

HOW TO START A JUNIOR BIBLE QUIZ MINISTRY IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

General Sunday School Division
United Pentecostal Church International
(Revised 2/10)

One of the greatest things we can give to our children, secondary only to the initial salvation experience, is to place within their hands the tools with which to create a meaningful life. No greater tool can be found than that of understanding and hiding the Word of God in the heart. An outstanding endeavor in this area is a program of our Sunday School Division known as Junior Bible Quizzing. It is the Sunday School Division's desire to assist our juniors in memorizing the Scripture for the purpose of developing a Christ-like mind.

We would like to introduce to you who have not been involved thus far, and clarify to others, the aspects of this vital learning experience. Please consider the following statements and the philosophy behind them as you prepare your church and its children for this "fun time of learning" God's Holy Word.

In order to retain a systematic growth from the youngest quizzers through the final ages of the quizzing program, you will find a close coordination between the Junior Quiz program and that of the Bible Quiz program of the Youth Division of the UPC. Therefore, you will wish to become familiar with certain areas of that program and learn from the personnel and resources. However, in the next few pages we will point out some definite differences between the two programs. Please study these differences carefully if you are already familiar with the youth program.

Start first by reading the "Statement of Purpose" and "Statement of Philosophy." Then proceed to pages on materials available for ordering, to see that you have necessary materials and helps. Next, look over the suggestions for choosing coaches, suggestions for promotion, and keeping the program alive.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

OUR TEN-POINT PURPOSE DIRECTED TOWARD SAVING OUR CHILDREN.

1. To keep our children in the church by hiding the Word of God in their hearts.
2. To build character by teaching them how to win and lose in life's battles.
3. To teach church involvement at an early age.
4. To provide a worthy outlet for their energies.
5. To provide a time of Christian fellowship.
6. To teach our children to think (especially in relation to understanding the Scriptures.)
7. To teach our children the value of discipline, especially self-discipline.
8. To teach the process of goal-setting.
9. To create a fun learning session that provides a foundation for future quizzing.

10. To bless the entire church by providing a place of involvement for former quizzers as coaches and quizmasters, by providing study materials that pastors can utilize to teach the whole church, and to strengthen families by in-depth studies of the Word for children.

The Marriage of Memory and Comprehension: “Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2).

It is the General Sunday School Division’s desire to assist our juniors in memorizing the Scriptures for the purpose of a Christ-like mind. We believe that in times of decision the Spirit of God can bring to mind what has been hidden in the heart. “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Psalm 119:11).

We believe the Scripture should reach the heart, thus teaching a person how to live, not just how to think. We want to be sure the mind and the heart become Christ-like and thus fulfill the need of the person in all times of life.

TWENTY-ONE BENEFITS OF JUNIOR BIBLE QUIZZING

1. Develop good study habits.
2. Learn how to concentrate.
3. Develop patience.
4. Acquire respect for authority.
5. Learn self-discipline.
6. Work as a team.
7. Develop prayer life.
8. Enrich personal relationships.
9. Learn how to respond logically.
10. Develop determination.
11. Respond quickly.
12. Develop sportsmanship.
13. Foster humility.
14. Learn to depend on God.
15. Acquire a pure mind and a pure heart through the Word of God.
16. Receive personal power with God.
17. Develop character.
18. Unify the church.
19. Demonstrate dedication to complete a task.
20. Learn persistence.
21. Learn good stewardship habits.

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

In establishing our program, we must keep in mind the age of the children with whom we are dealing. Children under the age of twelve should not be put under great pressure lest they become discouraged and quit, or never get started in the study of God’s Word. Children under twelve also tend to be fidgety, restless, and nervous under any pressure.

Therefore, we wish to quiz them, not try them. We also understand that pronunciation can be a problem, and we will be as tolerant and understanding as possible, giving the benefit of the doubt when feasible.

We are not out to run a “sloppy” program void of rules that we believe are necessary. It is not a matter of changing the rules, for they must remain. However, we do wish to create a relaxed atmosphere for quizzing, so the quizzers will be at their best and not feel pressured. The child should always be made to feel he is doing a good job, so long as he is really trying to participate.

