

Chapter 1 – Getting Started

Welcome to the wonderful world of Bible Bowl. As you prepare to enter a world of toss-up's, bonuses, keywords, alliterations, and many more new words and phrases, may you be encouraged to know that many before you have taken on this task and succeeded. With great patience and endurance you *can* start and maintain a Christ-Centered, God-honoring Bible Bowl program at your church. Bible Bowl is a tremendous ministry that will allow your students to learn God's word, make new friends in Christ, and to develop teamwork skills that will last their entire life. As you begin this new adventure, keep in mind that God is the provider of all and that only through Him can you build a successful ministry.

There are many different ways to go about starting a Bible Bowl team. Many churches from around the country have made successful starts in many different ways. This manual will seek to provide an outline of the key ingredients needed to start a successful program. Below is a list of six actions that will allow you to create a successful Bible Bowl ministry.

1. Secure the Approval of Church Leadership

No successful church ministry can exist without the support and encouragement of the church and its leaders. When seeking to establish a new program, it is always important to seek the proper approval of leaders. Depending on the church and its size, it may be necessary to meet with the youth minister and/or the elders to start your program. During this meeting it is important to provide as much information as possible to the leadership. Most in church leadership desire the results that Bible Bowl can provide, but many may be hesitant of starting something new. You may want to encourage the leader to check out the Bible Bowl web site or to contact a member of the Bible Bowl board to learn more about the program and it's possibilities for your church.

The second part of this meeting should be to discuss the financial situation. Bible Bowl, like any program, takes funding and church leaders are always interested in knowing the bottom line. As stewards responsible for the church's finances, leaders must be diligent in financial choices. Don't be afraid to share the cost possibilities in contrast with the potential benefits that those costs will bring.

2. Find a committed adult leader

A successful Bible Bowl ministry will occur only with a responsible and committed adult that will ensure its success and stability. This adult leader will need to be willing to spend time with the team studying and learning, and also be willing to oversee the managerial aspects of the team such as registering for events, transportation to round robins, ordering material, and other behind the scene activities. Though much is required of this person, the rewards of this ministry will far outweigh all the energy and time invested.

3. Recruit students

Once the leadership is on board and you have found a committed adult to lead the group, it becomes necessary to sell the students on the ministry. Perhaps the best way to get the students

excited is to have them visit a local round robin or tournament in the spring before you are to start the next fall. This will allow the students a chance to see what Bible Bowl is like without the pressure of having to compete right away.

Some of lessons learned on recruiting kids:

A. Not all kids are ‘Bible Bowl’ kids.

There will be some kids in your church that will thrive on Bible Bowl, while there are others who will not like the program. Don’t get discouraged about the kids that don’t want to do it, focus on those that desire to learn God’s word and encourage them.

B. Bible Bowl is better ‘caught’ than ‘taught’

Most players that excel in Bible Bowl catch the vision for the program rather than having it forced upon them. Be encouraging for kids to try the program, but don’t force it.

C. Allow students to grow into deeper study

Many of the top players in the country don’t start out studying hours a day. Successful Bible Bowl programs do well at simply exposing kids to God’s word and the game of Bible Bowl. After seeing the program, some kids will love the concept and hunger for going deeper and studying harder, while other students will simply want to study in practice and enjoy the fellowship of the events.

D. Keep realistic goals for all kids

Some students can memorize and quote large portions of the Bible. Other students can barely remember 1 or 2 verses at a time. Don’t get down on those kids that can’t remember it all, but rather embrace their willingness to come to practice and try. In addition, though, be ready and willing to push and challenge those students that have the ability and desire to do more.

E. Establish Team Rules and Guidelines

As with any program or ministry, rules and expectations should be clearly outlined. Students need to know what is expected of them. Having stated expectations will eliminate difficult situations and miscommunication. A general rule of thumb is to have a meeting with all players and their parents at the beginning of the Bible Bowl year. This meeting will give all the parents a chance to understand the program, hear the expectations, and to ask any questions that they might have about you, Bible Bowl in general, or specific events for the upcoming year.

F. Remain flexible and enthusiastic

Bible Bowl is a very rewarding ministry. No other program in the country has the power to equip students with such a thorough knowledge of God’s word. Many preachers, missionaries, elders, deacons, and church leaders have gotten their start in Bible Bowl. As you begin this

process of starting a team, may you remain committed to seeing it through. Starting any program from scratch can be a daunting task, but with prayer and persistence it can be done and you can help lead young men and women to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

As is typical with anything new, you are sure to face opposition for wanting to start a Bible Bowl program. Many people have many different views and opinions about the program and may want to stop you from even getting started. We have assembled a list of common objections below along with the appropriate and truthful response to those objections.

Objection #1: Bible Bowl is just Head Knowledge

Many people will complain that Bible Bowl is simply an academic event and that it doesn't focus enough on the spiritual application of the scripture. These people will argue that the Bible isn't a textbook and shouldn't be studied like one.

Response: In order to defend this viewpoint, it is necessary to remind people that we cannot share what we do not know, nor can we put into practice what we have not studied. Bible College is not thought of poorly and yet most classes at Bible College turn the Bible into a textbook. As a Christian we should desire to know what the manual says and that means putting it into our heads. As many Bible Bowl coaches have said for years, "the knowledge may start in the head, but it's a short trip to the heart." Committing God's word to memory is never a bad thing.

Objection #2: Bible Bowl Creates Bad Cliques

Perhaps the most common complaint against Bible Bowl is that it forms a bad clique within the youth ministry.

Response: In this situation, I think it is important to differentiate between a clique and a close friendship. Cliques come together to purposely exclude others from fellowship and interaction. Meanwhile, close friendships are formed when two or more people come together and share common interests. Most parents long for their children to develop Godly friendships and Bible Bowl allows a platform that can foster deep friendships centered around the Bible. Bible Bowl will indeed create close friendships, but cliques are a matter of attitude, not activity. In addition, I think it is important to point out that there are usually different groups within the youth ministry regardless of what program or activity is being offered. Every youth group has the sports kids, the music kids, the smart kids, etc... Any church program or activity will create close friendship groups, and that's not a bad thing. Through proper education and awareness cliques can be eliminated and instead multiple sets of close friendships can develop within the youth ministry.

Objection #3: Bible Bowl is really expensive

Another very common complaint involves the cost of the program.

