach, Vince Lombardi, once said, "They call it coaching, but it is teaching. You do not just tell them…you show them the reasons." You can't just tell your quizzers what to do or what to believe; your life inside and outside the quiz room must demonstrate the reasons why they should listen to you at all.

Bible Quizzing parallels life. The lessons learned studying, or at a quiz table, or over the course of a tournament must at some point during a quiz career be transposed from quizzing to life. You must work to make quiz lessons become life lessons, because Bible Quizzing is not an end in and of itself. Bible Quizzing is the means to an end: the building of godly, apostolic leaders. The United States Military Academy at West Point would never bypass key lessons or lower its standards and risk compromising the quality of the officers it produces. So you too must maintain high standards and impart crucial lessons to ensure quality apostolic leaders generation after generation.

Russ Faubert

FROM THE DESK OF BEN COHEN:

As a young adult, I often wondered why my peers, raised from birth with the same revelation, knowledge and opportunity as myself chose to walk away from God. I experienced no lack of opportunity to stray from the message of the gospel, or reject ministry as I watched with heartbreak so many of my peers depart from the Word. I observed that it was neither opportunity nor circumstance, but the direction and dedication of the heart that distinguished those who maintained their commitment to God from those who fell away.

In like manner, our children and students must commit their hearts to Bible Quizzing. As a coach for more than a decade, I have observed a variety of quizzers both from a distance and sometimes too close for comfort. Some are motivated by the trophies, others by travel, still others by friendships and some merely by discipline. Those students who truly commit to and learn the lessons of Bible Quizzing are those who develop a heart for its ministry; not simply the ministry of Bible Quizzing as it benefits self, but a heart for ministering to others through this life-challenging and life-changing program.

Unfortunately, our pre- and new teens will not be motivated simply by a call to ministry. Friendships, travel, trophies and competition are necessary incentives and appropriate rewards, which coupled with discipline can develop these students into effective quizzers. However, as physical growth and maturity results in increased self-discipline and autonomy, spiritual growth and maturity must grow in parallel and develop a love for the Word of God, a care for fellow-students and dedication to the ministry of Bible Quizzing.

It is this transition from fleshly motivation to spiritual motivation that is the purpose of Bible Quizzing. Developing a relationship with God that drives personal choice and provides motivation is the mark of a true Christian leader, and the true metric of success in Bible Quizzing.

David provides a vivid example of this principle. An outcast son not even called to stand with his brothers, David's shepherding days did not provide him with conventional training to become a warrior-king. Instead, he applied his energy to a simple calling: that of a shepherd. It was during this period that David developed his relationship with God through psalm. The appearance of a lion and a bear did not cause David to abandon his sheep; instead these foes became training for battle against a giant warrior who would threaten a greater flock that God called him to shepherd.

While our children and students may not live in ideal circumstances, even hostile circumstances cannot prevent the work of God in those whose hearts are turned toward him. It is not the human endeavor that achieves; instead it is the positive intervention of a loving God.

As coaches, our primary goal is not to sharpen the competitive skill, perfect the memorization technique, or build a balanced team; instead it is to nurture a heart for Bible Quizzing. A student who walks away with no trophies and zero wins will still succeed if he has developed a relationship with God and a heart for his Word.

This is no simple task. It cannot be achieved by human means, but only by prayer, example and the personal intervention of God in the life of each student. There will be ups and downs. There will be weeks, months and even years when you, as a coach will be tempted to throw in the towel. Maintain your commitment; nurture your heart for Bible Quizzing so you will stand when others fall away.

> » *A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. (Ezekiel 36:26-27)*

Ben Cohen

CHAPTER ONE

HAVE A BLUEPRINT

CHAPTER OVERVIEW:

- *First things first: Prayer*
- *Plan for the year*
- *People*
- *Materials*
- *Schedule*
- *Accountability*
- *Training*
- *Mentoring*
- *Budget*
- *Getting Started*

FIRST THINGS FIRST: PRAYER

When planning your quiz ministry, the first step of preparation is prayer. In any spiritual endeavor, there has never been, and never will be any substitute for the old drawing board of prayer and fasting. It is important to gather ideas from every available written source, acquaintance with quiz experience, and fellow quiz coach. But, depend upon the Spirit to inspire creative thought beyond the pages of this guide. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit will "teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance" (John 14:26). Allow the Spirit to inspire a unique approach that will minister specifically to your group of students. Whatever you do, plan prayerfully!

PLAN FOR THE YEAR

"For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?" (Luke 14:28)

After prayer, preparation and planning are necessary for a successful Bible Quizzing ministry. For those beginning a program, this is even more abundantly clear. Jesus considers planning a given; those who begin any endeavor must count the cost–not simply fiscal cost, but infrastructure, time and energy expenditure. A false start may not only imperil the success of the quiz year, but may impact the long term feasibility of the ministry within your local church.

As you begin planning, consider the following key areas: the people involved, the materials needed, the ministry schedule and calendar, budget, and getting started.

PEOPLE

PASTOR

Without the support of the pastor, a Bible Quizzing ministry cannot exist. Start by having a big picture conversation with your pastor about the goals of the ministry and impact on the congregation. If you or your pastor have little or no experience with the Bible Quizzing ministry, reach out to the District Coordinator or District Youth President for guidance on the purpose and impact of Bible Quizzing. Neighboring pastors of vibrant Bible Quizzing ministries may serve as a reference to these benefits in their congregation. The Senior Bible Quizzing ministry offers multiple resources on its website, SeniorBibleQuizzing.com, which provides links to motivational testimonies and details about the structure of the ministry.

Many articles and videos add texture to the ministry's structure. Talk with your pastor about the benefits of the ministry, as well as resources required.

PARENTS

Following the pastor, parents are the next critical constituency to bring to the table. Interested parents must be willing to make the necessary time commitment to adopt Bible Quizzing as their family's ministry. While some students may have sufficient self-motivation to flourish in a family which does not support Bible Quizzing, this is the rare exception. In nearly every case, parents must spend time each day with their Bible Quizzers ensuring they are keeping to their daily schedule. Some parents are motivated by the promise of Bible Quizzing, but fail to structure Bible Quizzing into their child's daily life. Parents ought to be motivated by the great promise and vast benefits of quizzing, which must be followed by consistent, daily commitment.

"BIBLE QUIZZING IS NOT A PROGRAM FOR THE BEST YOUNG PEOPLE. IT IS SIMPLY THE BEST PROGRAM FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. PERIOD."

- MICHAEL ENSEY

QUIZZERS

"Bible Quizzing is not a program for the best young people. It is simply the best program for young people. Period." - Michael Ensey, General Youth President

Each team is comprised of two to five students between ages twelve to eighteen. Churches may field multiple teams in tournament competition. Include as many students in your ministry as are willing to participate. Quizzers don't fit any single mold, so don't pigeon-hole your students. Those you'd least suspect may well be your biggest surprise.

When recruiting, connect the work of Bible Quizzing to its tangible rewards. Spiritual motivation will develop, but initially students will likely be attracted by the trophies, the trips and fellowship with friends. Be upfront about the requirements–do not bait them with rewards alone–and then hold accountable those willing to commit. Many teams require students to sign a commitment form at the beginning of each year. A sample commitment form is available at SeniorBibleQuizzing.com.

ASSISTANTS

"The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me" (John 1:43)

Only the smallest ministries can operate without assistance. As you structure and build the Bible Quizzing ministry, be sure to include and train others. These assistants need no prior Bible Quizzing training, as training assistants is part of the coach's role. Every leader ought to recognize his/her limits and plan for succession from the beginning. Train your replacement from the outset and when the unexpected arises, the ministry will remain viable within the local congregation. Jesus did not wait until he had fully developed his ministry before calling disciples; instead, he called them at the beginning of his ministry to carry the good news after he ascended. Likewise, our ministries must begin with a succession plan.

It's important to vet your assistants with the pastor. Bible Quizzing tournaments often bring children away from home on long van rides, in restaurants and hotels. As you consult your pastor, be sure to obtain and review all child and youth policies that pertain to Bible Quizzing. Review these policies with your assistants. Ensure the safety of both your quizzers and assistants by explaining and enforcing church policies.

DISTRICT COORDINATOR

Each district of the United Pentecostal Church International has a Bible Quizzing Coordinator appointed by the district youth board. Be sure to contact this individual as you begin planning. The district coordinator will provide you with district-specific information and planning resources including district tournament information, as well as contact with local teams. The district coordinator is appointed to operate as a coach of coaches. Most coordinators have years of experience in Bible Quizzing and can help guide you through issues particular to your ministry.

MATERIALS

To begin, you'll need an array of materials. Most materials can be purchased from BQPowers.com.

BIBLE QUIZZING MANUAL

First you will need to understand the rules by reading the Bible Quizzing rules manual. Each of your assistants and quizzers should also read through the rules. Bring a rules manual to all tournaments for reference. Both paper and electronic versions of the manual are available from BQPowers.

STUDY GUIDE

Many recommend memorizing from a study guide instead of verse cards. Some teams build their own study guide. Study guides may be purchased from BQPowers.

VERSE CARDS

Flash cards are the primary tool by which most quizzers, parents and coaches hold themselves/their child/quizzer accountable. Randomized flash cards test each quizzer's ability to recall scripture out of order, as the quizzer will experience in a competitive quiz.

SCORE SHEETS

During the course of a quiz, coaches keep track of score, number of questions answered correctly, incorrectly, timeouts, contest, fouls and more on scoresheets. These are available from BQPowers, or in app version from UPCquiz.com.

BUZZER

Competition calls for two or three quizzers from each team to be seated at the table holding the handheld buzzer in one hand. In order to practice for tournaments, each team will need to practice with a buzzer system during local practice. A variety of these are available, from portable versions to cabinet boxes to electronic buzzers connected to a computer via USB interface.

CONCORDANCE

In order to prepare to answer cross reference questions, each team may be equipped with a concordance of the scriptures.

QUESTIONS

To simulate a tournament, coaches should purchase practice questions. A list of question writers is available on SeniorBibleQuizzing.com.

SCHEDULE

Each quiz year approximately follows the student school year; individual teams choose their start date, with many beginning around October and concluding in the summer. General Youth Division sponsored Extravaganzas are held within the months of March-April. The district finals tournament is scheduled by each district within June or the first two weeks of July. The North American Tournament is generally held during the end of July or early August. The District Coordinator in each district will provide a calendar for the year.

It's important to schedule at three levels: daily, weekly and monthly.

MONTHLY: TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Your district coordinator will supply a calendar of district-sponsored tournaments for the year. GYD sponsored events (regional extravaganzas and the North American tournament) are published on SeniorBibleQuizzing.com. In addition to these resources, teams may also attend invitational tournaments. Check resources like UPCquiz.com and Coaches Corner on Facebook for such information; your district coordinator should be able to put you in contact with churches and districts hosting invitational tournaments in your region throughout the year. SBQ Communications also shares invitational information as requested; contact SBQ Communications to sign up for this list.

As you schedule the year, be sure to balance supplying enough tournaments and travel to keep quizzers motivated against budgetary concerns. Many districts provide a monthly tournament to build quizzer motivation and experience. Travel builds motivation. While long van rides, fast food and hotel stays may not interest the coach, most students find these things fun.

