

HOW TO START A LOCAL JUNIOR BIBLE QUIZ PROGRAM

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STARTING A JUNIOR QUIZ MINISTRY IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

One of the greatest things which 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 away in the heart the Word of God. An outstanding endeavor in this area is the program which we have in our Sunday School Division that is 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 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 thru 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, there will be a number of areas in which you will wish to borrow from the resources and personnel of that program. However, there are some definite differences which we will try to point out in the next few pages. Please study these differences carefully if you are already familiar with the older program.

Start first by reading the paragraphs on "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.

So, if you are ready to get started "Let's Go!"

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 quiz masters, 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 what is in the mind can be brought to recollection by the Spirit of God in times of decision.

“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee” Psalm 119:11.

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

Benefits of Junior Bible Quizzing:

1. Good study habits developed.
2. Learn how to concentrate.
3. Patience developed.
4. Respect for authority.
5. Self discipline.
6. Team work.
7. Prayer life developed.
8. Enrichment in personal relationships.
9. How to respond logically.
10. Determination.
11. Quickness of response.
12. Sportsmanship developed.
13. Humility enrichment.
14. Learn to depend of God.
15. Word of God gives a pure mind and a pure heart.
16. Personal power with God.
17. Character developed.
18. Unifies the church.
19. Dedication to see a task completed.
20. Persistence learned.
21. Learn good stewardship habits.

Statement of philosophy!

In establishing our program, we feel that we must keep in mind the age of the children with whom we are dealing. Children under the age of 12 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 12 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 which 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, void of unnecessary pressures. The child should always be made to feel that 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 making the study of the Bible so demanding that it ceases to be enjoyable. Thereby we 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 the coaches must not only be "head coaches," but rather people who assist, encourage, work with, and 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 is the Rule Book which explains the method of quizzing, and types of questions and answers in the program.

2. **Study Guide and Questions. (coach and quizzer)**

This is the book that shows which verses are being used, and which ones are starred (or quotation) verses. This also gives you study questions for each of these verses. The book also contains some study information on the material.

B. In addition, also order the following for the coaches:

1. **Quiz Binder.**

This is good for the coach to keep his/her material in.

2. **Several pads of Score Sheets.**

3. **Leader's Handbook.**

This will help the coach to develop good study methods for the quizzers.

C. Additional helps which you may wish to order:

1. **Book of Study on Cassette/CD.**

2. **Verse Cards.**

These show verses on one side and reference on the other. They can be used for memorization and review. They come two ways color coded in a box or in pocket style.

3. **Concordance for current years text.**

II. To be complete you will want to order a Buzzer System from Erickson Electronics (651-393-1133.) This is a good investment and can be used for other youth games and activities.

III. Success of the Junior Bible Quizzing is dependent upon the following:

1. **Coach with a burden and patience.**

2. **Proper motivation of the quizzers.**

3. **Involvement of parents.**

4. **Recognition from the pastor for the accomplishments of the quizzers.**

5. **Prayer.**

6. **Balance of study and recreation.**

7. **Recognition by the coach.**

8. **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 the Youth Quizzing to read very carefully the pages on "Purpose" and "Philosophy" which are in this manual.
3. If you have no one with previous experience, find someone willing to learn.
 - a. Have them study the materials carefully.
 - b. Make contact with another leader or church who has a quiz program. You will find them more than willing to give you a hand in getting started.
 - c. 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. Any one interested in quizzing must be not more than eleven years of age as of January 1 for the given quiz year. Those 12 or more must quiz in the Youth program.
2. There is no minimum age, several have participated as young as 5 years old, who could not yet read. This requires that the child listen to tapes, or have some adult or other quizzer spend time working with the child's memory work. It can be done **IF THE CHILD WANTS TO DO SO.**
3. 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. Determine the finalist for your teams, by virtue of the children's cooperation and ability with the program some time late in the quizzing year. 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 KICK-OFF

Your Kick-off 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 – go on. If not, you have learned a great chapter.**
2. **MAKE IT 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. Make sure 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 re-read 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 scripture 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.**
 - B. **Follow up by working with the study questions in the materials.**
 - C. **Emphasize comprehension. Get the meaning as well as memory.**
 - D. **Memorize starred verses, but learn the non-starred verses as close as possible.**
 - E. **Review from memory the scriptures 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.

A good way to type questions is on 3 x 5 cards (one per card.) They can be used over and over and mixed with more material as the year progresses. Questions should start out being very easy and become progressively harder as the year goes on.

PRAISE QUIZZERS FOR GOOD WORK!! SEEK HELP

Contact your District Quizmaster for help if you have any questions about rules, procedures, etc. He can help you or 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!!

SUGGESTIONS FOR PROMOTIONS AND KEEPING THE PROGRAM ALIVE:

- I. Give copies of the "Philosophy and Purpose" of Junior Quizzing and other materials to:
 - A. Pastors and Sunday School Superintendents.
 - B. Sunday School teachers of these age groups, by way of Sunday School literature packets and programs.
 - C. Parents by way of various publications.
 - D. Junior Camp counselors, thru camp promotions and publications.
- II. Make attractive Quizzing Posters, which might include pictures of the quizzing in action.
- III. Send mail outs to all pastors, only on the subject of Junior Quizzing.

IV. Write up handout sheets to be personally delivered to the pastors, such as the following:

- A. Have You Considered Junior Bible Quizzing?
- B. Advantages of Junior Bible Quizzing.
- C. Is Bible Quizzing for our Children?

Keep the quiz program before the entire church.

- A. Put events and accomplishments in the church bulletin.
- B. Have the team on the platform from time to time.
- C. Give small awards for district accomplishments.

HOW TO START A JUNIOR QUIZ PROGRAM IN 8 EASY STEPS!!

1. Find 2 kids.
2. Find 1 adult.
3. Buy 3 workbooks and 1 rule books.
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.