



# BIBLE BOWL

2026 Handbook

## Key Dates:

Bible Bowl is generally the Saturday after Labor Day. Material for next year is released on this day.

Registration: **May 1<sup>st</sup>- August 15<sup>th</sup>**

Late Registration: **Aug 16-31<sup>st</sup> (No awards)**

T-shirt submission: Tuesday before Bible Bowl.

## Key Terms:

**Senior Participant** – A participant in the 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Junior Participant** – A Participant in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and below.

**Young Achiever Participant** – These are participants in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade and below. This is a subset of the Junior participant category. However, there are no young achiever teams.

**Senior Team** – A team with at least 1 participant in the 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Junior Team** – A team with all participants the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and below

**Team Score** – Total points scored by a team as kept by the Mandatory Scorekeeper.

**Individual Score** – Total number of questions each individual participant answered correctly.

**Team coach** – Someone from your congregation who records and tally the individual scores for their team.

**Mandatory (Official) Scorekeeper** – Someone who keeps the official Bible Bowl team scores for congregations other than their own. Scores are brought back to their home congregation for official entry.

## Registration:

To participate, your congregation must register and pay online. Go to [www.sycamorebiblebowl.com](http://www.sycamorebiblebowl.com) to register. This is limited to congregations of the Churches of Christ only. Registration will open **May 1st and close August 15th**. Late registration begins on **August 16 and ends on August 31<sup>st</sup>**. (No 5/10/15 year awards are accepted during late registration.)

## Integrity of Bible Bowl

Coaches must help us teach good sportsmanship and honesty for this event. To accomplish this, we all must train our young people prior to this event, and we must monitor them during the rounds. Cheating will destroy the credibility of Bible Bowl. If coaches and parents do not enforce honesty, our staff will be forced to respond to any suspicion. To keep from suspicion, your participants must keep the basic rules such as

keeping your eyes straight ahead and having no delay in raising your card. It puts our staff in a difficult spot when we have to approach someone who is suspected of cheating, and we do realize some may be innocent. Please be understanding of our position and we ask for your cooperation. We must teach and enforce honesty to uphold the integrity of this event.

### **Format**

Each team has four members, who are seated one in front of the other. The coaches will sit directly behind their team. Each participant is given a folder with three answer cards - A, B, and C. The quizmaster orally reads a multiple-choice question which is also on the screen(s). After five seconds, "time" is called, in which each participant will immediately hold up the answer card of their choice. Those with the correct answer are asked to keep their cards held up as designated scorekeepers will tally the scores for each team. In the preliminary rounds, there are four rounds of twenty-five questions. The top 16 teams will qualify for the semi-finals, with the #1 team automatically going to the championship round. The top three teams of the semi-finals will advance to the championship round.

### **Mandatory Scorekeepers**

Each congregation is required to bring 1 (or more) Official Bible Bowl score keepers. This scorekeeper will not be sitting with any of your teams. For congregations that registered more than four teams, additional official scorekeepers are required. If you registered five to eight teams, then 1 additional scorekeeper is required. If you registered up to 12 teams, then you are required to bring 3 mandatory scorekeepers. You must bring all mandatory scorekeepers, even if you bring less teams than you registered.

If you registered 12 teams, and only bring 3 teams, we still need your mandatory scorekeepers. We count on them being here to keep score for other teams.

Your mandatory scorekeepers will bring back the scores of the teams they were with to your congregation for official entry. See Official Score Submittal below.

### **Team Coaches**

Each team must have a coach from your congregation. The coaches' job is to record and tally the individual scores for their team and double check team scores tallied by the scorekeeper. Coaches' scoring sheets will be given to every congregation for the total number of teams registered for that congregation.

### **Study Material**

The study material for Bible Bowl is taken from the New King James Version of the Bible on Biblegateway.com. No other book or resource is needed, and no prior knowledge of another text is required. The answers to the questions are taken word for word, and unless

stated in the text, no interpretation of passages will be asked. The official text of the study material will be made available on our website to all participating congregations. All questions will be taken from this official text; therefore, you must use it as a guide to ensure exact wording of the text.

### **Team Scoring**

Each correctly answered question is worth 10 points. When all four team members answer correctly, the team will receive a bonus of 10 points. Therefore, each question has a possibility of 50 points. There is no penalty for an incorrect answer. However, if a card is not promptly raised, it will count as an incorrect answer. There is no bonus for teams with less than 4 members.

All team scores will be tallied by the mandatory scorekeeper, checked by the coach, and then submitted electronically after round 4. Team coaches should closely check the official score board to ensure accuracy of the recorded score and totals, and immediately inform the scorekeepers of any mistakes. No changes will be made to the official score for any question after the quizmaster begins reading the next question. Only math errors may be corrected once the next question is read.

### **Individual Scoring**

Separate and apart from the team scoring is the individual scores. Coach's sheets for recording individual team member scores are in the congregational packet. The coach will simply record each team member's score by making a mark for each correct answer under the appropriate question column. After each round, the coach will tally the total number of correct answers. Then after the fourth round, the coach will add the grand total for all four rounds for each team member. We recognize all participants who score 90 and above and the top young achiever scores. The scores are submitted electronically.