WEEKLY: PRACTICE SCHEDULE

A weekly practice in the local congregation provides accountability, training and mentoring to students. Schedule this weekly practice to begin following kickoff, once students have memorized their first weekly assignment. Work with the pastor to build this into the church schedule at a consistent time each week.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Few students are self-motivated; accountability is required to ensure they remain on task. In a world full of distraction, few students will remain consistently and daily motivated to memorize and reference scripture. Hold students accountable to the memorization schedule set forth at the beginning of the year. Since this may be a time-consuming and variable length endeavor, it is a best practice to separate this accountability segment to a separate night. Many will add this accountability segment (referencing the students on their new and older scriptures) on to an existing church event: a regular service, prayer or youth event. Be sure the students remain engaged in the regularly scheduled event.

TRAINING

No student arrives with full experience and knowledge. Local practice serves to train the quizzers on answering questions and perfecting their quizzing technique. See chapter 4 for more detail.

MENTORING

Coaches must not allow the mechanics of Bible Quizzing to overwhelm or unbalance the spiritual side of the endeavor. Ensure that students understand the scriptures that they have put to memory. Also, ensure that students who struggle with study are taught disciplined study habits and techniques.

DAILY: MEMORIZATION SCHEDULE

Providing a daily memorization schedule is key to keeping students on task. Once the scripture coverage for the year is released, analyze the calendar for the year, making special note of the verse coverage for regional extravaganzas and the date of district finals. Schedule your students to exceed this timeline allowing time for the students' minds to solidify the scriptures as well as process their meaning. Pay attention to special events: holidays, vacations and conferences (hint: don't schedule memorization on Christmas day).

Many teams take a week by week look at the calendar, starting with the end of the year and backward planning their beginning based upon the capabilities of their students to memorize. Make the schedule consistent and achievable. Each student is challenged by procrastination; build in weeks of non-memorization for solidification of scriptures, as well as catch-up for those students who have fallen behind.

Make the schedule achievable, and celebrate success. Students new to the program will likely need more training and time to memorize the course of scriptures through the year. Build in extra time.

BUDGET

Purchasing study materials, practice questions and buzzer hardware comes at a cost. Tournament registration and travel will add to these costs. As the schedule is built, calculate the cost of materials based upon the number of students involved in the program. Research tournament registration costs, travel distances (gasoline/airfare), hotel costs and meals. Discuss with the pastor what resources are available to the quiz team (funds, van for travel, special hotel rates) and plan to fundraise, if applicable.

GETTING STARTED

PROMOTION

Planning and preparation will make no difference if no students are involved. After discussing with the pastor, begin promoting the ministry well in advance of the autumn seasonal kickoff. Many resources are available for promotion: look to SeniorBibleQuizzing.com for promotional videos and stories; many congregations bring in a special speaker (district co-

ordinator or prominent Bible Quizzer) to promote the program at youth services or classes. Promote the ministry among parents, as well. Students may be excited, but parents will make the commitment. A promotional rally or Bible Quizzing focused church service will bring the ministry to the attention of the congregation. Collect contact information from all interested students and parents for follow up.

WORKSHOP

Following promotion, hold a workshop to inform interested parents and students of the requirements of the program. Lay out the plan for the year, listing memorization and study requirements, as well as weekly practice commitment, district tournament attendance, and invitational travel. Work through memorization techniques (see Chapter 3) and lay out the commitment in its entirety. Sign up for the year should occur at this point. Many teams require a commitment form be signed by each student detailing the year's commitment. A sample form is available for download at SeniorBibleQuizzing.com.

SAMPLE TIMELINE

- *April: Theme release*
- *June/July: Scripture release*
- *June/July: Begin planning*
- *Summer: Begin promotions*
- *September: Kickoff*
- *Autumn: Begin Local Practice*
- *December/January: First District Tournament*
- *March/April: GYD sponsored BQEs*
- *June/July: District Finals*
- *July/August: North American Tournament*

CHAPTER TWO

LAY THE FOUNDATION

CHAPTER OVERVIEW:

- *Prayer*
- *Priorities*
- *Balance*
- *Accountability*
- *Notation*
- *Memorization*
- *Review*
- *Question Writing*

Commitment is learned not by making commitments, but by keeping commitments. The foundation of every effective Bible Quizzing ministry is the commitment and responsibility of each quizzer to God, to you as their coach, and to their teammates. As well as you purpose, plan, and promote, you cannot learn the scriptures for your quizzers. The heights to which each quizzer ascends in this ministry will be principally determined by the foundation they faithfully lay in their daily, personal study habits.

PRAYER

Establishing a consistent prayer life is one of the most challenging things students face. Even Jesus' disciples approached Him, asking, "Teach us to pray." Encourage your quizzers to bookend their study time with prayer: before and after. As their study is a daily habit, their prayer will become a daily habit, so that even when they are too old to quiz, the daily prayer will continue. Bible Quizzing is a spiritual endeavor; your quizzers shouldn't start or end in the flesh.

Prayer admits our dependency upon God and attunes us to His voice. As intelligent as your students are, it's better to be sensitive than smart. God can reveal in an instant what they could not learn in a year's worth of study. We are never so ignorant than when we think we know it all. Arrogance breeds ignorance and ignorance breeds arrogance; it's a vicious circle.

The Lord describes His children as sheep who hear His voice. Goats, on the other hand, are stubborn and lead with their head. Quizzers generally tend to be a cerebral bunch and must be all the more careful to worship God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength by submitting their thinking to His. The very things God designed to be assets when used with the Spirit become liabilities when used with the flesh.

PRIORITIES

As a coach, you must help each quizzer realize that to achieve the fullness of his potential, he must adopt a new lifestyle–a lifestyle that reassesses and rearranges priorities. Just like serving God, Bible Quizzing doesn't lend itself well to a part-time/spare time approach. Study of the Word must be prioritized ahead of dating, pastimes, extra-curricular school activities, down time with friends; none of which are bad, but are simply not as important as investing in the Word at this crucial time of life. You must therefore: 1) level with quizzers about what it takes to become the best they are capable of being, 2) help them achieve and sustain their best by helping them evaluate their priorities, and 3) never expect more (or less) of them than their personal best.

BALANCE

It's myopic and dangerous to only ever be involved in a single ministry. It's true that quizzing makes great demands on students' time, but encourage your quizzers to remain involved in a variety of activities in your local assembly. The quiz team should be a coveted honor but not an exclusive club that makes them too good for bus ministry, witnessing, youth choir, and other valuable opportunities to serve. No quizzer should be so busy with quizzing that they can never teach a bible study or be at prayer service. Balance is a fruit of the Spirit; purpose to cultivate it in developing well-rounded apostolic students.

ACCOUNTABILITY

If you presume that the future leaders you are today developing will one day have others accountable to them, then they must learn to be accountable themselves. A weekly time sheet for each quizzer is an effective tool to develop that accountability. Below is an abridged example; a complete template may be downloaded from SeniorBibleQuizzing.com

DAY	REVIEW		MEMORIZATION	
WED.	MATERIAL	TIME	MATERIAL	TIME
INITIAL HERE				

TIME SHEET EXAMPLE

Having a weekly record of each quizzer's study is additionally valuable for several reasons:

» *Filling it out in advance, breaking down weekly assignments to bite-sized, day-by-day chunks, can help guide novice or less-motivated quizzers.*

» *You involve parents or guardians by requiring their initials beside each day's study to verify the accuracy of the time and activities recorded on the form.*

» *You incentivize those who are accountable: quizzers who fill out their timesheets get to quote-in first and thereby get to the quiz table for questions first.*

» *You can spot warning signs earlier than you otherwise would. If a quizzer is skipping review, or not referencing certain chapters, or spending too little time properly learning the verses, better to know it as early as possible rather than come qualifying time.*

» *If you have to explain to a quizzer's parents why Johnny is not doing as well as he could, and is in jeopardy of not qualifying for the next tournament, you have a record of his daily and weekly study to help mollify a potentially emotional conversation.*

Timesheets may be implemented at your discretion. If you have a single team of two to four quizzers whose families you know quite well, you may not need to use timesheets. Larger ministries with multiple teams across Intermediate and Experienced divisions will definitely benefit from everyone reporting on a weekly basis.

NOTATION

In addition to certain memorization benefits (see section below re: Memorization), learning from formatted material allows your quizzers to notate the verses. Before they start learning each week, have them read through all of that week's material and circle people and places, underline descriptive and prepositional phrases, enumerate lists, draw arrows from pronouns to antecedents, and generally understand how the verses flow from one to the next. This follows a deductive process, which helps your quizzers see the big picture before they drill into each verse.

This only takes ten minutes or so, and naturally leads to deconstructing the verses even before committing them to memory. Looking more closely at the content, quizzers begin to identify the "who, what, where, when, why, and how." This helps quizzers understand the content before they learn it and prepares them to start answering questions on the material. Your quizzers shouldn't be able to read or hear a verse without reflexively breaking it down and identifying possible questions that could be asked.

Here's a list of elements worth noting. If quizzers can spot these types of items, a question writer will too.

- *Cross-references (see section below re: Cross-references).*
- *Lists*
- *Identified pronouns*
- *Spoken words*
- *Quotes from other scriptures (as it is written…)*
- *Questions, statements, exclamations*
- *Comparisons/contrasts*
- *Textual patterns*

All these notes are then reinforced as each quizzer learns the verses from what amounts to a self-made study guide. Cross-references especially needn't be left for cramming before District Finals, since your quizzers have identified and revisited many of them as early in the learning process as possible.

MEMORIZATION

Starting in 1961, after the previous season's bitter loss in the NFL championship, on the first day of each training camp, Vince Lombardi would gather his football team around him, future Hall of Famers and rookies alike. "Gentlemen," he'd say, holding a pigskin aloft in his right hand, "this is a football." No one is beyond revisiting the basics.

Regardless of how well your quizzers did personally or as a team the previous year, there really are no shortcuts when it comes to memorization. Methods may change or be honed, but despite whatever "vehicle" the same road must be taken. Everyone revisits the basics of repetition and concentration in some way, shape, or form.

Imagine a muddy road over which a farmer drives a truck every day. Each time he drives over the road, the ruts deepen. As he increases the load the truck is carrying, the ruts grow deeper still. In a similar way, each time we repeat a verse of Scripture, the memory pattern it leaves gets a little deeper. And when we concentrate, we add weight to the process, forming deeper and deeper patterns within our brains.

In 1983, Howard Gardner of Harvard University identified seven (now eight) distinct intelligences or learning styles. This theory emerged from cognitive research and by Gardner's own words, "documents the extent to which students possess different kinds of minds and therefore learn, remember, perform, and understand in different ways."

MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES
Developed by Dr. Howard Gardner

According to his theory, "we are all able to know the world through language, logical-mathematical analysis, spatial representation, musical thinking, the use of the body to solve problems or to make things, an understanding of other individuals, and an understanding of ourselves. Where individuals differ is in the strength of these intelligences–the so-called profile of intelligences–and in the ways in which such intelligences are invoked and combined to carry out different tasks, solve diverse problems, and progress in various domains."

Once again, we can't get away from the repetition and concentration required for rote memorization, but learning the Scripture—your goal for your quizzers—will assume different ways, shapes, and forms from quizzer to quizzer. Each of us employ all of the "multiple intelligences," just in varying order and degree, so the more we can incorporate, the better-rounded our learning will be. There are general guidelines, but no one-size-fits-all, cookie-cutter solution.