We seek to involve as many quizzers as possible, not just to create a utopia for a few “professional” teams. Our goal is to get all of our children excited about the study of the Word of God. We want the quizzers to understand they are winners as they put the Word of God in their hearts. We want quizzing to be enjoyable, and a place to meet new Christian friends.

We seek to develop the best quizzers possible, but not make the study of the Bible so demanding that it ceases to be enjoyable. Doing so may cause the children to study only for the competition, and thus, when the competition stops, so will the study. Quizzing at this level must first of all be fun or these youngsters will not participate for long.

We believe that coaches must not only be “head coaches,” but rather people who assist, encourage, work with, instill proper attitudes, and provide a proper environment for both learning and enjoying this program.

These principles are carried out in the National Quiz Finals, and are the basis for the district and local Junior Crusader Quiz program.

NECESSARY MATERIALS FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL DIVISION

- I. You will need to get an order form from the General Sunday School Division of the United Pentecostal Church. These are not the same as those available from the Youth Division. What you order will depend upon how much money you can spend. We will show minimum (necessary) and extras.
 - A. Order the following for each coach or each quizzer.
 1. Bible Quiz Manual (coach)
This Rule Book explains the method of quizzing and types of questions and answers in the program.
 2. Study Guide and Questions (coach and quizzer)
This book shows which verses are being used. This also gives you study questions for each of these verses. The book also contains some study information on the material.
 3. Every Quizzer should have a set of verse cards.
 - B. In addition, also order the following for the coaches:

1. Quiz Binder. This keeps coach's materials organized in one place.
 2. Several pads of Score Sheets.
 3. Leader's Handbook. This helps the coach to develop good study methods for the quizzers.
- C. Additional helps you may wish to order:
1. Book of Study on Cassette/CD.
 2. Concordance for current year's text.
- II. To be complete you will want to order a Buzzer System. There are two systems available. The older stand-alone system can be purchased from Erickson Electronics (651-393-1133.) The newer system is computer assisted and can be purchased from Ruth Wilson at *upcquiz.com*. This is a good investment and can be used for other youth games and activities.
- III. Success of the Junior Bible Quizzing depends upon the following:
- A. Coach with a burden and patience.
 - B. Proper motivation of the quizzers.
 - C. Involvement of parents.
 - D. Recognition from the pastor for the accomplishments of the quizzers.
 - E. Prayer.
 - F. Balance of study and recreation.
 - G. Recognition by the coach.
 - H. Hard work by coaches and quizzers.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS

CHOOSING COACHES AND QUIZMASTERS

1. The very first thing you must look for is an adult or quality young person who loves children and has a burden for their salvation and spiritual growth.
2. A good source is to be found from among those who have previously been involved in any quizzing capacity, either as quizzer or coach in either the Youth Quizzing or the Junior Quizzing programs.
 - A. Caution those who were in Youth Quizzing to read very carefully the pages on "Purpose" and "Philosophy" that are in this manual.
 1. If you have no one with previous experience, find someone willing to learn.
 - B. Have them study the materials carefully.
 - C. Make contact with another leader or church that has a quiz program. You will find them more than willing to give you a hand in getting started.
 - D. Send them to a practice quiz in another church, your district, or to a district or national quiz final. Even if you cannot start this year, make plans to start next year by taking advantage of the opportunity to attend one of these finals.

FINDING QUIZZERS

1. Anyone interested in quizzing must be not more than eleven years of age as of January 1 for the given quiz year. Those twelve or more must quiz in the

Youth program.

2. There is no minimum age; several have participated as young as five-year-old nonreaders. This requires that the child listen to tapes or have some adult or other quizzers spend time working with the child's memory work. It can be done IF THE CHILD WANTS TO DO SO.
3. There are now two divisions of Junior Bible Quizzing. The Junior Division consists of quizzers not more than eleven years of age. The Beginner Division consists of quizzers not more than eight years of age as of January 1 for that quiz year. A beginner age quizzers may choose to quiz in the Junior Division, however, a Junior age quizzers may not quiz in the Beginner Division.
4. Look in your children's church, a Sunday school class, or Christian school for children who are eligible.
 - a. Talk up the Quizzing program. Stir up a little excitement.
 - b. Have some short, lively Bible quiz drills.
 - c. Enlist as many children as possible to begin a study for quizzing.
 - d. Try to keep as many as possible involved for as long as possible.
 - e. Sometime late in the quizzing year, determine the finalists for your teams by virtue of the children's cooperation and ability with the program. Do not cut down too soon, for you may find that some will drop out later that you thought would stay or someone who looked as though he would drop out but regained interest and was very successful.