Response: Though Bible Bowl may initially seem expensive per student, a closer look reveals the overall affordability of the program. First, most parents are more than willing to spend \$40 - \$50 for the resources needed for their student. If parents are hesitant about this investment, you

may want to point out the basketball shoes, tennis rackets, hockey gear, musical instruments, or other equipment that is purchased for other programs and activities. From a church standpoint, the cost of attending a local round robin is very inexpensive. Most round robins will charge minimal fees for teams to attend up to eight Saturday events throughout the year. Dividing the cost of team registration over that span reduces the per-activity cost significantly. Although the National Tournament may seem overwhelming and expensive, there are many summer college tournaments that are considerably cheaper than other week long summer programming such as CIY and summer camp. These tournaments offer many of the same benefits as those programs at a much lower cost. In addition to these factors, many churches will spend hundreds of dollars a quarter on Bible school curriculum that does little to ‘stick’ in the brains of the students. Overall, Bible Bowl is an investment, but compared to other programs and activities, it is extremely affordable when considering the return that you get.

Objection #4: Bible Bowl is too much work for me

A fourth objection is that Bible bowl is too much work.

Response: No one in Bible Bowl will argue that a minister or youth minister can or should handle the responsibility of Bible Bowl alone. Bible Bowl, like any great ministry, requires the involvement of volunteers to make it a success. However, Bible Bowl is a program that many Christian parents long for and therefore these parents are usually more than willing to go the extra mile to make the ministry a success. Most churches have parents not serving that would pour their heart and soul into the ministry of Bible Bowl if they were given the chance.

In a related situation, many youth ministers argue that it takes up too much time with only a few students. The heart of this objection comes from youth ministers that are constantly criticized for how and who they spend their time with. In response to this objection, I think it is necessary to realize what is being accomplished during these meeting times. Is it a bad thing for a minister to spend an extra hour a week with a student that is memorizing God’s word? Many churches today are dying due to a lack of personal discipleship. Bible Bowl provides that opportunity for one on one mentoring with the word of God as the center of discussion, what more could you ask for?

Objection #5: Students take Bible Bowl too seriously

The final objection that we will look at involves the students themselves. Many ministers and other church leaders have seen the ‘ugly’ side of Bible Bowl. Being a competitive game will bring out the worst in your students.

Response: Instead of seeing this as a negative, realize first a few things. At some point in their life, every student will learn how to compete and deal with loss, success, and struggle. Bible Bowl creates an environment where those difficult life lessons can be dealt with and worked through. Having a committed Christian mentor guiding these young people in the turbulent waters of competition will allow many students to develop good habits, better teamwork, and a Christian attitude. These healthy habits learned in the heat of friendly competition will remain with these students forever. Many students have entered Bible Bowl with selfish and prideful attitudes and have left refined by the power of Jesus Christ and the influence of a Godly role model.

Chapter 2 – The Coach

Bible Bowl is a wonderful tool in which you can get young people in God's Word and God's Word in young people. Coaching Bible Bowl will not make you wealthier by the standards of the world, but it can be a rewarding and fulfilling experience that can change your life and renew your spirit. If you are reading this manual, then you are considering starting a Bible Bowl program. Thank you for doing so. There is no "right" or "better" way to coach and lead a program. Each coach brings his/her own personality and gifts to the task. What follows is a guideline and a set of principles for you to consider as you begin working with your kids.

1. Commitment

The Bible Bowl coach, like coaches in other activities and programs, has to commit to the program and be willing to work. The practical aspects of that include:

- A. Breaking down the text into manageable pieces for weekly study. This should be done with an eye toward the monthly Round Robin schedule.
- B. Scheduling and overseeing practices. These can be held once or twice a week. They can run from an hour to as much as two hours. There is no "ideal" time. Some very successful coaches schedule practices once a week for an hour and a half. You need to set the schedule to what works for you and your kids.
- C. Getting the materials for practice ready. Using the computer programs provided by National Bible Bowl is crucial for this. The "Coach Pro" program has tests that can be used weekly. The "Question Pro" program will allow you to print-out questions for use in practice. Buzzer boards can be obtained by contacting the National Bible Bowl office.
- D. Connecting with a local Round Robin where your kids can compete. The National Bible Bowl office can assist you in finding a Round Robin near you.
- E. Keeping in contact with your church leaders to apprise them of what is happening in the program and how things are going. This is important because Bible Bowl is a part of a larger ministry. The issues of money and budget come up in this realm. Some churches fund the Bible Bowl program as a part of the youth ministry. Other programs do fund-raising projects. Again, there is no "right" or "wrong." You need to know what your church expects and you can let the church leaders know how much you might be looking at spending. This communication link is vital.
- F. Setting goals and expectations for your kids. This is a fun and challenging part of coaching. Questions such as "Where are my kids today" and "How far can they go" are addressed in this process. This is where the coach can become a "life coach," motivating and inspiring kids to become what God created them to be.

2. Recruit Players

Once you are committed to coaching and have the tangible items in place, the next issue is

getting kids to play. This is one of the most challenging aspects of coaching. We must recognize that Bible Bowl is a wonderful program, but it is also a program that requires some amount of commitment. We are asking kids to do something that, frankly, many churches no longer ask them to do. We are asking them to memorize large portions of scripture and to stay with a program that, for competitive teams, is almost eleven months long. How do we go about such a daunting task?

Every young person can do Bible Bowl and benefit from it. We should never forget that any kid that has a desire to play should do so. We can see, though, that there are kids that we ought to challenge to be involved in Bible Bowl that may not do so on their own. Kids that exhibit some of the following traits are likely to benefit from Bible Bowl.

- A desire and capacity to study.
- A competitive nature.
- A yearning for serious Bible study.
- A vision to attend Bible College and full-time Christian service.
- A desire to work with others to accomplish goals bigger than themselves.

These are a few of the traits make up successful Bible Bowlers. Again, remember, this is not an exhaustive list and no kid that wants to play should be refused because he/she does not meet a certain criterion. The number one trait of a successful Bible Bowler is, in the words of North Carolina basketball coach Roy Williams, “the want to.” When looking for kids, though, keep in mind the things that the program requires of kids.

Once you’ve got in mind what type of kid should play, where do you find them? This is an important question. I’m convinced that there are many kids who could and should play that simply do not. Why? It is probably because they are never challenged to do so. Our job, as coach, is to find those kids and challenge them. Where are they? They are right in front of our eyes. The Bible Bowl coach, with permission of the proper authorities, should...