Here are a few general guidelines to aid in memorization and learning:

» *Your quizzers should find a place conducive to studying: either alone (intrapersonal) or with someone close by (interpersonal); either with music faintly in the background (musical) or with plenty of space to walk or bounce a ball (bodily-kinesthetic). Whatever the space in which they learn, your quizzers must eliminate distractions so they may concentrate: no video games, phones, or chatty friends.*

» *Learning from formatted material provides context for each verse among the many (logical-mathematical), spatial reference on the physical page (spatial), and more easily reveals patterns between multiple verses (musical).*

» *If they can't quote older material, learned either yesterday or last week, quizzers shouldn't learn new material. No one can build on wet cement. If material is not solid, review first, then learn.*

» *Quizzers must take the time necessary to learn properly. Some days will be quicker than others, but the same road must be traveled; there are no shortcuts. Quizzers should over-learn over time because learning doesn't happen in a straight line. Too many quizzers stop learning a verse at point A, just because they can say it, when, to reach point B where they really know it, they must push through the "mistake zone," where they flub it up repeatedly before bearing down, concentrating, and truly committing it to memory.*

PHRASE-15 METHOD

There are a myriad of memorization techniques, but the Phrase-15 method, or some variation thereof, combines the key elements of repetition and concentration, and has been used effectively by quizzers for decades. Just as a ten-digit phone number is divided into three parts for easier recall, so the Phrase-15 Method breaks each verse into manageable phrases in order to learn them. Fifteen is somewhat of an arbitrary number, but it provides a baseline from which to start. Some individuals and/or verses may require more or less repetition, depending on the content of the verse and how much concentration is involved.

1. Break the Scripture into phrases. Include the verse reference with the first phrase, and each time you go back to the first phrase. Commas most often indicate an easy point at which to break off a phrase. More experienced quizzers will likely be able to divide a verse into fewer, larger phrases.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, / and dwelt among us, / (and we beheld his glory, / the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) / full of grace and truth.

2. Say the reference and the first phrase five times, check the scripture; five more, check the scripture; five more, check the scripture (fifteen repetitions in all).

3. Complete the second phrase in the same manner.

4. Combine phrases 1 and 2, and apply the same 15-repetition method.

5. Continue to add phrases, each time repeating the combined portion 15 times, until finished the verse.

6. Move on to the second verse, complete it in the same manner.

7. Combine the two verses, applying the method once more.

8. Continue with Phrase-15 Method until finished assigned daily material.

VARIATIONS

» *Visualize the words in the mind's eye as they are said, as if on a billboard.*

» *Stress a different word with each repetition, saying it more loudly and emphatically: "AND the Word was made flesh…And THE Word was made flesh…And the WORD was made flesh…"*

» *Write each verse repeatedly.*

» *Add rhythm or sing the repetitions (verses put to music are available from various resources).*

» *Record and play back the verses.*

A day's material (on average, four to six verses) should be quoted five times in a row without error before quoting them as a group word-perfectly to a parent or guardian. If there is a mistake in any verse in any of those five times, begin the set again. A quizzer who hasn't learned his or her verses well enough shouldn't waste others' time. Parents and coaches will develop a feel for what is a momentary slip-up when a quizzer is quoting and what is a less-than-acceptable knowledge of the verse.

REVIEW

ATTEMPTED SHORTCUTS WILL END UP AS LONG DETOURS DOWN THE ROAD, SO QUIZZERS SHOULD DO IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME.

Before new verses are learned each day, quizzers should run through the week's material to that point to themselves, to ensure that they can still quote it effectively. If they cannot, they should review and quote trouble verses before adding new ones. Attempted shortcuts will end up as long detours down the road, so quizzers should do it right the first time.

REFERENCING

When verses are learned properly, most review will take the form of referencing. Referencing is using flash cards (aka, quiz cards or verse cards) with the reference of the verse on one side and the verse itself on the other. A quizzer may reference to himself or to a parent, coach, or teammate by viewing the reference and quoting the verse on the other side. If at all uncertain, the card may be flipped over to confirm the quote.

Referencing is great for quickening a quizzer's recall of well-learned verses, but trying to reference material that a quizzer doesn't have a firm grasp of is an exercise in frustration for both quizzer and coach. Scriptures that cannot be referenced accurately should be relearned properly rather than referenced. There is no sense spinning the tires if there is no traction.

Once referencing with quiz cards has begun, all material to be referenced should be referenced each day. This daily discipline not only quickens recall, but transfers verses from mid-term to long-term memory. Over-learning over time reduces the chances of blanking out during the high-pressure moments of a quiz.

Individual chapters may be referenced separately until they are referenced quickly enough to be mixed together one by one. While it will initially take slightly longer to reference the chapters mixed than it did separated, don't worry. Your quizzers' overall time will decrease as they continue to master the increased material. The goal is that by District Finals, and certainly by Nationals, all verses are mixed, yet still referenced as quickly as if the chapters were still separate.

Your quizzers should reference aloud to someone else at least once a week, preferably a parent, guardian, or coach, and depending on each quizzer's accountability, as often as you deem necessary. This catches any mistakes that may have crept in, and ensures that the quizzers, while quoting quickly, are still quoting clearly enough for every word to be heard. Don't let them sacrifice accuracy for speed.

When referencing to themselves, a quizzer will, of course, show themselves the reference. When referencing aloud to you or a parent, the reference should be spoken, not shown. Visual information can be processed much more quickly than auditory information, and the quizmaster is not going to show the quizzer a card. The best quizzers learn to process auditory cues almost as quickly as visual cues because they've practiced doing so.

When referencing all their material aloud, about 2/3 – 3/4 of the way through, your quizzers may begin to make mistakes on verses they've previously quoted correctly many times over. It's not that they've suddenly forgotten these verses, it's that their focus and concentration is waning. Don't take a break. The only way to learn to focus harder, longer is to press on. They will catch their second wind and finish strong.

Create a stack of incorrect verses; don't just have your quizzer correct it, and add it to the correct pile. Revisit incorrect verses at the end and make sure the correction stuck. Doing so also allows you to detect any verses (often within the same chapter) that may need additional work; perhaps they were mixed with all the material prematurely. Separate incorrect or slower verses/chapters so that they can be referenced an extra time or two.

SPEED-QUOTING

Speed-quoting is the difference between good quizzers and great quizzers, because it requires the most individual initiative and personal accountability from your quizzers. There really is no effective way for you as a coach to track whether your quizzers are speed-quoting or not, but it will show when they reference and quiz. Speed-quoting is simply having your quizzers quote their verses in their heads or under their breath as fast as they can. It can be done just about anywhere—the shower, the bus stop, waiting in line at a retail store, pumping gas—and fills in the nooks and crannies of time throughout the day that would otherwise be missed opportunities to strengthen their grasp of the material.

CROSS-QUOTING

Though it may also be done aloud as a breakout at a quiz practice, one of the most effective forms of speed-quoting is cross-quoting. A quizzer quotes the first verse of every chapter, then the second, then the third, and so on. He may choose to go in order or randomly jump to different verses: "thirteen," (quotes all verse thirteens); "twenty-eight," (quotes all verse twenty-eights). When an interrupted question provides the verse but not the chapter, "What city is named in verse 18 of…," he has already practiced quoting across the chapters to determine the best completion to the question.

QUESTION WRITING

Anticipating, interrupting, and answering questions is in no small part about getting in the head of the question writer. What better way for your quizzers to develop that skill than by writing questions themselves? Because the only thing that helps quizzers' anticipation and interruption more than knowing the material inside and out, and having previously heard the question, is knowing the material inside and out, and having written the same question themselves.

Each week, assign each quizzer ten questions to write, including one cross-reference question. For special review weeks or once all verses have been memorized, you could require an entire quiz. As a coach, you are more than likely scrambling for extra questions, especially late in the quiz season, and you have a ready-made source in your own quiz team. Writing questions, however, is a secondary quiz activity, and should never supersede the core activities of memorization, review, and referencing.

CROSS-REFERENCES (AKA, CHARTING OR CHART WORK)

A cross-reference question is one that "calls for a complete answer from more than one verse either within a chapter, across chapters, or even from different books." For a complete description, see Part 2, section C, subsection 5 of the rules manual. In preparation to answer such questions, you and your quizzers will mine for cross-references throughout the material. Types of things to include:

- *Places*
- *People*
- *Groups*
- *Family relations*
- *Body parts*
- *Animals*
- *Precious metals/stones*
- *Numbers*
- *Colors*
- *Identical or similar phrases*
- *Questions*
- *Exclamations*
- *2-, 3-, 4- time words (questions that ask for 5+ time words are rare, but may be asked if the verses are consecutive)*

Finding and studying cross-references can be accomplished in several ways. Use all or some combination of the following:

» ***Notation****. Done by your quizzers in their formatted material even before they memorize each week's verses. See earlier section on notation in this chapter, in which groundwork is laid to identify cross-references.*

» ***Concordance****. The official concordance contains nearly every word in each year's material, from A to Z. A quizzer who has his own concordance can highlight and review similar words and concepts.*

» ***Flash cards****. The official color-coded verse cards contain a wealth of information in addition to the reference on one side and the verse on the other. Your quizzers may use these to review 1-, 2-, and 3- time words or similar phrases. These flash cards are best used by you or a personal coach, as each verse will likely have multiple color-coded elements for you to review with your quizzer.*

You can capture existing or additional cross-references you or the team have identified on 3 x 5 cards, by writing the content on one side and the associated verse references on the other. In contrast to the color-coded flash cards, since each card only has one cross-reference, this allows quizzers to work solo, as they do when referencing themselves.

» ***Notebook****. Have your quizzers write questions from cross-references they find or hear. A single cross-reference may yield several different cross-reference questions. By recording them in their own notebook, your quizzers can review them independently or ask questions of each other.*

CHAPTER THREE

HONE YOUR CRAFT

NO AMOUNT OF THEORY MAKES UP FOR PRACTICE.

CHAPTER OVERVIEW:

- *Weekly Practice*
- *Quizzes*

Practice doesn't make perfect. "Perfect" is impossible for anyone but God, and to set an unachievable expectation for yourself or your quizzers invites frustration and futility. Relative to our abilities, even the Bible speaks of perfection in terms of growth, development, and maturity, not as being wholly without error. Practice makes progress. For your quizzers to progress individually and collectively, you must hone the craft of quizzing, and the skills it entails through practice, practice, practice.

No amount of theory makes up for practice.

WEEKLY PRACTICE

A weekly quiz practice is a must. Determine the best time, place, and duration (typically two hours), and stick to it as much as possible. Regularity helps establish comfort and confidence in your quizzers and their parents because they know what to expect. Additional practices may be scheduled at your discretion as key tournaments like district finals approach.

Be punctual. If you show up only on time, you're already late. Exigent circumstances will arise often enough to ensure everyone is late occasionally, but perpetual tardiness will be interpreted by quizzers and parents that you either 1) place a low importance on weekly practice; or, 2) are ill prepared and don't know what you're doing. Don't expect your quizzers to be punctual if you aren't.

There's no need for you to do everything yourself. Even with as few as four quizzers, delegate responsibilities within the practice to an assistant or personal coach to maximize your quiz time. With a large quiz ministry, it may help to have stations through which quizzers pass like an assembly line, or breakout sessions commensurate with their quiz acumen. However you choose to run your practice, you will need help, so plan for it.

The intent of this resource is not to cover the myriad of activities you could include in your practices, but to cover the basic elements from which to build your practices. Jay Lytle, in partnership with the General Youth Division and the Senior Bible Quizzing promotions team, developed 101 Things to do in a Bible Quizzing Practice. You may download that resource from SeniorBibleQuizzing.com.

TIMESHEETS

For details regarding implementation, see section on Accountability in chapter 3.