GETTING STARTED

HAVE A KICKOFF:

Your Kickoff can be for the team or for the whole church. Make it as big or as personal as you desire. (A church-involved quiz team usually turns into a quiz ministry.)

Big or small? That's entirely up to you!
Be sure to make it fun!

SET A GOAL

No matter how new or experienced a team is, each should start the quiz year by setting a goal. Here are some ideas:

1. **TRY IT (One chapter)**—Give it a try! Give it your best for just one chapter. If you like it, continue on. If not, you have learned a great chapter.
2. **GO TO THE FIRST QUIZ**—Find out how much material will be covered at the first quiz. Pace your team to be ready for it. Have fun. If you like it, go on.
3. **SET A DATE**—Try it for a specific amount of time. Don't make the time too short; really give it a chance. Be sure to at least cover the first quiz.
4. **FINISH THE QUIZ YEAR**—Go to the District Finals. WIN!

LEARN MATERIAL

Set a schedule of what each quizzer should learn each week. Try to keep up with the schedule. Don't go too fast. Working too hard in the beginning may cause burnout later on. But work at a good pace to meet the individual needs of your church calendar. You should begin sometime around the first of the year.

SUGGESTIONS ON METHODS OF STUDY

- I. Orderly pattern of study:
 - A. First read and reread the Scriptures, using only the scriptural text.
 1. Seven Memorization Methods.
 - a. Read the verse through a couple of times.
 - b. Look up and try to say it. If you get stuck, check out the verse and then go on.
 - c. When you can say the verse through without looking, you are ready to start memorizing it. (You thought you were through, didn't you?)
 - d. Say the verse through as fast as you can, five times without a mistake. Then if you make a mistake, start over.
 - e. Read the verse again to be sure you are saying it right. If not, do it over.
 - f. Say the verse again five times without a mistake. Then five more times (that makes fifteen.) If at any time you make a mistake, start over on that group of five.
 - g. Do the next verse the same way, then return to the first verse memorized to make sure you still know it.
 - h. Follow up by working with the study questions in the materials.
 - i. Emphasize comprehension. Get the meaning as well as the memory.
 - j. Memorize starred verses, but learn the non-starred verses as closely as possible.
 - k. Review from memory the verses of Scripture just learned.

WEEKLY SCHEDULES

Make up weekly schedules of verses to be studied and those to be memorized. Give copies to the quizzers. Check on their progress.

HAVE QUIZ PRACTICES

The first quiz practice should be after the first schedule is completed. In the beginning, use questions from the study guide. Later, the coach will start writing questions and quizzes for practices. In addition, there are several sources from which to purchase good questions for practice since most coaches do not have the time to write their own. Also, if the questions are not the style that is used at tournaments, they are not beneficial to the quizzers.

PRAISE QUIZZERS FOR GOOD WORK—SEEK HELP

Contact your District Quizmaster for help if you have any questions about rules, procedures, and the like. He can help you or, if not, refer you to someone who can.

Talk to other coaches. Ask lots of questions. If you see something working for someone else, ask them about it. Experienced coaches are always happy to help new teams get started.

FINISH THE YEAR

Make it to the state finals. Cover all (or most) of the material. Win the state competition—give it your best try and come out on top. Win the Nationals—give it your all!

GO FOR THE GOLD

HOW TO START A JUNIOR QUIZ PROGRAM IN EIGHT EASY STEPS

1. Find two kids.
2. Find one adult.
3. Buy three workbooks and one rule book.
4. Study.
5. Go to a quiz seminar.
6. Go to quiz tournaments.
7. Motivate your team.
8. Win the National Quiz Tournament.

Sound too easy? Not really. Just get started and give it a chance. It will get in your heart. And the Word of God will get into our children's minds. That's what it is all about.