- A. Visit the Jr. High and Sr. High School Sunday School class and youth group. Ask for a minute or two to speak on behalf of Bible Bowl. Challenge kids to check it out.
- B. Be involved in the youth program of your church in other ways. This will allow you to know the kids on a personal level. When you do, you will be able to assess what kids are prone to play and you will have the influence to challenge them to try.
- C. Bring in former Bible Bowl players to speak to groups of kids as to why Bible Bowl was important and how it affected their lives. This will give kids a real idea of what Bible Bowl can mean for them.
- D. Talk up Bible Bowl with your minister or ministry staff. Let them know what the program can do for your kids with respect to Bible study, growth and Bible college opportunities. Ministers that are leery of Bible Bowl are that way out of ignorance or a bad experience. Let them know that you are a part of what they want to accomplish. Having them on board makes Bible Bowl an “accepted” part of the church’s programming and support from the staff can help get kids to come out.

There are as many recruiting techniques as there are coaches. Some can use events and fun times to attract kids to the program. Others have a “magnetic personality” that seems to draw kids into the program. A lot just work hard spreading the word that a wonderful opportunity exists for you to excel. Adopt the techniques that work for you and be able to adapt them to the kids you work with in that particular moment.

3. Recruit Helpers

Once you have a program in place and kids, you will soon find that you need more help. This is an important component of having a Bible Bowl program, and, quite frankly, it is one that is often ignored. Good coaches recruit others to help and assist in the program. There is a difference between having a Bible Bowl team and having a program. One dedicated person and a couple of motivated kids can comprise a good Bible Bowl team. That, however, is not a program. What you want to develop is a program. To do that, you need more kids and more help. How do you recruit assistants and what do they do?

A pool of potential helpers is found in the parents of your kids. This is a good group because Bible Bowl can build family relationships and bring parents and kids together. It also is a group that must be handled carefully. Parents must deal with working with their own children and other kids. They need to be able to balance the role of “coach” and “parent.” It isn’t easy and many can’t do it.

Another pool of potential helpers is found in the retired people of your church. Older people often have time and want to be involved with young people. You will need people to hear kids quote text and proctor tests. It is good for the body of Christ if you can bring in some senior saints to work with your Bible Bowlers. In this day and age, when many of our kids don’t know their grandparents, it is a healthy experience for them.

A third pool of potential helpers that you might check out is your young adults and college kids. This group has the energy and passion to make some difficult things “fun.” This is a good way for former Bible Bowlers to start coaching and is a way for us to train the next generation to carry on our task.

How do you challenge these groups to get involved? Present to them the program and how they can impact young people’s lives. Challenge them to step up and not “step out.” Give them specific tasks that they can do and see success. What do they do?

- A. Hear kids quote. This can occur at practice or at a previously scheduled time. This builds a relationship between the Bible Bowler and the coach and frees you from having to be “all things to all people.”
- B. Administer and grade tests. You will want to test kids weekly. You can’t possibly grade all of them. These folks can help in a tangible way.
- C. Travel to tournaments to keep score and encourage kids. If you have more than one team, then you’ll need help following them. Getting assistants to do this can only make things better. They can also drive the van or bus.

Having quality assistants can make you a better coach. Legendary Kansas State football coach Bill Snyder spoke often of the importance of good assistants. If you want a quality program, you need good help, too.

4. Key Things Done By The Coach

Once the “nuts and bolts” of the program are in place, there are some important things that a Bible Bowl coach must plan and do to help create a climate of success. This is not an exhaustive list and every coach should remember to adapt these ideas to his/her own situation.

- A. The coach must set the yearly schedule. This includes the Round Robin schedule (usually the first or second Saturday of the month), the additional school year schedule (special winter/spring meets), the summer schedule (which, if any, college meets you want to attend), and the trip to the National Tournament. Getting this information to your kids, parents and church leaders is important.
- B. The coach must plan or work with a team regarding finances. In some churches, this is simply getting the money from the budget. Other programs require fund-raising. Sometimes you have to have the parents pay a certain amount over the year. If the coach can set the schedule and plan for the costs, then that amount can become the goal for the year.
- C. The coach must assess the team members and challenge each of them to achieve goals for the year. This can be done in both a group setting and individually.
- D. The coach must teach the players to memorize verses. The more verses a player memorizes, the better his chance of doing well in competition. There are a lot of different methods you can try...
 - 1) **The fill-in-the blanks method:** This is part of the software from National Bible Bowl. Some kids find it easy to get the text into their minds using this method.
 - 2) **The Quote Sheet method:** This is a style in which the first letter of every word in a verse is written down. For example, Genesis 1:1-3 in a quote sheet method would look like this:

Genesis 1

1 I T B G C T H A T E

2 N T E W F A E : D W O T S O T D , A T S O G W H O T W .

3 A G S , “ L T B L , ” A T W L .

The idea of a “Quote Sheet” is to allow the kids a chance to get a lot of material in a relatively short time. With repetition, one no longer has to use the sheet to quote the material.

- 3) **Memorizing it the “old fashioned way.”** This would be just to repeat the text, over and

over, until it can be quoted.

The bottom-line here is that your players must figure out a system that works for them to put large quantities of text into their minds. Use any of these methods or combinations of them to get the task done. If you find another way, and it works, use it. If they memorize it using one of these methods, they will be able to get questions and will like playing. If they can't answer the questions, they won't come back.

- E.** The coach must teach the kids what to study. Once you've stressed memorization, then you address the issue of "Keywords." Once and Twice used word cards are available from the National Office. Teach your kids that these are the words on which "Keyword Questions" are based. Challenge them to be able to quote the verse by simply hearing the word. You may also have certain kids in your program that excel in this area. Others might not pick up on it as quickly. Identify your "buzzer" players (those that excel in this) and challenge them to get as many as they can. Have everyone do some, though. All kids want to answer some questions.
- F.** Explain the other types of questions: General, Category, and Word Game. Make sure they know that those types of questions are important, too. Sometimes you have a kid that seems to excel on a particular style of question. If that's so, then challenge that kid to really become an "expert" on that style.
- G.** The coach must, at some point, begin to put the team or teams together. Identify "buzzer players" and "category players." Select a "captain" that can give bonus material and become the "face" of the team. Once that is done, encourage and challenge the "team" to begin to play together.
- H.** The coach must recognize that his or her greatest contribution, once these basics are covered, is to motivate and encourage. There is no "Secret Stuff" to study so your team can win. Your job, as coach, is to motivate and inspire. The teams that do well are motivated and challenged to do so.