As quizzers arrive, collect and quickly review their timesheets. Look for empty boxes indicating skipped days; and memorization or review inconsistent with the time spent, either too

little or too much. Each timesheet should be filled in and initialed by a parent or guardian who has verified its accuracy, but have extra on hand for those who forget them at home. Before they quote-in, they can take the time to fill out their timesheet. For your records, it's better to have something, even if somewhat questionable, than nothing. Don't forget to hand out new timesheets for the coming week.

PRAYER AND SHARE

While weekly practice can be busy as eager quizzers arrive, submit timesheets, quote-in, and get to answering questions, always be sure to begin in prayer. Rather than lead the prayer yourself every week, have your quizzers pray a blessing over the practice. Take a few moments to ask about specific verses in that week's scriptures, or allow your quizzers the opportunity to share something God revealed to them personally during their study time.

HAVE YOUR QUIZZERS QUOTE-IN THE VERSES THEY WERE SCHEDULED TO LEARN OVER THE PAST WEEK

QUOTE-IN

In order to grasp which verses your quizzers know and how well they know them, you should have your quizzers quote-in the verses they were scheduled to learn over the past week. You can do this at the outset of your practice, or on another day altogether and save your time at practice for questions and drills. Either way, to hold quizzers accountable for what they have, or should have learned requires that you, an assistant, or a personal coach hear those verses.

If your ministry is using timesheets, have the timesheet of each quizzer you quote-in close by to ensure that they can quote what they indicated was learned. A quizzer should display a mastery of the required verses by smoothly quoting them word-perfectly, without any aid from you, including starting the verses. Depending on your quizzers' experience, you may have them quote straight through the verses in scriptural order, or slightly increase the difficulty and jump right to referencing the verses mixed together.

Anyone can have a bad week, so there will be weeks when quizzers arrive for practice not having learned all the required verses, or the ones they know are rather shaky. One week is a blip on your coaching radar. Two weeks in a row indicate the beginning of a trend that you need to address before it worsens. Talk individually with any quizzers in question about why this trend has begun. Is there something they are not doing properly when learning? Is this a particularly busy time, and despite quizzing being a priority, it's difficult to balance their schedule? Are they losing motivation? If so, why?

Whatever the reason, be proactive about a solution: "What can we do to get you back on track?" Relate your observations to the quizzers' parents so that they are in the know and can help at home. Have timesheets and spot-checks ready, if necessary, so you can speak to the facts. Always be positive and constructive, never accusatory. Parents should be left with the definite impression that you are partnering with them for their son or daughter's benefit.

Ultimately, however, it will be the quizzer who decides whether to recommit and course correct. If not, then it is the quizzer who has decided not to do what is required to be a faithful member of the quiz team and has, in essence, chosen to discontinue involvement in the ministry. If you as a coach have been proactive, communicated, even made appropriate concessions, then you have done what you could, and you should bear no guilt. The quizzer who opts out of Bible Quizzing mid-season should never feel brow-beaten or guilt-tripped. His time was not in vain and should always be framed as preparation for a future quiz season.

SPOT-CHECKS

A spot-check is much like a pop quiz: ten to twenty random verses to verify that quizzers remain up to speed on previously-learned verses. Implement spot-checks every week, or use them at your discretion if, having reviewed timesheets, you suspect quizzers may be cutting corners. You can make your own spot-check worksheets or use those available on upcquiz.com, a partner of the General Youth Division.

QUIZZES

While you may be able to quote-in your quizzers separately, the whole point of holding practice is to ask questions as a team. But, while you want to make the most of it, there is no sense in a quizzer attempting to answer questions on verses he doesn't know. If a quizzer can't quote the required material for that week, he should be given the opportunity for further study alone until he is prepared to quote-in. If he is still unable to do so, he may join the team for questions only at your discretion.

Answering questions is every quizzers' reward for their study: less study, less reward; no study, no reward. While you may be merciful at times with those who have not studied as they could have, you do not want to devalue the hard work your other quizzers have invested, and thereby demotivate them. Carefully balance the value of mercy with the values of discipline, faithfulness, and accountability.

Most of the quizzes you hold in practice can be informal, as it is practice after all, and you want to get through as many quizzes as time allows. Questions help familiarize quizzers with the material, not unlike turning a precious stone over and over in the hands of an expert helps him recognize its every facet. So once a quizzer knows his/her verses well, the more questions, the better.

Informal quizzes shouldn't focus so much on the score, but on good interruptions, proper answering, and understanding the scriptures. Practice is where mistakes may be made—and corrected—so give your quizzers the latitude to learn from their gaffes, but don't let repeated or sloppy errors go unaddressed. One or two formal quizzes, in which rereads are fully read, fouls are called, and the score is kept, allow you to revisit good in-game habits so things don't grow too slack.

It is advisable to have all your quizzers together for certain parts of practice, as it creates a unity and shared vision within the ministry. However, strongly consider breakout sessions if you have quizzers or teams at different levels of development. This will require that you have enough assistants to run extra sessions, but it allows quizzers to grow at a pace better suited for them: you won't hold back those who are further ahead, and you won't overwhelm those who are still improving.

INTERRUPTING

A monkey can set off the buzzer while the quizmaster is reading, but to consistently anticipate, interrupt, and finish a question well quizzers must:

> *1. Know the scriptures. As previously mentioned, there is no substitute for knowing the material stone-cold. A quizzer who can't quote his verses has no business interrupting. That's just guessing, and will lead to plenty of*

rereads for the other team. Such an approach is most often less about the team doing well, and more about that quizzer enjoying hearing his buzzer called.

2. Listen intently. 80% of what a quizzer does during a quiz is listening–listening to the quizmaster read questions, listening to teammates answering, listening to the other team answering, listening to the coach during a timeout–so listening is a skill that must be practiced and developed. Quizzers may use the hand not holding the buzzer to indicate to themselves what type of question was asked, but while that's helpful after the interruption, it's not as much of an aid when anticipating before the interruption.

3. Identify the flow or pattern of the question. Each question type has a flow or pattern that, coupled with the verse(s) from which it is asked, helps quizzers anticipate the rest of the question, and subsequently interrupt and finish it. An obvious example might be a two-part question that asks, "how many…and what are they?" Even if it is a three- or four-part question, quizzers who hear, "how many," should know to ask at some point in completing the question, "…and what are they?" The more patterns quizzers identify within each type of question, the more effectively they will anticipate and interrupt.

4. Buzz in, then think. Every interruption involves some degree of risk. Knowing the verses, listening intently, and identifying patterns minimize that risk, but never quite eliminate it at the moment of interruption. Quizzers should be disciplined, never interrupting wildly, but shouldn't be gun-shy. They must learn to trust that their time with the Lord in study and practice has led them to this point and that He continues to be with them. Their confidence should be in the Lord and not themselves.

5. Practice. To encourage every member of the team to interrupt, ask each question to one quizzer at a time, rotating through the team. Each quizzer then is on the spot and can't hide behind a teammate who may interrupt more effectively. Alternatively, when reading a quiz, stop at the point at which each question should be interrupted, even if no one has. Have a quizzer, or the team working together, finish the question. Given time and repetition, your quizzers won't interrupt perfectly every time, but they will definitely make progress. Some will grasp it naturally, others you'll have to work with, but everyone can learn to interrupt to some degree.

SHIFTING GEARS

During your practice quizzes, attempt to "shift gears" from low to high to overdrive, pretending to quiz teams who don't interrupt to teams who interrupt well to teams who interrupt at a national level. These different gears prepare you for just the sort of teams you're likely to face during the quiz season. As a coach, there are few things more nerve-wracking than watching your team shift into overdrive against a team they need not, and risk losing the quiz on rereads. Practice quizzing commensurate with each level of competition your team will face.

CONTESTING

Practice contesting during weekly quiz sessions, but take lengthy discussions offline, so things don't bog down. If you know a question or answer is suspect and your quizzers don't contest, make a point to stop and ask what's wrong with that question or answer. Quizzers should always be listening for an opportunity to contest, and listening is a skill developed by practice.

The structure of a quizzer's contest should have three elements:

- *This is what the question or answer was*
- *This is what the verse says*
- *This is why the question is invalid or answer is right or wrong*

Using this formula speaks to facts, not feelings; focuses your conversation during the sixty seconds when time is short; keeps things neat and tidy for the judges; and helps nervous quizzers fall back on a structure they've practiced repeatedly.

BREAK

A two-hour practice is a long time to sustain focus, so feel free to break about half-way through. Fifteen casual minutes act as a release valve for tense quizzers and reinforce that fellowship is an important value of Bible Quizzing. Allow quizzers to grab some fresh air and clear their heads. Providing a small snack may be an option, depending on the size of the ministry. If too costly, it may be feasible to set up a snack schedule among the quizzers' families. Be sure to watch the time, however, so that break doesn't run too long. Refreshed and reset, quizzers can return to hit the final 45 minutes hard.

QUESTION DRILLS

Drills are rapid-fire, focused activities meant to improve a team's accuracy on interrupting/answering certain types or point values of questions. They can be done as a team or individually with quizzers in a rotation. To keep your team from over-thinking early in a quiz, hold a drill of nothing but ten-point questions. If your quizzers are constantly jumping the gun on multiple-part questions, ask 20-30 three- and four-part questions in a row. Drills help isolate individual and team weaknesses; while things may go from bad to worse initially, they will improve as you help quizzers make adjustments.

CROSS-REFERENCES

Using flash cards or your concordance, hold rapid-fire cross-reference drills. Give your team a word or name and have them shout out the verse references. Once all verse references have been identified for that word, have each quizzer repeat them back to you to ensure everyone was listening and is involved. Over the course of a quiz season, try to get through the whole concordance or stack of flash cards twice.

"QUIZZER-MASTER"

As an incentive, in the order in which they successfully quoted-in, have each quizzer read the questions he/she wrote that week. This provides them not only the perspective of the question writer, but also of the quizmaster in thinking critically about the questions and answers. In the second half of your weekly practice, or anytime things might normally drag, allowing your quizzers to assume your role is a sure-fire way to inject life into the quiz room.

CLOSING PRAYER

Always wrap with prayer, thanking God for His presence in your practice, and asking for His grace for the coming week of study.

CHAPTER FOUR

MAINTAIN MORALE

CHAPTER OVERVIEW:

- *Shifting Motivation*
- *Friend and Leader*
- *Gentle Firmness*
- *Incentives*
- *Affirmation*
- *Caution*
- *Seasonal Danger Points*

SHIFTING MOTIVATION (TO THE WORD)

Raising children brings into stark relief the learning techniques of imitation and mirroring. Humans do not emerge from the womb fully grown and mentally developed. Instead, their God-given instincts sustain life, causing them to cry out for help. As a child grows, he develops new skills. Movement from one place to another begins as the child learns to crawl, to stand, to walk. Development of these skills comes through desire, observation and imitating the actions of others.

Further, parents shape the actions of their children through both incentives and correction. These methods are designed to reinforce and at times repair the moral compass. These lessons are designed to shape action. However, as children grow into adults, we expect that the lessons will not simply produce correct action, but also instill understanding of the principle behind the right action. All lessons cannot be learned in childhood; as parents, we hope to build correct character and teach lessons that can later be extrapolated into new and personal situations.

Training our students in Bible Quizzing follows a similar pattern. We must teach the basics; it will begin with imitation and mirroring (observing fellow quizzers and coaches); it must be followed by discipline as we shape our students through incentives and disincentives. Our goal, however is not simply technical mastery, nor even commitment of scripture to memory; indeed it is teaching the lessons and principles of Bible Quizzing that will inform future life decisions, and building a relationship with God through his Word that is our true goal as coaches.

