

*PARENT ORIENTATION /COACHES INFO/ QUIZ PRACTICE ACTIVITIES *
OCT. 2010 (updated/revised Aug. 2018)

Here are some thoughts that may help you in launching your quiz ministry...things we like to instruct, educate, encourage our parents with, and we have seen it help them to shoulder the burden and take on their real responsibility as a parent. Some how, through prayer and our teaching, a parent must grasp a burden for their child's soul and realization of their true responsibility to that soul. When that is accomplished you will have a successful quiz ministry...The quiz ministries that struggle are usually those that don't have their parents on board. This is one reason a some pastors have a negative opinion of Bible quizzing because of the rifts caused in the church due to misunderstandings of what this ministry is about...and that it is, after all, a ministry not just another church activity to keep people busy.

We are such a competitive bunch that without a burden for our children, and a ministry attitude toward Bible Quizzing, and without understanding of how we coach for the success of the team, not to promote a star quizzer, we can end up in some heated and unnecessary conversations among "saints". Even if the pastor isn't fully supportive, when he sees the burden of the parents and coaches, he can't help but realize something powerful is going on. A burden will make a successful ministry. During the infancy of our quiz ministry God began to speak some things to our hearts that we knew we needed to share with whomever was really interested in having a "Bible Quiz Ministry". Over the years more thoughts and lessons have come so there are several Quiz Parent Orientations and Coaches Seminars as well as the forms for the different prize and awards that we give .

We had someone contact us several years ago that was starting a quiz ministry at a small church that knew very little about quizzing. We were encouraged to share with Coaches Corner and most recently to publish on UPCQuiz these lessons and testimonies we have been blessed to experience. So this is some of what we sent to them to help them know how to start the parents off on the right foot, see the burden and love quizzing for what it can be for their children and their family.

PARENT ORIENTATION NOTES

"Think about it, how many of us take the parenting responsibility seriously enough and, on our own, have done what God has commanded? God has trusted us with these little souls! How many verses have you made sure your child memorized this year? How much time do you spend in Bible Study with your family during the week? Without any outside motivation, how many have made sure your child memorized 5, 10, 15 bible verses this year? I know of few that have that dedication, myself included.

Deut. 6:6-8 "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 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 risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes." (Constantly, always at the center of your day, consuming your day and your children in the Word.)

Bible quizzing is a vehicle that encourages you to full fill this commandment, your responsibility to God and your child, while having a good time doing it. Bible quizzing will fill your home with

the power of the Word and will affect your whole household. It is not a sport involvement, or music lessons , where you can drop your child off and that be the end of your responsibility for that activity. Quizzing creates parent child relationship at a new level. If God tarries, when that child is grown , your most treasured time and memories will be the hours you spent teaching them the Word of God.

You make sure your child brushes their teeth everyday. You want them to have good nutrition to be healthy and make them eat their vegetables. You make sure they do their homework so they will someday have a great education and successful career ..but the sad truth is, none of these things are eternally important. Top priority for every parent in raising a child should be their souls eternal destination. That is why we are here. All the "life" stuff is just side involvements to survive this life until eternity.

We get so side tracked with ambition in this life that we forget why we are here on this earth , nothing more than keeping God's commandments and getting our families to heaven. The Bible doesn't say get someone else to teach your children the Word. We are a "daycare society" , that has put the raising, training and teaching of our children off on the world, the school system & the Sunday School teacher. Parents have got to take responsibility, and Bible quizzing will be the ministry that gets us there.

Quizzing makes us accountable to the ministry and others, to motivate us to be faithful. This is an opportunity to not only take hold of the responsibility to teach the Word but you will be teaching powerful life lessons in your example of faithfulness and determination on good days and bad. You will be teaching to never give up, to be submissive & respectful to authority (even when you don't understand or even agree), to have a good attitude win or loose, to know what it is to have team spirit/prefer your brother in love, to have great study habits, to exercise that brain muscle until the memorizing skills are sharp.

All of these things, we have seen time and time again, help children in school . Children who have struggled, start getting good grades. Children with speech problems or attention disorders, and other mental situations are improved and healed. What Bible quizzing can do for a child and their family is priceless.

The coaches and tournaments are here to make the whole trip fun and rewarding. The tournaments are the motivator. We all have a competitive side and quizzing focuses that energy into the most profitable & important competition in life. Quiz practices and tournaments are drilling those memorized verses into the quizzers with every question. The more drilling the more the Word is concreted into their mind and it makes it's way to their hearts.

We teach application of this Word to life so they won't just know it, but live it. We engrain these verses into their very fiber so that they will know WHY we BELIEVE WHAT we BELIEVE. They will be able to fulfill the scripture "be ready to give an answer to all men". They will not go out into the world unarmed ,but will be equipped for spiritual warfare, which they will surely face even as children.

Jesus example to us for this warfare was given when he was tempted. The devil will try to use scripture to throw us off ,but if we KNOW the Word we will know this deception. Jesus came back with scripture "in truth "and the devil could not match that power. Through quizzing we are

making sure these children know the scripture letter perfect , that there is no question as to what the Word says.