Chapter 3 – Fund-Raising

1. Bible Bowl Fund-Raising 101

How can you fund-raise in a church where the leadership is not favorably disposed toward raising money, but that also does not fully (or adequately) fund your program? The following are hints for what I call “passive” fund-raising that even those leaders adamantly opposed to fund-raising will usually allow.

- A. Save aluminum cans and turn them into a recycling center regularly.
 - You can have team families, other members of the congregation, and friends save as well.
 - Have a regular place cans can be brought and stored until you have enough to turn in.
 - Sometimes businesses are willing to save cans for you or let you have a container in their facility if you will regularly come to empty the container.
 - If your community has some big event (a fair, festival, etc.), leaders sometimes beg for a group to collect recyclables regularly during the event.
- B. Some paper recycling organizations will provide bins for collecting recyclable paper products. The organization maintains the bins and empties them, paying for the contents. They sometimes run contests to see which groups can accumulate the most paper in a certain time and award cash prizes to the winning group.
- C. Have a garage sale on personal property and just donate the proceeds to Bible Bowl (our elders saw this as a private event as long as we didn’t advertise in the community as a church fund-raiser). We were allowed to ask for donations to sell from the congregation and many were very generous with their support.
- D. Ask your leadership for a one-time love offering.
- E. Ask if you can do a service project for donations. We have done some of the following:
 - Babysitting for leadership or adult activities at church
 - A car wash on church property for members
 - A “slave day” where Bible Bowlers do odd jobs for church members
- F. Have a “change bank” that the team members (and family and friends) can throw loose change into during the year. Bank the change regularly and split it at the end of the year.

2. Bible Bowl Fund-Raising: Getting the Leadership of Your Church on Board

Here are some hints for approaching your church leadership for permission to fund-raise:

- A. Pray and ask God’s leading on timing and fund-raising activities.

- B.** Present a specific request. (In person, if possible, but your proposal should be in writing too)
- 1) Tell your leaders what you want to do. (Ex. We would like to have a car wash).
 - 2) Tell why you want to do it. (Ex. We would like our team members to earn their registration for a college tournament.)
 - 3) Tell when and where you want to do it. (Ex. On May 10 after church in the parking lot of the church for Mother's Day.)
 - 4) Tell who will be in charge and who will be working.
 - 5) Explain how money will be raised. (Ex. We will have donation can that people can put money in at the end of the car wash.)
 - 6) Have a plan for dealing with the funds. (Ex. Ms. Smith, Bible Bowl treasurer, will put the money in a savings account until time for the tournament fees to be paid. Funds will then be withdrawn and divided among team members.)
 - 7) Be prepared to answer any other questions that the leaders may ask with a positive attitude.
 - 8) Try to be flexible (Ex. Have alternate dates/places set up; be willing to take alternate suggestions from the leaders.)
- C.** Start small and build slowly. If your leaders agree to one idea, try to do your best with that fund-raiser to show them that their trust in what you have planned is warranted.
- D.** Try to limit fund-raising to one or two big events. We all get tired of being asked for money continually. Find a fund-raiser or two that will work for your group and present these ideas to your leaders.
- E.** Talk with one or two leaders you may be more comfortable with to work out a fund-raising plan that they can present for you to the larger group. Talking with leaders personally may also help you to understand the rationale behind your church's fund-raising policies and better help you find ways to raise funds within those restraints.

3. Fund-raising ideas:

Trivia Night

Work with your church and get it on the calendar early and approved by the elders.

Time: 6:00-9:00

Cost: If registered early- \$80; at the door - \$100.00 – for team of 8.

Winning Team: Cash prize. (The more teams, the higher the cash prize, or trophy, or whatever you want. You need something!)

- A.** Things that need to be done before that night:

- Letter for business donations. (Needs to be written by minister at your church.)
- Flyers – You need full page and little leaflets (1/4 page)

B. Materials Needed:

- Pens/Pencils for each table
- Scrap Paper (12 for each table)
- Computer
- Projector
- Projection Screen
- Signs

C. Question Ideas:

- Bible
- Do you know your city
- Famous Quotes
- History
- Sports
- TV/Movie
- Science/Technology
- Popcorn(misc)
- Arts and entertainment
- Famous Firsts (These are easily found on websites under trivia and are free. Just download from the thousands of questions you want)

D. Door Prizes: You need to have door prizes. These can be donated from local business.

- Gift Cards
- T-shirts, Water Bottles, Lanyards...etc. Businesses usually have promotional items.
- Service Hours.
- Sweet treats. Butter cake and cookies went before restaurant gift cards or movie rentals! Put them on fun plates with enough for each member of the team.

E. Food: You could provide concessions during the trivia night or possibly have a dinner, but that could get pricey for those playing.

- Hot dogs/ hot dog buns
- Chips
- Baked goods
- Candy
- Soda, bottled water
- BBQ/buns

F. How the game works:

- 1) 10 rounds/ 10 questions per round. During each round, the Moderator will read a question through twice and the team will have one minute to answer. At the end of the round, the kids will go around and pick up the answer. Points will be tallied, answers will be revealed, and the standings will be posted. Each correct answer is worth 10 points.
- 2) After the 5th round there will be a 10 minute intermission for snacks, etc. In case of a tie, there will be a tie breaker round between the tied teams.
- 3) You can give away a door prize while points are being tallied.
- 4) At the beginning, before any question is asked, you can offer a “mulligan” at a cost of \$10.00. It can be used to get an extra answer to any question one time during the night. Having one could affect the outcome of the game if things are close!

G. Public Relations: How do we get the word out there?

- 1) Within the church:
 - Announcements on Sunday morning. If you are supplying food, you must announce supper for a donation so they don't eat before they come.

- On the sign outside the church.
- Monthly mailer or newsletter.
- Have the kids go around to the Sunday school classes and make a challenge for each Sunday school or small group - Enlist a team captain to build and bring a team from each group. Accept donations if they aren't a trivia type group.

2) Outside the church:

- Coffee shops
- Grocery Stores
- Offices of the children's parents
- Christian based businesses
- Newspaper or free local papers
- Radio - put on the Christian Radio web site
- News - some local morning shows announce free the happenings in the community.

4. Other ideas for Fund-Raising:

- Sponsor a child – send letters to local businesses
- Memory Verse-A-Thon / Test Score on Top Brain
- Spaghetti/Chicken Dinner (Do it after services on Sunday. Can pre-order and eat in or carry out.)
- Car Washes
- Valentine Sweetheart Banquet
- Silent Auction

Chapter 4 – Practice

This chapter contains several hints and other things to consider then running your Bible Bowl Practices.