FRIEND AND LEADER

As coaches, we are not naturally God-given authorities in each student's life; instead, as the pastor chooses who will serve as coach, we operate with the authority of God as it is delegated by parents and pastor. Recognizing the origin of the relationship is key to operating effectively as a coach. Students and parents must respect the authority of the coach, the dedication of his time, energy and resources, while the coach must respect the boundaries established by the God-given relationships of parent and pastor. This is liberating; it is not the coach's role to serve as parent, nor is it the role of the parent to serve as coach (except in those situations of overlap).

A coach must strive then to lead with humility and genuine care, as a drill-sergeant approach will not work in the long run. Nor will a strategy that does not include accountability.

A balance must be struck. Genuine care will build a relationship of trust with the student; accountability will allow the coach to trust his student. Over time this balance must be maintained through the demonstration of genuine care, along with flexibility in calling the students to account.

GENTLE FIRMNESS

This accountability must be implemented with gentle firmness. As children develop, they continually test the boundaries set forth by their authority figures. Children are quick to identify the authorities that enforce their promises and those who fail to do so. A feeling of love may prevent enforcing discipline, but this will result in a struggle for authority in the home, failure to achieve at the quiz board and diminished capacity for self-discipline in life.

"He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." (Proverbs 13:24)

Discipline follows leadership. Leading by example inspires followership. As followers disobey and stray, correction must both lead and cajole them back to the path, not confine them to the sidelines. In Bible Quizzing, our students must study to achieve mastery of the scriptures, work to understand questions, focus through distractions, act responsibly at tournaments, and honestly seek after God. At times they will fail in each of these areas; it is our role as coaches to demonstrate leadership and apply discipline when our quizzers fail.

You will drastically fail in your ministry to your quizzers if you don't help them develop the character-building qualities of self-discipline, responsibility, and consistency. Undeserved rewards undermine the development of these important qualities.

-Marvin Walker

"YOU WILL DRASTICALLY FAIL IN YOUR MINISTRY TO YOUR QUIZZERS IF YOU DON'T HELP THEM DEVELOP THE CHARACTER-BUILDING QUALITIES OF SELF-DISCIPLINE, RESPONSIBILITY, AND CONSISTENCY. UNDESERVED REWARDS UNDERMINE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE IMPORTANT QUALITIES."

- MARVIN WALKER

INCENTIVES

No student will decide to seriously engage in Bible Quizzing without reward. While some may be cajoled and simply disciplined into Bible Quizzing by parents, the simple motivation of discipline will neither last throughout a Bible Quizzing career, nor will it allow the student to truly learn the lessons of Bible Quizzing. Positive incentives of privilege must be introduced to each student. These privileges must be 1) worth it and 2) earned.

WORTH IT

Every aspect of life has a law of diminishing returns. As a child grows and develops a taste for strawberries, he will desire to eat them until he has eaten them for weeks. So it is with incentives. A trip in itself will be a good incentive early in the season, but will become old hat after several tournaments. Adding a fun activity to the trip schedule will increase the incentive value.

There are two things to keep in mind in making incentives worthwhile:

1) enjoyment value, not monetary value determines incentive value. If you live in the Eastern US, you needn't offer a trip to Colorado or California to make it appealing. Find something in your local area that students enjoy. The group activity in itself will appeal to your students.

2) Incentives should be short-term. Students are not known for their long attention spans.

Occasionally you will have the happy privilege of working with a quizzer who decides at the beginning of the year that she will contribute all she can to win the North American Tournament–through sheer motivation until the goal is achieved. Most quizzers, by contrast, need several intermediary incentives to keep them working at peak efficiency.

Plan your calendar so that your quizzers will constantly be working toward a short-term goal as well as the long-term goal. If your next trip is two months away, your quizzers will slow down for a week or two. While the frequency of trips will depend partly on the availability of neighboring teams to scrimmage, and on the quiz budget, participating in a tournament every four weeks or so will ideally position your students to maintain motivation.

EARNING IT

From the very start, decide that every privilege must be earned. Every quizzer must earn the right to quiz in competition and to travel with the team. The requirements for earning these privileges are decided by the coach in consultation with the pastor. Map out both the privileges and requirements for each at the beginning of the year. Continue to remind your students of both the privilege and the requirements as they lose focus. Be prayerful, practical and flexible in developing these incentives. They will work best when tailored to your students, not by following a rubric established by another team.

AFFIRMATION

GOVERNOR MARKELL CONGRATULATES THE TEAM FROM WILMINGTON APOSTOLIC PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

RECOGNITION IN CHURCH

Following a tournament, plan to recognize your quizzers during a church-wide event (often Sunday worship service). Discuss with your pastor the best time for doing so and present a plan. Quizzers will enjoy displaying their trophies, medals and ribbons to the larger audience of the church. This not only provides excitement for the students who are honored, appropriate reward for their work, but it also demonstrates to the church the value it invests in its Bible Quizzing ministry. Such honor not only serves as reward and future incentive for students then-involved in the ministry, but also builds appeal to the larger audience of parents and students within the church. This time provides an excellent opportunity to advertise involvement in Bible Quizzing during upcoming years.

COMMUNITY AND MEDIA

Students may also receive honor within the community. Reach out to local government officials, schools, non-profits and businesses to discover ways in which your students may receive honor.

In New Jersey-Delaware, North American Tournament-qualifying teams were invited to the Wilmington offices of Delaware Governor Jack Markell. Governor Markell carved out time to chat with each of the students, inquiring of each his/her favorite scripture. He later posed for photographs with each team. Students, parents, coaches and pastors were impressed and motivated by the honor and well-wishes conferred upon them by the governor.

The news media may also provide a way to honor your students. News outlets are often looking for a story – that students in your city dedicate time each day to memorize scripture instead of entertaining self is a story that stands on its own. Reach out to your local media outlets and let them know your practice schedule. Even if they do not immediately appear,

as news cycles continue, they may give you a call to schedule an interview. This reflects well not only on your student, but your ministry and church.

CAUTIONS

DON'T START TOO SOON

With the North American Bible Quiz Tournament scheduled in late July or early August, District Finals is scheduled to take place within the last two weeks of May or throughout June. Check the Extravaganza schedule (March-April) and schedule your quiz year based upon the number of verses required for each tournament. Begin with the end in mind, build in some extra time and choose a start date that provides your students a break, but also provides enough time for each division to achieve its goal. Don't send your students off to memorize the first 10 verses of the next quiz season after suffering their second defeat at the NABQT. Allow them enough of a break that they are rested and ready, but not so much that they have lost all momentum.

DON'T BUILD INCENTIVES TOO QUICKLY

Gradually increase the incentive value of your activities, attempting to peak with the final event of the year. This means that events earlier in the year should, by your deliberate planning, have lower incentive values. The quiz director's planning is the key to properly building incentives through the season.

MAKE YOUR LAST EVENT THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE

Success at District finals and the North American Tournament are your primary competitive goals. Build your students up to that point. Many teams can successfully sprint through a small portion of scripture. As a coach, you must plan for a marathon: build incentives for bursts of speed at just the right times. Your students will then be far ahead at the end of the race.

SEASONAL DANGER POINTS

Throughout the quiz year, several danger points will arise. While these vary by district, team and family, some danger points are common to most teams. These common danger points deserve proactive consideration on the part of a conscientious coach in order to successfully navigate these dangerous waters.

NOVELTY WEARS OFF

The first danger point occurs after the first or second month when novelty wears off and students begin to grind away at memorization. The effective coach must anticipate this first potential lull of the season. Planning memorization breaks into the schedule provides a week to rest from new scriptures and work on ensuring the quality and understanding of the previously memorized scriptures. If newness wears off early in the year, it may be necessary to attend an additional tournament or provide an alternative incentive to keep students motivated.

POST-EXTRAVAGANZA LETDOWN

The second common danger point occurs following Extravaganza. Our human emotions are geared to natural let downs after significant emotional rushes to meaningful events. Understanding this natural effect, the wise coach may give a light memorization assignment or a review week following Extravaganza. Do not allow the lull to continue beyond one week, however. Regroup your team with renewed focus on the next major tournament.

GRADUATION

The third common danger point for many teams occurs during the month of May. When teams have one or more quizzers whose families are caught up with the justifiably exciting events of graduation, Bible Quizzing might take a back seat to these events. Ground can be lost at that critical time when a team enters the final stretch of memorization. Proactive adjustments on the part of the coach are essential to preventing drift into distraction.

END OF SCHOOL

When school lets out, discipline departs, youth camps crank up, and quizzing fizzles. Coaches must remain in close contact with each quizzer during the first two to three weeks after school ends to ensure each student adjusts faithfully to the agreed upon summer study schedule with appropriate discipline.

CHAPTER FIVE

PREPARE FOR INSPECTION

CHAPTER OVERVIEW:

- *Types of Tournaments*
- *Qualifying Quizzers for a Tournament*
- *Anatomy of a Tournament*
- *District Finals*
- *NABQT*

ONLY A BALANCED APPROACH, COMBINING MEMORIZATION AND COMPETITION, PROVIDES THE PROPER BASE FROM WHICH A BIBLE QUIZZING MINISTRY WILL REACH THE HEIGHTS OF APPLICATION IN QUIZZERS' LIVES THAT GOD INTENDS.

You purposed to build a Bible Quizzing ministry, you followed a blueprint, you laid a foundation, you got to work honing your craft, you maintained morale, and now it's time for the final stage: inspection. Inspection is that phase during which what you've built is displayed openly, put to scrutiny, and invites evaluation. Tournaments do just that. Competition is a crucible that will test your purpose, plan, foundation, effort, and morale.

Some may focus on the "Bible" part of Bible Quizzing and downplay the competitive "Quizzing" element. Some may get far too caught up with the "Quizzing," but not nearly as much with the "Bible" facet. Only a balanced approach, combining memorization and competition, provides the proper base from which a Bible Quizzing ministry will reach the heights of application in quizzers' lives that God intends.

The temptation is to simply judge effectiveness at a tournament by wins and losses; by questions right or wrong; by points scored for or against. And while those should be weighed relative to a team's experience and preparation, they can at times be misleading and even distract from evaluating the more important measurements, such as faith, anointing, and attitude.

Each tournament in which your team participates provides two opportunities:

One, to publicly honor God with your best: your best efforts, your best focus, your best attitude, your best in every respect. Our God is worthy of nothing less than our best. God described Israel's attempt at offering Him their leftovers as "evil" (Malachi 1:8). We must learn from their poor example and not try to pass off mediocrity as excellence. Paul pressed "toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus," (Philippians 3:14), as should we all, including Bible quizzers. Win or lose then, your best, not compared to anyone else's, but your best before God becomes a living testimony to what God can do with a willing vessel submitted to Him.

And two, to those submitted to Him, tournaments provide an opportunity for God to impart life lessons like grace, humility, trust, and teamwork in an environment that is safe and supportive; an environment in which those leading have at heart the growth and development of each student, not just as a quizzer, but as a man or woman of God.

"OW!" IS IN THE MIDDLE OF GROWTH

You see, there will be times in which you give your very best, as a coach or quizzer, as a parent or student, but it won't be enough. You will come up short. And it will hurt. You have the opportunity in that moment to realize your own inadequacy and in the next moment, your utter dependence upon God. It's upon learning this crucial lesson that God then takes your best and makes it more than you ever could. Not unlike diamonds formed in intense

heat and pressure, God employs the competitive crucible of Bible Quizzing to form His best in you by first extracting your best from you.