We are not in this just to give kids something to do this year. We are in this to make it something they are involved in year after year throughout their eligible years. We want to see them get as much Word in them as possible. So with that in mind we do all we can to make it fun and rewarding , to train them in quizzing skills so that they are successful in the competition and will want to come back each year to try it again. We are in this for the long haul, and if you don't understand why we are doing what we are doing at tournaments, remember we are there to try and be successful in every avenue of quizzing to let the whole team,(not just one quizzer), come away feeling confident and good about quizzing. Sometimes that takes a little strategy during the game, but it's for the good of all.

We want quizzing to be the "in thing" at our church. It should be "cool" to be on the quiz team. We don't expect any child to be more than they are capable of being, but we do expect to push each child to be more than they "think" they can be and more than even parents think they can be. We may be hard at times, but it's not in a mean spirit. It is pushing the limits so your child will never be satisfied to be mediocre but will always push to be their best in all things, always pushing for excellence. Jesus suffered the worst death for us all , we owe Him our best. That's just another value in this life that we want to become a way of life with every child.

How powerful the church will be and these lives will be in years to come if we work together to accomplish this. God will honor every sacrifice and has promised , "train up a child in THE way he should go and when he is old he WILL NOT depart from it." So if you will pledge to work with us, be consistent in working with your child daily and making sure they are memorizing these verses letter perfect and quoting them every day , we will do all we can to get these verse forever engraved in their minds and hearts through quizzing. "

Hope this will help in your getting everyone in one mind and one accord, with a burden for the children, supportive & excited about quizzing.

(To coaches on this topic)

The KEY to success, is that you have the parents on board and supporting you and doing their part at home. If those quizzers don't feel that quizzing is important to that parent, if that parent isn't taking a stand for memorizing and quoting at home..If it's not more important to them than eating a nutritious meal, then you will struggle with the kids.

For children who come from homes where parents aren't saved, there must be someone in the quiz ministry to take up the slack for that child in a daily back up and accountability system. Get the parents thinking about the information in the Parents Orientation..These are things to wake up the parents to their responsibility.

(Again) How many parents on their own , without a quiz ministry, taught their kids 5 or 10 verses this year? They may or may not learn their Sunday School memory verses. That's just about a thing of the past. I know I didn't teach my child anything other than memory verses for Sunday School until we were motivated through quizzing, the competition and the fellowship.Now she knows hundreds, and even whole books.

She went to Bible college and the Dean of Music loved teaching her piano/keyboard lessons because she was a quick learner. He'd show her how to play something and because of her sharp memory, she'd usually know it after one time.

Most important, her relationship with God that came through learning his Word, loving the Word, learning to love prayer and fasting keeps her talents in check...so that it's not about her abilities it's about God working through her and anointing what she has. It's in being more concerned for souls than singing and playing, then everything falls into place and God blesses...that without a doubt came from her years of being in the Word and the influence of her coaches and team which supported her overall church experience.

One college instructor told me, "The majority of people in music rely on their talents and are proud of it. They aren't that spiritual. Your daughter is anointed and different in that she doesn't mind getting sweaty in the altar praying. You can tell it's not about her talent, it's about a relationship she has with God and her talent is going to be blessed mightily because of it." That's what it's all about.

Face it, we know that wouldn't happen without quizzing. She would have been talented and given those talents to God. The fact is she advanced, in many years her maturity in God and saved herself a lot of unnecessary trials and spiritual struggles because of her dedication to God through quizzing. Not saying she's perfect and hasn't tripped up at times but her spiritual maturity and wisdom in handling her life situations were mature beyond her physical years. Any time you don't know where your child is and you open a closet door and find them on their face, crying out in prayer, with the Bible next to them, is a wonderfully fantastic day.

That is what we are trying to accomplish with every child through quizzing. A real love for the Word and for "the truth" is what will do it. Other than parents being gung-ho and having a burden for the souls of their kids, you need a good coaching team who have a like burden which will ignite a "never give up" attitude. It's important that the coaching team is trained and parents understand the mechanics of quizzing and the strategies involved so they will be supportive in the coaches' decisions at the tournaments.

We all know there are times we need to do things during a quiz that may hold one quizzier back while depending on another to pull out the game, and parents need to understand this. We are never playing favorites. We are trying to get the team as a whole to a victory, so they can all rejoice. Critical remarks are triggered by ignorance to facts. Being sure that your parents ARE NOT ignorant to the mechanics and strategies of quizzing will help to promote understanding and unity.

We are in this to do our best, to be as successful as possible at the tournaments, for the whole team. We want them to quiz again next year...and the next. We want quizzers coming away feeling they gave it their best, win or lose, and parents and coaches and pastors being proud. This is the candy stick that keeps them wanting another lick. What we do is never just about this year..it is about year after year developing a life style of loving, memorizing, studying the Word. It becomes a habit that lasts a life time.