1. Practice Materials - Below is a list of materials that are helpful for most any team, especially a first-year team. These materials may be referenced throughout the manual, as they are used extensively during practices and individual study.

- Bible Bowl Text (one per player/coach)
- Bible Bowl Lists/Concordance (one per player/coach)
- Bible Bowl Rule Book (one per player/coach)
- Keyword Cards (one set per team, plus one set each for competitive players)
- Set of Coach/Player CDs (Player’s Suite, Coach’s Suite, Coach Pro)

2. The First Practice (and Practice Activities)

While the first practice is the time to assure that players become familiar with the available study materials, as well as the advantages of highlighting key portions of text, and perhaps most importantly, the camaraderie with other team members and coaches, it is nonetheless wise to create a consistency in the design of practice so that all will understand the expectations of the program. This section will provide a handful of ideas for practice as well as a sample schedule (for less competitive as well as highly competitive players) to serve as a guideline for things you can try. Remember that many of these suggestions are just that. The best schedule for your kids and adult helpers is best known by you.

Practices should be held at a minimum once per week, with an additional practice (if you choose) during the week for more competitive players as well as any others that are interested. The approach to practice frequency will depend on your available time as well as the availability and interest shown by your players.

Try your best to incorporate some form of devotion or short lesson into each practice. Devotions allow you and your team to discuss God’s Word and see how it is applicable to their lives. One of the criticisms of programs such as Bible Bowl is that it involves the memorization of facts, and that many kids may not reflect what they study through their hearts and with their actions. There may be some truth to that for some players. However, the more you model and focus beyond the knowledge of God’s Word to its application, the greater the likelihood that your players will allow God’s Word to affect their lives.

Each player should be able to take a shot at saying the verse(s) you have selected from the portion of text assigned for study that week. You might not require a word-for-word quote, especially if it is a long portion of text; you’ll want to select something that is reasonable for every player, and perhaps challenge the more competitive players to memorize longer portions (perhaps the entire portion for that week). The discussion on memorization strategies can help in this area as well.

Whether you choose to write one yourself, have the kids write it, or use the Chapter tests available on the Coach Pro disk, it is important to use part of the practice time (preferably early) to have the

players test over the chapter(s) selected for the week. This accomplishes several purposes:

- A. The kids will know they have to be prepared by having studied the scheduled material;
- B. The preparation will be similar to a Monthly Competition or Tournament, both in terms of competition format (a test usually comes first) and material (the chapters covered will match the test);
- C. The knowledgeable, but less aggressive buzzers will have their chance to shine;
- D. You'll be able to use the results to group the kids as you deem appropriate for the remainder of your practice drills.

Knowledge/Speed Drills gives you a chance to tailor the practice further, perhaps trying some creative things to help the kids learn verses, special lists, category items (alliterations, People, Places, etc.) Some ideas include:

- A. Jeopardy. Ask questions from several categories (Places, word-within-word, Back-to-Back Keywords, Numbers, Alliterations, etc). Use the Chapter Lists portion of materials to come up with questions for the chapters involved for that week of study.
- B. Chapter ID Tag. State a keyword or phrase, and have the kids tap the chapter written on a whiteboard that contains the information).
- C. Speed Quizzing. Use Question Pro (from the Coach's Suite Disk) to generate a set of Tossup questions for buzzing practice, or use Study Questions (available from the Coach Pro disk) for the less intense players.)
- D. Quote Drills. (For those kids interested in the Quote Bee, or for players who specialize in the knowledge required for bonus questions more than the speed required to be strong tossup players). This drill could easily involve having the kids quote the bulleted verses from the text given only the scripture reference. This will help for Quote Bee preparation as well as Memory Verse style bonuses.
- E. Simulated Games. For players of all abilities (and for you as coach and adult helpers), it is wise to include time in practice for a simulated game, practicing the rules as written. This will allow all to see the process for Tossups and Bonuses, deal with the impact of Quizmaster decisions, and understand a bit more about the speed of the game. If there is a variety of experience/ability among your players, have the less experienced players play less experienced players first (same with the stronger players), then combine teams in a way that can promote healthy competition. This may require some experimentation, but that will be much easier to try at practice and learn what works there before breaking up your players into teams for a monthly competition where they will have to work together all day...

There are obviously many other practice ideas out there, and experimentation is highly recommended, especially early on, to see what works for you and your players. As long as they are

getting the experience of working together as a team and learning the study material, mixing up drills can keep the kids interested as well!

At an actual practice, it may be best to run the full variety of drills with all players, with a greater focus on the more challenging drills for the more competitive players. The following sample practice schedule is one of many ways to integrate typical players with highly competitive players while allowing them the chance to participate and succeed:

100 Minute Practice	
<u>Less Competitive</u>	<u>More Competitive</u>
Devotion/Prayer Time (10 min.)	
Memory Verse – one on one (10 min.)	Keyword Cards – one on one (10 min.)
Chapter Test (10-30 min.)	
Games - Jeopardy, Chap. ID, other (20 min.)	Question Pro Tossup buzzing (20 min.)
Study Questions buzzing (20 min.)	Games - Jeopardy, Chap. ID, other (15 min.) Memory Verse - one on one (5 min.)
Competition rounds - first separate, then together (10-30 min.)	

NOTE: Always allow less competitive players to try playing with more competitive players in practice (if they choose) and evaluate their productivity and participation. The balance between overwhelming a player and challenging a player can be delicate...

3. Strategies for Competitive Players

When motivating highly competitive players, throwing in different types of study can be helpful. Such players need to recognize the value of quoting even when they think they “have it memorized”. Such an approach can help in the following ways:

- A. Keeps the material studied in the “near-term recall” part of the brain;
- B. The different types of study (quoting, keyword cards, category study, selected memory verse study by reference) can keep things fresh and interesting, to help avoid burnout.
- C. During practices, it may also help to cease the reading of questions early and force more aggressive buzzing. Examples include the following:

- 1) Keyword Toss-ups: Cease the reading of a tossup question at the keyword
- 2) General Toss-ups: Cease the reading as soon as the idea of the question is revealed.
- 3) Category & Word Game Toss-ups: Cease the reading following the clue given for the next to last answer.