TYPES OF TOURNAMENTS

SCRIMMAGES

A scrimmage is like a glorified practice, but with quiz teams from two or three local churches, typically within a short drive of each other. A scrimmage is often a little more formal than a regular practice with just your own team, but doesn't have to be, depending on how well the quizzers from each team know each other. Quiz one team against another, as usual at a tournament, or mix all the quizzers up, taking care to balance out each make-shift team. Either way, keep score to give everyone a little extra motivation. Scrimmages are a great tool to spice up your regular weekly practices.

INVITATIONALS

An invitational or open tournament is hosted by a local church and promoted to all quiz teams who would like to attend. While it is a formal tournament, requiring registration and fees, the host church may elect to be flexible regarding head coaches or assistant coaches coaching multiple teams. They want to encourage as many teams as possible to support the event, even if it means splitting a coach or coaches across teams. As an invitational is not an officially sponsored tournament, issues such as these are left to the host church's discretion.

DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS

District or state tournaments are typically held monthly, sponsored by the district/state youth department, and run by the district/state Senior Bible Quiz coordinator. With the possible exception of a novice tournament exclusively for teams in their first year of quizzing, district tournaments will most likely adhere to the rules of the quiz manual in preparation for district finals. Be sure to keep in contact with your district coordinator for all tournament dates, locations, start times, registrations, fees, material coverages, and formats so you plan accordingly.

GENERAL YOUTH DIVISION SPONSORED TOURNAMENTS

The General Youth Division provides the coordination and quizzes for certain tournaments; the rules and descriptions specific to each are found in the quiz manual.

Each year the General Youth Division sponsors:

» *Bible Quiz Extravaganzas (BQE)*

Regional tournaments, attracting teams from multiple states, that combine quizzing with a devotion or seminar, and a youth rally. If you attend only one tournament other than those in your district, be sure it is an extravaganza. The competitive and spiritual impact will be well worth the time and money.

» *District (or State) Finals*

The final tournament of the year on a district level determines which teams will be eligible to compete in the North American Bible Quiz Tournament, the order in which those teams will

represent their district and, by virtue of that order, how much financial support each team will receive from their district youth department.

Given the crucial nature of this tournament, we'll look further into District Finals preparation later in this chapter.

» *North American Bible Quiz Tournament (NABQT)*

This is the BIG one: the tournament all teams aspire to attend, but only the best teams from each district do. Currently held over 5 days, NABQT concludes the quiz season with the highest competition and deepest devotions.

Due to its length, the North American Bible Quiz Tournament is somewhat different from one or two day tournaments. We'll cover it in more detail later in this chapter.

QUALIFYING QUIZZERS FOR A TOURNAMENT

Each tournament is a reward for a quizzer's hard work and faithfulness. Early in the quiz season, with the first tournament or two, you may choose to allow all quizzers to participate without qualifying, regardless of how faithfully they've worked, in the hopes they will be bitten by the quiz bug. While you want as many students as possible to begin and stay involved, you must, however, strike a balance between fanning a flame of interest and desire at the outset, and rewarding mediocrity and a lack of discipline as the quiz season progresses. A coach does not sacrifice excellence for inclusivity. The quizzer who decides not to faithfully apply himself sacrifices his spot on the team. The quizzer makes that decision, not you.

To qualify each quizzer, use the verse cards and say, not show, each reference. When complete, divide the number of correctly quoted verses by the total and multiply by 100 to arrive at a percentage. Never qualify your quizzers based on points scored in practice. Qualify them relative to their faithfulness in learning the scriptures. Different quizzers have different aptitudes when it comes to anticipating and answering questions, but everyone can apply themselves to daily study. Jesus' words, "well done, thou good and faithful servant," are your baseline.

Early in the season, you may allow a quizzer ten seconds to begin a verse before it goes in the incorrect pile, but that may shrink to five seconds later in the year, or even three seconds by Nationals. While your requirements will progressively tighten, your percentage of correct in order to qualify should remain steady at around 90%. That may seem high, but over the course of 500 or so verses, 10% is roughly two whole chapters that can't be quoted. It is easier to start with the bar high and lower it, than to start low and try to raise it. Simply as a goal toward which to work, the best teams at Nationals will qualify within three seconds at over 95%.

Whatever you decide to require, be sure to communicate it clearly so that no quizzer or parent can plead ignorance. If all your quizzers are at roughly the same level learning-wise, share their results to help them push each other to do even better. If you have young, new, or struggling quizzers whose percentage falls well below the other quizzers, don't share the results. This allows you to make a subjective decision regarding each quizzer's participation at a tournament as you feel it is appropriate to do so.

In summary, qualifying your quizzers:

» *Reinforces the reward of participating in a tournament and representing their church*

» *Gives them a goal towards which to work and for which they will be accountable*

» *Replicates in part the pressure under which they will quiz*

» *Stretches their ability to focus for longer periods of time*

» *Provides you with cold, hard facts to share with parents and on which to base your decisions*

ANATOMY OF A TOURNAMENT

PRAYER

I presume by this point in reading through this resource you've noticed everything you do in Bible Quizzing should begin in prayer. A tournament is no different. Pray for your quizzers, pray for the other teams, pray for the officials. Prayer sets a tone of dependence upon God and invites Him to receive the glory of the day.

DEVOTION

A devotion, whenever it may be held during a tournament, at the outset, after a lunch break, or briefly in conjunction with the closing prayer, seeks to cast fresh light on a verse or passage the quizzers have learned.

ORIENTATION

Depending on the tournament, orientation may take anywhere from fifteen minutes to an hour, during which time quizmaster or host coordinator will cover such things as:

» *Going over the schedule*

» *Introducing officials*

» *Answering material related questions (aka, points of interpretation)*

» *Reviewing the rules*

» *Delineating quiz sessions*

» *Distributing the matrix*

STAY FOCUSED

As quizzing proceeds, it's easy to lose focus. Quizzes may drag on, friends more interested in socializing than quizzing may be a distraction, or getting too low after a tough loss can all make maintaining your team's focus a challenge. There is an ebb and flow to a tournament of which you must be aware.

Keep your quizzers sharp by asking questions in a quiet spot a quiz or two before their next quiz. Have them review on their own with verse cards during long deliberations. They can pair up and ask each other cross-references from the concordance. Above all, allow them to get in the flow of the questions by listening attentively to a quiz or two before they are up. Any more than one or two quizzes and you may be sacrificing their attention in your quiz. Be observant and you'll get to know what works best for your quizzers.

AWARDS

Each tournament will present team and individual awards based on the number of teams participating. Just as it's important to be gracious in winning or losing each quiz, it's important to be gracious in receiving awards or recognizing others who do. Any personal achievement and team success should glorify God, drawing attention to Him, and not ourselves alone.

CLOSING PRAISE

As a tournament began in prayer, so it ends in praise to God for all He has done. Regardless of who won or lost, there's nothing quite like worship to unify brothers and sisters of the family of God.

STRATEGY

Pre-quiz, in-quiz, and post-quiz strategy is crucial. As a coach, you want to maximize your quizzers' potential to do well at a tournament, and set them up to learn the lessons God would impart to them. Make no mistake, however, most of your coaching will happen on a weekly or even daily basis. No matter how good a strategist you may fancy yourself, there is no substitute for your quizzers' disciplined preparation to consistently do their best and compete at a high level. But when competing at that level, a key insight or well-called time-out can make the difference in your team's final standings at a tournament.

PRAYER

Any strategy that is not based in prayer is a losing strategy in the long run. It is laughably presumptuous to think that we might outthink God to the point we don't need His insight. God can reveal in a moment what we would fail to glean in a year's worth of study and observation. Our dependence upon God and sensitivity to hear His voice are reinforced again and again by communicating and listening in prayer. God is a master of orchestration and strategy; it would make no sense not to follow His lead.

While there are times God leads in exactly the opposite direction that the natural mind would lean, God gave you your mind with which to think, and the key is to prayerfully think through a situation. Loving the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength means submitting your thoughts to His. You might ask, "Should we pray to win, as if God has favorites?" No, but pray that God will help both teams quiz unto Him to the best of their ability and preparation; and help you coach your team according to His wisdom. Thank Him in advance, whatever the outcome.

INSIGHT

Your insight into how each of your quizzers will react to various situations before, during, and

after a quiz is vital to good coaching. What you might say to challenge one quizzer might crush another. Encouraging one to reach their best might leave another overwhelmed and disillusioned. Through prayer, observation, and just plain trial and error, you must come to know each of your quizzers, their strengths and weaknesses, their inter-personal dynamics, how they react under pressure, and the right buttons to push at the right moments in order to extract their best. What works for one team may not work exactly for your team. Whatever strategy you employ must include knowing your quizzers at and away from the quiz table.

With such insight, you can begin to form a strategy that develops each of your quizzers as young men and woman of God. A quizzer's strengths are often a source of pride. Stress humility and teamwork. A quizzer's weaknesses won't improve without intentionality on your part. Seek to laud even small successes. Plan to build a Bible Quizzing ministry, not just a competitive team.

BEFORE A QUIZ

Each question writer has his or her own style and tendencies. One may write quick, to-the-point questions, requiring limited reaction time. Another may be more verbose, requiring more patience of the quizzers. One may ask that third part from the content of the verse; while another may default to asking for the reference. As each tournament or invitational may use a different writer, it is imperative that your quizzers get in the "flow" and acclimate to the questions. Anticipating and interrupting questions effectively is, in part, a matter of getting in the head of the question writer.

Have your quizzers listen attentively to the quizzes preceding theirs and get a feel for the style of questions they will soon attempt to answer. As a coach, you can track a quiz by noting question preferences and patterns, while your quizzers can interrupt in their head and finish the questions to see how accurate they are. This not only helps quizzers anticipate questions once it's their turn to quiz, but helps keep them from being distracted and unfocused.

However, it is best not to focus too much on how other teams are doing. To conclude that you can't beat one team or can't lose to another simply by observing a quiz or two is counterproductive. You quiz primarily against the questions and your team's own potential, not your brothers and sisters in Christ. That said, there is some value in noting the strategies of the team with whom you will quiz next. Do they have a single strong quizzer, around whom you might be able to quiz? Are they overly aggressive, prone to interrupt too early and guess? Are there certain chapters over which they've not answered questions because they don't yet know that material well enough? All of these considerations and more will help optimize your chances of advancing past the next quiz.

DURING A QUIZ

Whether science or art, it can't be debated that anticipating and interrupting requires much practice to consistently do well. Knowing your quizzers, assessing the questions, and observing other teams in action, means you have key information with which to direct your quizzers when it comes to interrupting and answering.

If a team doesn't know the scriptures well and they're barely answering, then there's little need to interrupt at all. If a team is as strong or better than your team, your quizzers will need to be on it from the first question. Warn your team, however, against over-reaching and interrupting beyond their knowledge or experience level. It's one thing for a better

team to win straight-up; it's another for your quizzers to give the quiz away on rereads to the other team. An interruption percentage (interrupted questions correct / total interruptions x 100) of less than 60% means your quizzers are helping the other team more than themselves.

KNOW THE SCORE

At any given time during a quiz, you must be sure you know the score. Most of your in-quiz decisions–timeouts, contests, who will answer rereads, etc.–will be predicated on knowing the score correctly. Your quizzers have invested too much time and effort in their study to have it undone by an inaccurate score. A quick and capable assistant coach is a Godsend. But whether it's you or your assistant, double check the score with the scorekeeper at every timeout.