Quiz Practice Activities:

Quizzer of the Week is given by points gained through number of verses memorized each week, Spot Check scores, and the Weekly Progress Report form that parents fill out daily, tracking the quizzer's quiz study and activities for each day. (see files for Quizzer of the Weeks Points & Weekly Progress Report Form, Weekly Points Form)

We try to make every practice fun and with a surprise element. For the younger ones we keep a grab bag of prizes you can pick up at the dollar store,.. Even those multi packs of little toys for birthday parties , kids love that junk. They get to pick one if they answered questions in a practice quiz, or if they got the most points. Use your imagination in setting a goal to be able to pick a prize.

My uncle found a sale and bought several packs of crayons and colored marker pens. With the Beginner 1 & 2 team we started out giving each child a crayon. We read a quiz & for every correct answer the quizzer would get a crayon. If they interrupted and missed they had to give one back, thus curbing the urge to make stupid interruptions just to beat everyone. At the end of the quiz the one who had the most crayons won the whole box. The Jr.s did the same thing with the colored markers. They will work for this stuff...We do money (quarters, dimes or nickels) & candy (using the small individually wrapped pieces) quizzes the same way.

For extra lengthy practices in preparation for Extravaganza, District Finals or Nationals we do funny quoting. Quizzers draw a slip of paper that will give them a verse reference, and tell them to quote in the voice of a duck, or quote singing or in a preaching voice, or while hopping on one foot, or while patting the top of their head and their stomach at the same time . Use your imagination.

We also do relays where we have verse references on slips of paper and a one time word from those verses on another slip of paper. We put the references on a table at one end of the room and the words on the other end of the room. Divide quizzers into teams. Each team member runs, one at a time, to the table and gets a unique word, then runs to the table with the verse references on it and looks for the correct reference. When they match a word and reference they take it to a coach to be checked. Once the coach says it's correct they run and tag the next team mate in line to go and do likewise. You can do several different games this way.

We have surprise question quizzes, where one question is selected by the quiz master and told to the score keeper in secret. At the end of the quiz the score keeper announces who got the surprise question . If the quizzer answers this question correctly they get the prize. Sometimes it's a dollar , sometimes it's a large candy bar or some other prize. When the quizzers see a dollar bill hanging from the front of the quiz master podium they get all excited knowing we are having a surprise question quiz.

Our year end awards party is an event that they work towards all through the quiz season. They receive points for their participation at every tournament individually and as a team. These points earn them the right (500 min. points to get in) to attend the Year End Awards Party and any points over the 500 up to 4000 will be converted into dollars on a game card to play in the game room(our highest game card is \$15). All points over 4000 go toward the trophies awarded to 1st,2nd,3rd place highest scores for the year. We do these awards differently depending on the number of quizzers and teams we have. We want to recognize as many hard working quizzers as possible. This year we awarded 1st and 2nd place highest scores to each team. We

also awarded the overall highest score with a special trophy. On his team the 2 & 3rd highest scorers won the 1st & 2nd placed trophies with him receiving the Highest Over All Score trophy. Scatter out the awards. Quizzers who have worked hard but didn't get a highest score award we try to find some other achievement to recognize them for. To these quizzers we give small trophies as individual accomplishment awards for Novice Quizzer, Most Improved Quizzer, Youngest Team Captain, Courage Award, etc. We also give team awards with medallions that are inscribed with an outstanding accomplishment for the team during that quiz season. It might be "Team Spirit Award 2017" or "2nd place in the Nation 2017", "Becoming Quiz Stars", 4th Place at Extravaganza 2017", "Balanced Quizzing Award", etc.

We give a Christian Character (usually give to a last year Jr. Quizzer who has exemplified a great attitude in quizzing and example in church). If something really humorous happened to a quizzer we sometimes give a humor award naming whatever happened. Every quizzer gets an award. Most go away with at least 2 awards. This whole contest is to promote team work, unity and balanced quizzing. (See file for Year End Awards Party Point System)

These are just a few suggestions of things we do to make quizzing fun at weekly practices. I'm sure you can expand on these ideas or this may trigger in you another game or fun way of getting the verses into their memory. The excitement of going to tournaments is the icing on the cake.

Practice Accountability tools:

*Spot checks - the quoting of 10 random verses taken from the verses a quizzer had memorized by the previous week. The practice before a tournament, the spot check is done on all verses to be covered at the tournament and a quizzer must quote 80% correct. We spot check Jr.s and Beginners on the Beginner 1 Team. We spot check the younger quizzers as they have the maturity and are ready for it. Some ask to be spot checked to be like the "big quizzers".

*Weekly progress reports are passed out each week to be taken home and be filled in each day as the quizzer studies. Each activity is initialed by parents upon completion. This is an accountability tool to keep the quizzers on track with memorization and quoting every day, and accountability for parents to the Quiz Ministry. It also allows notes from parents to coaches or coaches to parents on any problem issues that everyone needs to be aware of. (For more details see file for Weekly Progress Report Point System, & Weekly Progress Report Form)

Acknowledging Quizzer of the Week, Spot Checks, Drills on unique words or phrases, teaching the meaning of verses, quizzes, & games are the body of our practices. Some weeks the quizzers are divided up by experience instead of teams. Experienced quizzers are drilled with more in-depth study. Less Experienced quizzers are worked with on more simple aspects of quizzing. New quizzers are taught the basics of quizzing, rules and how to memorize.