This can help simulate a real game at a practice, especially for players who are “afraid to be wrong” on a question. That characteristic is pretty common among competitive, bright players, and it is a fear that must be overcome for a player and team to become the best they can be. The ability for a player to 1) be willing to try an answer and accept that it might be wrong, and 2) trust that he/she can come up with an answer with only a small piece of information, is a big step in the right direction.

It would be helpful when working with your more competitive players, to enforce the rules of the program strictly, even during practice. They are less likely to become discouraged, and the practice will prepare these kids well to deal with real-game situations. For less competitive players, you may want to temper such an approach, as you want to encourage them in their buzzing effort and recall. However, an understanding of the rules is part of the game, for coaches and for players, and as long as players are still encouraged, enforcing rules in practice is important.

4. Memorization

A. Purpose

What is the purpose of memorization? Several years ago, a father asked his teenage daughter, who just joined Bible Bowl, why she memorized verses when she could just read the Bible. Years later (after his daughter competed on the runner-up team in the National Finals game), the young lady attended a Christian College. For the father, the answer to his question was now evident.

“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you” (Psalm 119:11)

The Hebrew word that is translated “hidden” is *tsaphan*, which literally means to hide by covering over; to hoard or reserve; specifically to protect or lay up or keep. Teach your players that hiding God’s Word in your hearts is a deterrent to sin. Sin starts in the thought life, and that is where we need the weapons of God’s Word. We can defeat sin before it is grown by planting truth where deception would grow. This alone should inspire us to memorize scripture, and this is a primary motivation for Bible Bowl.

Jesus did not allow Satan’s challenge to take hold when he fasted in the wilderness. Jesus responded to each temptation with, “It is written.” What a powerful response to the enemy – bringing forth the Word of God!

- 1) God requires us to memorize his Word.

- a) “He taught me and said, ‘Lay hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands and you will live’” (Proverbs 4:4)
 - b) “My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to a man’s whole body” (Proverbs 4:20-22)
 - c) “Bind them upon your heart forever; fasten them around your neck” (Proverbs 6:21)
2. God rewards us for memorizing his Word.
- a) “Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place” (Psalm 51:6)
 - b) “I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes” (Psalm 119:99)
 - c) “Wise men store up knowledge, but the mouth of a fool invites ruin” (Proverbs 10:14)
3. Our minds are transformed when we memorize his Word.
- a) “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2)
 - b) “For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12)

B. Techniques

What are the techniques used to memorize? The study strategies players can use to learn material vary greatly. Some can memorize just by reading through the text several times. Others find the Study Questions, Fill in the Blank (both are on the Coach Pro disk), or the other software tools (in Player’s Suite software package) most helpful. It is important to expose the players to all available tools so they can find out what works for them. This could be done at the first practice, or better yet, at a pre-practice meeting with the parents.

There are a number of ways to memorize God’s Word. It can be done through visualization and association, verbal or written repetition, or sometimes just by reading it several times. Here are some suggestions on things for the players to try:

- 1) Break down a verse into small segments. The Study Questions (on the Coach Pro disk) can help significantly with this. Either by stating portions of a verse and then putting it together, or using questions/answers that break down a verse, we can learn the verse in parts. For example, take John 1:1:

In the WHEN?

In the beginning there was WHO?

In the beginning was the Word, and the WHAT?

And the word was with WHO?

And the word was WHO?

In this above example, the repetition allows the player to learn the questions and the answers, eventually allowing them to say the full verse.

- 2) First Letter of word Approach. Many successful teams have employed this technique. (See Chapter 2 on the Coach) Here, the player would write down the first letter of each word in a verse. (This can easily be expanded into an entire section or full chapter, starting over on a new line with each verse.) For example, take John 1:1, you'd write:

ITBWTWATWWWGATWWG

(In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.)

After reading through the verse a time or two, try saying it with just the assistance of this list of letters. Very soon you'll be able to say the verse without the help!

Using either of these techniques, one can memorize an average length verse in about two minutes through focused study. Through diligent study of about twenty minutes a day, one can reasonably expect to memorize ten verses a day with little difficulty. It is important to repeat the verses learned from the previous day before moving on; this will help "lock" those verses in! The Fill-in-the-Blank tool (in the Player's Suite disc) is also effective for helping in your verse review.

Many players will insist that they don't have time to do this. Ask them to break down the twenty minutes into four five-minute segments. With new players who have never attempted such a discipline, establishing this right out of the gate is crucial. Your ability to encourage them and hold them accountable will likely determine the success in this area.

Many will wonder if it is appropriate that all players memorize the assigned memory verse material. The answer is "yes," provided that you have selected a reasonable subset of the assigned chapters for memorization. For various reasons, some players may not be able to accomplish this goal in total, but setting a standard of excellence and challenging the kids will give them a sense of accomplishment. Even those who fall somewhat short of the high standard will still see, over time, a real improvement in their ability to absorb God's Word.

After the first few weeks, you'll probably be able to determine which players are working the hardest. Generally, the difference between the average player and the more competitive player is the personal preparation they put in outside of practice. Learning and memorization abilities can make a difference, obviously, but effort level usually separates the strength of your players. The task as a coach is to find a way to challenge and motivate both types of players, and at the same time, make

the practice a fun experience.

Players need to integrate this study each day. The repetition and habits they form for study will make things much easier for them over time, and they'll retain God's Word for much longer this way than by cramming the night before a competition.

A couple of other memorization thoughts:

Paint a Picture. Our minds naturally think in pictures. The more unusual and ridiculous the picture, the easier it is to remember. In players' minds, they should visualize the events about which they are reading. They need to use all the senses to imagine the sights, sounds, smells, tastes and feelings a particular scene would have. The basic principle is to make it unusual, out-of-place, distorted, larger-than-life, exaggerated or impossible. The unique and the outlandish will be recalled, while the ordinary will be hardly noticed.

Finally, when memorizing, the kids should read the verse to be memorized, slowly, out loud, and for meaning. It helps to read out loud; the more senses they involve, the more likely they are to remember and stay focused. Don't let them skip over spots they don't understand. (Actually, the Commentary, available on the Players' Suite And Coach Pro disks, contains an interpretation to help explain each verse. Another solution is to have the player(s) contact you; this would allow you to discuss the interpretation of a particular verse or section as part of practice, or even roll it into the devotion if appropriate)

4. Question Types (Study Strategies)

There are different strategies for answering different types of questions in Bible Bowl. This section addresses strategies that more experienced Bible Bowlers might choose to use. Suggestion: If possible, make copies of question sets from the Question Pro tool (available on the Coach's Suite disk) with sets of questions covering the text for the current month. A mix of bonuses and tossups is best. This allows the kids to see how each type of question is written, and if possible, a parent or sibling may be willing to quiz the player outside of practice.