The goal is to "lock" the quiz as early as possible, meaning that unless your team loses points, it is mathematically impossible for the other team to win. This occurs when the margin of points between the two teams exceeds the total points remaining in a quiz. You see then how important it is to have the score right. From at least the mid-twenty pointers on, you should know how many total points remain in the quiz going into each question:

This is crucial when making snap decisions about:

» *How many correct questions each of your quizzers already have versus how many more each can answer before going out with eight correct. When the quiz is still on the line, you want the quizzers who give your team the best chance to win still in the quiz.*

» *How many correct questions each of the other team's quizzers already have versus how many more each can answer before going out with eight correct. If the other coach mismanages the score, for example, allowing his or her strongest quizzer to answer too many questions early in the quiz, you need to be able to quickly do the math to take advantage of that oversight.*

» *Calling the most important timeout in a quiz: the timeout to tell your quizzers the quiz is locked. At this point it may be advisable to have your quizzers stop interrupting or even answering questions lest they jeopardize "unlocking" the quiz with incorrect answers and/or rereads to the other team. You know your quizzers best, so it is a judgment call on your part. Depending on the other team with whom you are quizzing, though, it is often seen as a sign of good sportsmanship not to purposefully run up the score.*

QUESTION NUMBER	POINTS REMAINING
20	30
19	60
18	90
17	110
16	130
15	150
14	170

POINTS REMAING CHART

TIMEOUTS

Timeouts are the most important strategic, in-quiz tool that you have as a coach. The direction of a quiz can shift perceptibly after a well-timed and well-used sixty seconds. A timeout may be used to change your team's approach for the remainder of the quiz, to focus your team after a long deliberation or disappointing, denied contest, or to kick-start your team after several correct answers in a row by the other team.

» *Unless it's a ten-second substitution timeout, timeouts should generally not be called within the first ten questions of a quiz. Whatever you have to tell your quizzers within the first half of a quiz, you should tell them before the quiz. Exceptions to this might be a quizzer going completely off the rails and repeatedly interrupting wildly or displaying an exceptionally poor spirit.*

» *You, the coach, control the timeout, not the quizzers. How can they hear the important things you have to share, if they are talking? By the rules, the captain is eligible to call a timeout, but it's advisable in all but the rarest of circumstances that timeouts be left to the coach.*

» *Whether ahead or not, don't allow your quizzers to overly focus on the score. Unless the quiz is locked, they best concern themselves with doing what they do: scoring points; and leave the math to you.*

» *Quizzes can be pressure cookers, but your quizzers rely on you to have a steady hand on the helm. Stay calm during a timeout. If your quizzers sense you are nervous, they'll be nervous, when you really want them to be calm and focused.*

» *The temptation during a timeout is to try and correct what has gone wrong to that point by rehashing it with your quizzers. Don't do it. Sixty seconds is nowhere near long enough, so don't even try. Don't even allow your quizzers to look back in the quiz. You'll only get yourself worked up and leave your quizzers frazzled. Save the question-by-question evaluation for after the quiz. You only have sixty seconds and you need to focus forward. Rehashing what's gone wrong focuses on the negative and you should always leave your team more positive than they were sixty seconds earlier. Resist the temptation. Focus forward.*

» *Be specific, not vague, in your instructions. Make sure you have your quizzers' eye contact and that they understand exactly what you are communicating. "I forgot," or "I didn't hear that," should never be valid excuses if a quizzer, for example, interrupts after you instructed the team not to interrupt.*

» *Speak faith. When the pressure's on, uncertainty may arise in your quizzers' spirits. Regardless of how well prepared or how long your quizzers have quizzed, they may doubt the presence of the Lord with them and their ability to deliver in the clutch. Even if they don't pull it out, their faith should remain high, if you've spoken faith into them.*

» *Ideally, you should save a timeout for important instructions near the end of the quiz, like when your team has locked the quiz.*

» *Before the quiz is closed, if you have an unused timeout after question*

twenty, those sixty seconds alone with your quiz team are a wonderful opportunity to drive home a key teaching point or life lesson.

POINT OF ORDER

A valuable tool for an alert coach is the option to call a point of order concerning procedural matters. While a point of order may not be used to contest the judges' ruling on an answer or to argue the calling of a foul, quiz officials are human and do make procedural errors from time to time. Knowing the rules manual as well as possible is a necessity, if you are going to be the officials' safety net and support them as they oversee a fair and balanced tournament.

CONTESTS

If timeouts are your most important strategic tool as a coach during a quiz, then contests fill the same role for your quizzers. Many quizzes have turned, even been won, on an astute contest.

A QUIZZER CONTESTS AT NABQT

» *A quizzer may fully rehearse his or her contest with the captain, before conversing with you. Some coaches prefer that the quizzer make only the obligatory pit stop with the captain, and spend as much time as possible with the coach. It's entirely up to you. If you are not as familiar with the scriptures, you may allow the captain to vet the contest for content, while you focus on the strategy of the situation.*

» *Take the full sixty seconds to consider every angle or even rehearse what you or your quizzer will say. The time is yours, use it, and don't wing it.*

» *You as the coach are the one who decides whether to continue or withdraw a contest, not your quizzer. You might ask how confident he or she is in what they heard, or to further explain the gist of the contest, but the final decision about what to do is yours. Do not entertain arguing or pleading by your quizzer if your better judgment is to withdraw.*

» *If you are unsure about a contest or time is called, withdraw. You are allowed too few denied contests (only two), before your team loses its privilege to contest, to approach the judges ill-prepared.*

» *A contest in the ten-pointers is rarely worth the payoff, so unless it's a rock solid, cannot-possibly-be-anything-but-granted contest, don't risk it being denied.*

» *In deciding whether to present a contest or not, take into account how long the quizmaster and judges may have already deliberated before ruling on the answer. Watch their body language for consensus. If they are in unison after a lengthy discussion, unless you have something almost revelatory, which you are sure they've not considered, strongly weigh withdrawing the contest.*

» *Send your quizzer to present their contest to the judges, if possible. This helps develop presentation and articulation skills. Some contests, however, may be sufficiently complex that it is in the team's best interests that the coach present the contest.*

» *When contesting the other team's answer to a quotation question, present something specific for which the judges should listen. Never simply ask them to review the recording. They are not in the business of fishing for a contest for you.*

» *Don't use your contest as an opportunity to ask why the quizmaster or judges ruled one way or another. They may take the time following the quiz to explain their reasoning, but they have guidelines governing their interaction with a quizzer or coach at the judges table. Simply present your contest.*

» *Always be gracious and conclude your presentation with, "Thank you."*

Whether your team's contest is granted or denied, always demonstrate a right spirit before your quizzers and the body of Christ. You may well be convinced that the officials got it completely wrong, and on the rare occasion, you may be right. Nonetheless, it is an opportunity to develop grace, faith, and trust that, despite men's shortcomings, God sees a much bigger picture and is in control of it all.

AFTER A QUIZ

Take time between quizzes for a quick post-mortem with your quizzers. Praise what went right, address what didn't go right, and communicate any strategic changes. Emphasize any life lesson or Biblical principle you feel the last quiz revealed or the next quiz necessitates. This means being sensitive to the Lord and to your quizzers, and keeping the big picture in perspective. Conclude in prayer, thanking God for whatever He has imparted.

Don't let your quizzers get too high after a win or too low after a loss. Don't allow them to gloat in victory or play the blame game in defeat. Teams who "bite and devour one another" (Galatians 5:5) won't be teams for long. Your standard should be that any quizzer who cannot approach the quiz table with a right attitude, risks not participating in the next quiz at all, even if that's your highest-scoring quizzer. Don't compromise the bedrock principles of the Bible Quiz ministry–anointing, unity, humility, faith, et al–for the chance to win just a single quiz.

DISTRICT (OR STATE) FINALS

It is not uncommon for teams from very competitive districts to spend six to eight hours a day in a quiz "boot camp," quoting verses, asking questions, and reviewing cross-references for a week or more leading up to Finals, in order to ensure their eligibility to the North American Tournament. Here are a few thoughts to help make those hours and days as profitable as possible.

DIAGNOSIS AND PRESCRIPTION

Unless you already have a firm and complete grasp of how well each quizzer knows each and every chapter, take the first day of your quiz boot camp to do a marathon quote-in. Reference each quizzer separately with their verse cards, as you would if qualifying them to attend an out-of-state tournament (see Qualifying Quizzers for a Tournament).

Ideally at this point in the quiz season, all chapters should be mixed in one big stack, but if not, reference them as they've been doing to that day. Note from the incorrect pile which chapters crop up most. Note not only how long each quizzer takes overall, but also how long each takes to start verses from certain chapters, particularly later chapters. In doing so, you will diagnose which chapters may need extra work, even if previously mixed with all the other chapters.

The prescription is then to separate the weaker chapters for additional referencing each day. If a quizzer is referencing all of his or her material once a day, this allows those target chapters to be referenced a second or third time. Individual prescriptions will vary from quizzer to quizzer depending on how many chapters need extra work, whether quizzers can reference to themselves or need the accountability of a parent or coach, and how much time can be reasonably expected to be spent each day.

CROSS-REFERENCES

Though cross-references shouldn't be saved for end-of-the-year cramming, there's nothing quite like the pressure of driving down the stretch to review and cement cross-references old and new. Break out the concordance or flash cards when you want to change things up during those long quiz boot camp days. Have quizzers race each other, with or without the buzzer, to find a name, place, or word. Test their ability to connect a concept across multiple verses. Whether they were the first to get the cross-reference or not, have each quizzer repeat it again to aid retention.

ATTITUDE

Despite all the time and effort you and your quizzers invest, the truth is that the team who works the hardest or the most doesn't always win. That's a hard truth, but true nonetheless. The success of a quiz season, though, does not depend on where your team finishes in the standings. By giving our best to God and thanking Him in advance for whatever He returns to our hand, true winning is a by-product of excellence and attitude. We win then despite victories or setbacks. We win not because we receive a trophy, but because we become a trophy.

NORTH AMERICAN BIBLE QUIZ TOURNAMENT

In certain respects, the NABQT is much like every other tournament. All that has applied throughout the quiz season to this point–strategy, qualifying quizzers, boot camp-like preparation–applies still. While there's no need to completely reinvent the wheel, in other respects, NABQT is a different animal.

Be careful not to over-prepare. Keeping your foot constantly on the gas sounds good but will burn out your engine in time. A good jockey doesn't push his horse hard every stride, but knows when to release him to run his best. The key is to know your team well enough to

have them peak at just the right time and not be overdone by the time you reach Nationals.

As the culmination of nine months of intense study, the NABQT can almost serve as a release valve for teams. The goal of getting to Nationals took such time, effort, and focus that teams can be lulled into just being glad they are there. This sense of arrival can dull your team's edge, undermine their focus, and compromise their best.

This biggest difference between NABQT and other tournaments is its length. Multiple, long days of quizzing require an unparalleled focus from you and your quizzers. The NABQT is a tremendously exciting time for students, and with that excitement comes many potential distractions. From big crowds to young men and women of the opposite gender; from "super" teams with intimidating, built-in reputations to time zone adjustment or jet-lag; from unsupervised friends to sight-seeing opportunities, all these have the potential to draw your team's focus from why they are there: to glorify God by quizzing their best.

Account for jet-lag, don't worry about which teams are which, plan to sight-see, encourage Godly relationships with proper supervision, but don't stop studying once the tournament begins. As a team, you've come too far and invested too much to fumble the ball on the goal line. Just as we worship the Lord shutting out all that's around us, so quizzing unto the Lord at and away from the quiz table, means focusing just on Him. That's quizzing with anointing. Put first things first, and there will be time for all the rest.