A. Keyword Tossups

These types of tossups are those which are based on a word that is used only once (underlined once in the text) or twice (underlined twice in the text, with the second use of the word denoted in the margin). One of the best ways to learn these keywords and the verses that contain them is through the use of keyword cards, with the word on the front and the verse(s) containing the words on the back. While a player can use the keyword cards in verse order, it is best to mix them up (randomly somehow; I recommend doing them alphabetically) to represent a more realistic method of study.

B. Memory Verse Bonuses

This is a special type of bonus that requires the quoting of a verse (or verses) given only the verse reference and only a slight clue. The verses used for these bonuses come from the Bible

Bowl Memory Verses (those marked with a dot in the text) and are used in the Quote Bee competition. It will be necessary to memorize these verses (and their references) word-for-word to be able to successfully earn all the points on these bonuses. Those players who are good at memorization, regardless of their buzzing ability, are good candidates for being responsible to the team for knowing these bonuses. Of course, those who are willing to study as necessary to compete in the Quote Bee competition are natural candidates for this task!

5. Attitudes

There are practical things coaches can do to ensure good attitudes among their teams. Each coach must teach players to be humble in victory. Players should never over-display their joy in winning through high-fives and “in your face” gestures. Celebration and joy can occur at home where actions cannot be misinterpreted. At the end of every match, congratulate the other team, regardless of the score. Teach respect for one another.

There have been instances of individuals showing less than Christ-like qualities during competitions. What precedes bad attitudes? Mostly, bad attitudes reflect an unhealthy attitude toward winning. What is winning? “Giving your all to Jesus.” Our Lord cares about demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit. This does not mean players shouldn’t strive to score the most points. If winning is not important, why keep score? There is nothing wrong with striving to be the best. It becomes wrong when winning overrides our intended main focus.

Attitude issues can be a problem especially for moderately and highly competitive players, as they sometimes take the game (and themselves) too seriously. Where possible, pair such players with a player that has the gift of encouragement, regardless of that player’s ability. This can help diffuse issues during practice and competitions.

One lesson you’d like your players to learn is that while the Quizmasters, helpers and the rule book do their best to address each situation consistently and fairly, life is not fair. A questionable ruling, a mistake by a player on your own team, a mistake in judgment on your answer, misinterpretation of a question, any number of things beyond the control of any individual can have an effect on a game. The players will experience this sometime (both for the good and the bad), and their honesty, patience, temper, and other Christ-like qualities will be tested. We need to model (and teach) the appropriate behavior ourselves if we expect to see it in our players. Attitudes begin in practice!

Chapter 5 – Study and Motivation

1. Study

Players come in all shapes and sizes, all temperaments, all levels of motivation, and all capabilities. While one player will be content and somewhat challenged just to complete the assignments given for a particular chapter, another will easily complete the assignments and proceed to memorize the chapter. An important task of the Bible Bowl sponsor is to encourage each Bible Bowler to do his or her best--whether that level of capability is high or low.

Each player should spend time daily in study. Players who may not be as capable of achievement should spend time each day reading, drilling, and reviewing. These activities can help them achieve at their highest potential.

The players who will achieve great success at local competitions, at college tournaments, and at the national level will spend many hours in study. Time will be spent reading, studying, memorizing, quoting aloud, drilling, and reviewing. This requires a great level of commitment, but the time and effort required will certainly be worth it. In some 25 years of involvement in the Bible Bowl program, I have never heard a Bible Bowler wish he or she had not studied so hard. I have heard many say the opposite, however.

A. Life Application

Psalms 119, verses 11 and 105 remind us, “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you;” and “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” Studying the Scriptures gives us the opportunity to get the Word into the hearts of our Bible Bowlers, where it can keep them from sin and light their paths as they continue throughout their lives.

As a beginning point of study for a chapter, read and discuss the chapter together, and make life application. These practices will help insure the Bible Bowlers’ understanding of what they are learning and memorizing. This also helps them learn the pronunciation of difficult words and gives them the opportunity to ask questions about anything they do not understand.

Encourage each Bible Bowler to spend time daily in the Word. Making God’s Word a part of their daily lives is vital, not just for the competition aspect but for the guidance of their lives. Daily Bible reading should become a practice they will carry into their adult lives.

B. Methods

- 1) A good way to learn the text is with the use of a **Fill in the Blank Text along with the Highlighted Study Text**. Bible Bowlers may choose to study a verse at a time or several verses at a time from the Study Text. Then they can use the Fill in the Blank Text, which leaves out major words, to see if they can orally fill in the blanks without looking back at the Study Text. After finishing the chapter, a verse or several verses at a time, they then can try to do the entire chapter using just the Fill in the Blank Text. This is a good beginning learning tool to get a good overall knowledge of the chapter.

- 2) Another method for learning the text is through the use of **Study Questions or Study Cards**. Study questions provide questions and answers listed in parallel columns, making it easy for students to quiz themselves by covering the answers and then checking themselves. Study cards contain the entire text broken down into short, manageable chunks of only a few verses. These questions are printed on the cards with the answers printed directly below the question. Bible Bowlers can quiz themselves using the cards or can study them and have someone else ask them the questions. Sponsors may also give out the cards to players and then quiz the players on their knowledge of the cards. These cards contain the bonuses which appear as “Context Bonuses” during competition. Bonuses of this type may also be printed out on sheets of regular copy paper using the Question-Pro computer software program.
- 3) **Memorization of keyword verses** is another important method of study. For the Bible Bowler who is serious about doing well in competitions, memorization of keyword verses is essential. Using either the Once Used and Twice Used Keyword Flash Cards or the Keyword Book, Bible Bowlers can study each keyword verse and then quote and check themselves, or they can have someone else give out the keywords so they can quote the verse/s to that individual.
- 4) **Memorization of the entire text** is a standard which many who achieve success at the national level have reached.
- 5) A **Study Calendar** can be a useful tool to help guide the student's daily study. This can be used with success with players at all skill levels.
- 6) **Create a picture** to go with each list. Here are some examples:

Jeremiah 28 places:

- Babylon- draw a baby
- Gibeon – sounds like Gideon, so draw a square which is a reminder of the fleece
- Israel - the most used I place in the text, so draw the letter I
- Judah – the most used J place in the text, so draw the letter J

- 7) **Form a funny saying** for each list

2 Kings 1 Men – Jehoram, Ahab, Jehoshaphat, Ahaziah, Joram, Elijah

“There were 2 Kings and one went JA-JA-JE.”