CONCLUSION

FROM PETE ROSE TO DONALD DUCK

2016 marks the 40th anniversary of a revelation that has in no small part helped Bible Quizzing become the transformative ministry it is today. Claudette Walker served with her husband, former North American Bible Quizmaster, Marvin Walker, for twenty years from 1981 to 2000. These are her words.

> *When we first started coaching the quiz team at Calvary Church in Cincinnati, quizzing was more of a game to us than a ministry. My husband, Marvin, was very competitive! In the mid-70s, the city of Cincinnati was on top of the world as their baseball team, the Reds, had won back-to-back World Series in '75 and '76. They called themselves the Big Red Machine. So Marv told our quizzers that they were the Big Red Quiz Machine.*

"THE CITY OF CINCINNATI WAS ON TOP OF THE WORLD AS THEIR BASEBALL TEAM, THE REDS, HAD WON BACK-TO-BACK WORLD SERIES IN '75 AND '76. THEY CALLED THEMSELVES THE BIG RED MACHINE. SO MARV TOLD OUR QUIZZERS THAT THEY WERE THE BIG RED QUIZ MACHINE."

- CLAUDETTE WALKER

Pete Rose, the Reds all-star third baseman and leadoff hitter, famously drew upon another sports figure when he brashly declared, "Vince Lombardi said winning isn't everything, it's the only thing, and I believe that. People who don't believe that are losers. And nobody remembers losers. They only remember winners. That's all that counts: to be #1!"

With that attitude, Pete Rose said that his team would win because they gave 110%; so we told our quizzers, "We will win because we will try harder." Our focus was largely on winning, though we were not the only ones. Over the first few years since its inception, Bible Quizzing in general had adopted an overly-competitive attitude. Jealousy among team members was common. Many times, teams would not even be kind to one another at a tournament. Basically, the approach was as if quizzing was little more than a game of Monopoly or baseball.

On the evening of September 19, 1976, I was up late studying to teach my Sunday school lesson. Our team had qualified for Nationals and was leaving the next day for Anaheim, California. As I reached for my Bible, the Lord emphatically said, "That is NOT a baseball!" His Word can quickly discern the thoughts and intents of our hearts and that night He discerned our attitude and sorely rebuked me. Pressure overwhelmed me as the Lord began to share verse after convicting verse.

» *John 1:1 flooded my heart: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." He said to me, "When you handle my Word, you are handling Me!"*

» *Deuteronomy 8:10, 11, 17 warns Israel to be careful lest they say in their hearts, "my power and the might of my hand hath gotten me this wealth."*

» *When David had worked hard gathering materials for the temple and giving much of his own wealth (1 Chronicles 29:1-14), we hear his humble attitude in verses 12 and 14, "…in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great…But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee." David was not lifted up in pride over his work, but humbly acknowledged it all came from God.*

» *The Lord paraphrased Jeremiah 9:23-24 to further convict me of our wrong attitude: "Let not the intelligent quizzer glory in his intelligence, neither let the studious glory in his study. Let not the successful team glory in its success, but let the quizzer that glories, glory in that he knoweth Me."*

» *Zechariah 4:6 was the crowning verse of a two-hour, God-directed Bible study: "…not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts."*

We had unintentionally led our quiz team to trust in their own abilities and preparation, their own power and might more than in God's Spirit. We had unwittingly been full of pride. I wept and wept over mishandling the Word of God with such a carnal attitude.

On my knees in heart-felt repentance, I wrote this proclamation for our quizzers: "I recognize and proclaim that my desire to study God's Word, my intelligence, my health, and my ability to study, learn, and quiz all come from the Spirit of God!" We shared this revelation with our quizzers. We told them they were NOT the Big Red Quiz Machine! We told them we had projected a worldly, carnal attitude onto them. We asked for their forgiveness. We repented as a team and God aligned our attitudes and spirits with His Word.

When we arrived in Anaheim for the NABQT, we quizzed with a brand new attitude. During a crucial point of the tournament, our team was out eating lunch. As we paid the bill, I noticed some little miniature replicas of cartoon characters in a bowl near the cash register (we were near Disneyland after all). I picked up one of Donald Duck, who had one hand raised and the other behind his back, and exclaimed, "He looks like he's quizzing, and has hit the buzzer, but has no idea what the answer is!" We laughed and bought one for each of our quizzers as a funny souvenir. That was the best 35¢ investment we ever made.

God had still been ministering to us about a proper attitude toward quizzing. However, two seemingly conflicting Scriptures had been going over in our minds: 1) Ecclesiastes 9:10, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might…," which had previously typified our attitude (the 110% philosophy of Pete Rose); and 2) the fresh revelation of Zechariah 4:6, ""…not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord…"

With this tiny, rubber figurine in hand, God proceeded to reconcile both of these scriptures, and give us a tangible object lesson with which to quiz going forward. God profoundly impressed on us that at this point we should not trust in our hard work and preparation, but rather reach for the Lord and His will concerning the outcome of our quizzes. The hand that wanted to reach for victory, trophies, and winning alone was to be placed behind us as this little duck's was, and with the other open hand, we were to trust the Lord for whatever He chose to place within it, victory or not.

That day Donald Duck was renamed "Zach" for Zechariah 4:6. Despite being just a rookie team, God anointed our quizzers and blessed us greatly to win the NABQT! That little figurine of Donald Duck only cost a few cents but, oh, the invaluable spiritual lesson it represented! And that was just the beginning! These five indelible, life-changing benefits we gleaned from the Lord changed our quizzing from a game into a ministry to train young people not only in the Word but in godly character.

THAT DAY DONALD DUCK WAS RENAMED "ZACH" FOR ZECHARIAH 4:6

1. Zach will take the wrong pressure off. Your quizzers should not quiz for reputation, their coaches, pastor, parents, or for the local church, but firstly for the Lord! Quoting the Word in worship at the board should be a love offering to the Lord. When quizzing becomes worship, His anointing is felt. It will alleviate natural nervousness, teaching quizzers to trust not in aptitude and ability but in the Lord.

2. You no longer quiz against the other team. Have your quizzers pray for the other team before competition. Pray all quizzers on both teams would quiz their very best unto the Lord. This helps eliminate the jealousy the enemy tries to inject into their hearts. I have seen quizzers while disappointed to lose, be genuinely glad for the team to whom they lost.

3. Zach wipes out the attitude of pride! The Lord says He knows the proud from afar so we never want our quizzers to be proud of their performance. It is God performing through them. My dad, Raymond Kloepper, once complimented Bro. Billy Cole on a message he had preached. Bro. Cole listened graciously as my dad extolled the virtues of the message, smiled his million-dollar smile, and simply said, "Thank you." I could feel the complete humility in his heart. Pride screams, but humility of heart speaks softly.

God could have used lightning or an earthquake to kill Goliath. Giants are no problem for God. We find, however, in 1 Samuel 17:17 why God used David: He desired a voice to proclaim His glory! David boldly told Goliath that he had come in the name of the Lord of hosts so "that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel." When your quizzers quote the precious Word of God at the quiz board, the Lord searches for those who will give Him the glory. He will never let our flesh glory in His presence!

4. You can totally depend on God's power and might. Ephesians 6:10 in the Amplified version says, "Be strong in the Lord–be empowered through your union with Him; draw your strength from Him–that strength which His boundless might provides." When quizzers truly have the Zach lesson established in their spirits, I have watched them quiz by the anointing of the Lord far beyond their abilities. Those are moments they will not soon forget! One question or one quiz can change a quizzer's life once they learn to depend on God's power and might and not their own.

You can be "Zach-ed" for life! I am now 65 years old, and in my own ministry, preaching the Word to ladies all over the world, this life-changing encounter with God is ingrained in each and every message. Its principle is now foundational to my spiritual life. My license plate is ZACH46!

5. You can trust God's choice for you! Once your quizzers have thoroughly prepared, they can trust the result of a quiz or a tournament to God's will. It takes away the "blame game:" you don't have to blame the luck of the draw, the quizmasters' bad decisions, the poor questions, or unprepared teammates. Zach takes the pride out of victory and the despair out of defeat!

"THE HIGHEST REWARD FOR A MAN'S TOIL IS NOT WHAT HE GETS FOR IT BUT WHAT HE BECOMES BY IT."

-JOHN RUSKIN

When my husband was the North American Quizmaster, and I was the scorekeeper at NABQT, one morning before the quiz day began we knelt in prayer in the general session quiz room. I heard a quizzer behind me praying repeatedly through his tears, "Lord, I still bless your name!" All year my husband had thought this young man's team would win the NABQT, but they had lost their second quiz the night before. But here he was the morning after praying earnestly in surrender to the Lord's choice for him. That young man was Russ Faubert, now the quizmaster for the Experienced Division of Senior Bible Quizzing.

God keeps good books. If your quizzers do not achieve the heights or receive the awards you (or they) had hoped for, God will reward them in His way and in His timing. One quizzer paraphrased Romans 14:8 for quiz purposes: "For whether we win, we win unto the Lord; and whether we lose, we lose unto the Lord; whether we win therefore or lose, we are the Lord's."

John Ruskin said, "The highest reward for a man's toil is not what he gets for it but what he becomes by it." Quiz practice by quiz practice and tournament after tournament, you help build students with godly character. You will be as amazed to see the young men and women with whom God entrusted you become soul winners, prayer warriors, youth leaders, Sunday school teachers, quiz coaches, Bible study teachers, singers and musicians, pastors, and missionaries.

The UPCI introduced quizzing to our fellowship in 1967. My husband was one year past the age limit to quiz so he decided to coach. Bruce Howell, now Director of Global Missions, was on Marv's first team. You never know who you are coaching. God has dynamic life-plans for every quizzer. What a great privilege you have to invest in their lives!

The Lord told us that this lesson of Zach was a legacy for generations of quizzers to come, so this guide concludes with a 13-point pledge to share with your quizzers today. Have them keep it with their quiz material and read it prior to each day's study and before every tournament. May "Zach in Action" be active throughout their lives as it has been throughout mine these past 40 years!

ZACH IN ACTION

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit"
- Zechariah 4:6

1. I will remember that the Lord considers my study time as time spent with Him.

2. I will always pray before I study, asking Jesus for His help and blessing. I will pray for my other team members and coaches each day.

3. When I feel like giving up, I will refuse to do so, because I quiz by His might and power and that supply is endless.

4. I will always remember that my coach is the leader and will follow directions always even when I don't like it or understand why. I know God cannot bless disobedience.

5. After I prepare with all my might, I will put the hard work behind me and reach to the Lord, trusting Him to put what He knows is best for me in my hand.

6. At every tournament, I will be aware that I represent my team, my pastor, my church, my city but first and foremost my Lord!

7. I will quiz unto the Lord and not against the other team or against my own team members.

8. If I win, I will not let pride in my heart, but will give glory to Jesus for the victory He gave, and remember from where any ability comes in the first place.

9. If I lose, I will not sink into despair but will trust God to teach me the lessons I need to learn in defeat.

10. When my teammates or other quizzers do well, I will rejoice with them in their joy.

11. When my teammates or other quizzers do not do well, I will encourage them and pray for them.

12. I will remember that God will not judge me by my success in the eyes of others, but by my faithfulness in preparation.

13. I will always remember that I am filling my heart full of the Word of God so that I can be ready to fill my place in the Kingdom full of knowledge and power!