- 8) **Lists can be learned by item instead of chapter** (works best for lesser item lists).

To learn nationalities, they learn the following:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Ar – 2K5, 2K7, J35 | • Bab – J35 |
| • Ars – 2K6, 2K7 | • Babs – J21, J32, D1, D5; etc. |
| • As – I35 | |

Ar stands for Aramean, Ars stands for Arameans, etc. Make the abbreviations as short as possible. Start this at the beginning of the year and add each item and chapter as additional text is added. The goal is to be able to write the entire list of Nationalities in one minute.

C. Drilling

Drilling, or going over and over the material, is important. This repetition not only helps the Bible Bowlers learn the material well but also helps to increase speed in answering questions. Multiple study aids now allow the Bible Bowlers to drill themselves, the computer to provide this drilling, or another person to do the drilling.

D. Reviewing

Reviewing is an important part of learning. A major part of material learned but not reviewed is lost. The re-reading of, the quoting of, and the drilling on material already learned should be a part of the Bible Bowlers' daily study time. **Crossword Puzzles** and **Chapter Tests** are also helpful review tools.

E. Resources

The Bible Bowl program has grown by leaps and bounds in recent years in regard to the availability of high quality study aids to help the Bible Bowler learn the text. In days gone by, only a study text (which had to be highlighted by hand) and a concordance were available. Other aids had to be produced by the sponsors. Sponsors spent many long hours typing study sheets for each chapter and writing the toss-ups and bonuses for each practice, as well as for competitions. All the aids any sponsor needs for their Bible Bowlers and for practice sessions are now available from the National Bible Bowl office. All currently available resources can be found online at www.BIBLEBOWL.net (click on the menu RESOURCES/CATALOG).

2. Motivation

The American Heritage College Dictionary defines *motivate* as “to provide with an incentive; to move to action.” Motivation brings to mind the encouragement needed to help one do his or her best. Motivation comes in many forms. It may include a pat on the back or a word of recognition for a task completed or improved upon. It may include the words “You can do it” before a difficult or challenging task is faced.

Having a relationship with the players is one important key in motivation. Being involved in their lives outside of Bible Bowl shows them a coach that cares. Most humans want to please those that they know who care about them. They respect that person who takes time to know what's going on in their life. Attending competitions or activities other than Bible Bowl is a good way to earn their respect. Most Bible Bowl players have very busy lives. It usually isn't too hard to find an event either within or outside the church that they're involved in. Commenting about these things is also important. Let them know you were there and you enjoyed what you saw them do.

As sponsors, we need to motivate our Bible Bowlers in several areas:

- A. To do their best and to be satisfied with that effort. God never requires more than our best. He never compares us to anyone else, and we should not compare ourselves to others. God loves us as we are. His expectation for us is to do what we can do. We should do our best; God will do the rest!
- B. To recognize teammates and competitors as fellow Christians. Other players are not enemies; they are Christian friends, who should encourage one another to do their best. We are all winners when we learn God's Word.
- C. To exhibit a Christ-like attitude wherever they are. This means putting God's Word into action in their lives. Proverbs 22:1 states, "A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold." A Bible Bowl translation might be "A good name is more desirable than huge trophies; to be esteemed is better than awards, praise, and scholarships." This is not to say that trophies, awards, etc. are not good; they are good. Players can strive for both these and the good name. If only one or the other can be achieved, however, the good name or good reputation is by far the better of the two. Encourage players to live by and play by the Golden Rule. Its application has eternal consequences; the outcome of a game does not. Remind players that there is no outcome of a game that is worth losing their good names or setting a bad example for others.
- D. It is also important to help players overcome their fears. Some players have the basic fear of talking out loud. They would never dream of buzzing and they whisper to discuss the bonuses. They need to be gently encouraged to talk louder. Quoting the text or cards helps with this. The more they talk out loud, the more comfortable they become with it.

They may also have the fear of being wrong. Their famous saying is, "I knew that." It can be very beneficial for a coach to play alongside them in practice and be wrong. Show them how to take a chance on a question and that the world really doesn't end when they give a wrong answer.

3. Incentives

Proverbs 4:20-22 reminds us, "My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body." One incentive for studying God's Word is the realization that knowing and living by God's Word will change their lives and their futures for the better. We need to remind our players of this.

Fun activities are also a great incentive. Depending on the difficulty of the task accomplished or completed, incentives can vary greatly. They might include the following, as well as many others:

- A grab bag of snacks or fun stuff (like bubbles, yo-yos, Frisbees, etc.) from which to choose
- A group outing for pizza, for refreshments at a sponsors' house, or for an ice cream sundae,
- A trip to see a good movie
- A pie in a sponsor's face
- An afternoon just for fun games and activities
- Recognition before the congregation for a job well done (this not only encourages the

players, but also the members of the congregation)

- The honor of earning the privilege of attending and competing at College Tournaments and the National Tournament.

Providing incentives is important not only as a motivation to accomplish a task but also as a way of giving the Bible Bowlers a chance to get to know each other better. It also helps them see that their sponsors appreciate their efforts, time, and hard work and that the sponsors enjoy their company and care about each of them as a person, not just as someone to help their team win.

Some ways to award Bible Bowlers that might be so obvious are:

- Most buzzes for the day
- Most buzzes for a certain game
- Most correct buzzes
- Most category toss-ups
- The “I Waited” award (given to a player that has had trouble waiting for the entire question on a rebound)
- Uniquist outfit (if one dresses in a strange way)
- First to fall asleep on the ride home
- Book worm (for those who study on the way)
- Most energy
- Best attitude

Bible Bowl camp can be a lot of fun, especially if you can go somewhere special for a weekend or a few days during the week. Cabins or inexpensive hotel rooms can be rented. Getting away from their normal places is important. Camping can also be fun and a great learning tool as well. Some players have never camped or even cooked meals over a fire or a camp stove. Study time can be mornings and afternoons with fun activities planned for the evening. This incentive works best for those teams that like to work together and spend time together.

Bigger incentives have also been used by some teams such as Letter Jackets. The church or parents buy the Letter Jacket. Each year a patch is made with the year's text. It would also be a great way to display the Bible Bowl National Tournament pins. If the student stays with the program for the whole year, they earn the patch. The jacket can also promote Bible Bowl by having Bible Bowl printed across the back.