### **Official Score Submittal**

Your congregation is responsible for submitting the Official Scores for Bible Bowl. Please designate one member of your congregation to be the one to enter and submit all scores. Since moving to electronic submittal, we no longer have any paper forms that are submitted for scoring. **ALL paper forms are to make it easier on coaches and scorekeepers but will not be collected.**

Your designee will submit your team scores (kept by your coaches), your individual scores (also kept by your coaches), and your Mandatory Scorekeeper Scores (the scores of other teams). All scores are submitted electronically via a google form accessed by a QR code that is given to each congregation. The form can be accessed by any internet connected phone, tablet, or laptop. Upon submission, the form will be emailed back to you for your records. If there is not enough room in the form, please fill out a second (or third) form.

This form will have 3 main score entry sections. It starts with standard contact information for the person submitting the scores. This is so that if there are any problems, we can contact them for clarification.

The score entries are broken down as are as follows:

1. Congregational Team Score Entry Section
  - a. The section is for you to enter the scores from your congregation's teams. You will enter the team number, division (Junior or Senior), and team score.
2. Individual Score Entry Section
  - a. The next section for entry of your participants' individual scores. You will enter the first name, last name, Division (Sr, Jr, or Young Achiever (YA)), and their score (1-100) of your participants. Enter your 90 and above scores and all young achiever scores.
3. Mandatory Scorekeeper Score Section
  - a. This section is for scores your Mandatory Scorekeeper(s) bring(s) back to you for Official Entry. Entries here will include Team Number and Team Score.
  - b. A mandatory scorekeeper entry is required to submit the form.
    - i. If your congregation was only required to bring one mandatory scorekeeper, and they happened to not be used, enter a zero for both team number and team score.

All scores (team and individual scores 90 and above) are parsed into spreadsheets. We can quickly check the top scores by division, using the team scores and Mandatory Scorekeeper scores submitted in sections 1 and 3 of the form. Any scores that do not match are assumed to be invalid and not counted. That is why it is VITALLY important to make sure the scores are entered correctly in to the form. We don't want a team not to make it to the floor because of an error in the entries.

You MAY enter all your participants individual scores into the form since it will be emailed to you. This would give you one email with your congregational team and individual scores for any recognition your congregation does after Bible Bowl. We will simply discard any 90 and above entry below 90 and young achiever scores below the cut off.

### **Participant Team Requirements**

There are two team divisions in Bible Bowl. The Junior Division is for the 6th grade and down. There is no minimum age required; however, please consider the attention span of your participants. The Senior Division is for the 7th-12th grade. Participants may compete in a higher division, but cannot compete in a lower division. For example, a 4th grader may participate in the Senior Division, but a 9th grader may not compete in the Junior Division. All grades will be in reference to the school year that is beginning when Bible Bowl is scheduled.

## Time Schedule

The rounds are approximately 30 minutes. There is a fifteen minute break between the rounds. The rounds will begin on time, regardless of team members that may be tardy getting back to their seats. **The rounds will only be delayed if the Bible Bowl staff has technical difficulty**, an emergency, or an uncontrolled problem.

NOTE: After the fourth round, it takes every minute of our time to tally all the final scores. Please be patient as we'll announce the individual award winners and finalists as quickly as possible.

Below is a tentative schedule for Bible Bowl day, which is subject to change:

7:30 am	Check -in
8:30 am	Teams Seated / Announcements
9:00 am	Round #1
9:30 am	Break (15 minutes)
9:45 am	Round #2
10:15 am	Break (15 Minutes)
10:30 am	Round #3
11:00 am	Break (15 Minutes)
11:15 am	Round #4
11:45 am	5/10/15 Year Award presentations
12:00 PM	Lunch
1:15 PM	Individual Awards Presentation / Finalists Announced
2:00 pm	Semi-Finals Round
2:30 PM	Finals Round

## Individual Awards

All those who have participated for five years will receive an award which will be included in the congregational packets, and those who have participated for ten or fifteen years will receive an award during the award presentation. Participants will only receive these awards on their fifth, tenth, and fifteenth year of participation. If your congregation fails to include participants in the 5/10/15 year awards, those can be submitted the following year and will be recognized that year. (If you wish to buy the award from our vendor to present to them this year, we can supply that information to you.) **If you have individuals who have participated in our Bible Bowl for five, ten, or fifteen years that were not included in the list submitted during registration, you must send us their names by the deadline for them to receive an award this year. No names will be accepted after the deadline.**

After the fourth round and the lunch break, all the participants that individually achieved outstanding scores (90 and above and top 10 young achiever scores) will be recognized. They will receive an award for their accomplishment within their own division..

There is also a Young Achiever's Award that is given to the top-scoring individuals in the first grade and down.

### **Team Awards**

After the awards presentation, the top-scoring teams from each division are announced. All semi-finalist and finalist teams will receive a plaque based on how the teams place.

### **General Rules**

- 1) If there is a delay in raising the answer card, it will be counted as incorrect.
- 2) If the answer card is taken out of the folder before "time" is called, it will be counted as incorrect.
- 3) Folders must remain in the participant's lap. There will be no delay in questioning if your folder or cards are dropped.
- 4) No Bibles or electronic devices are allowed to be opened during the rounds by participant, coach, or any spectator.
- 5) No one can challenge a question. Only the committee can throw out a bad question or one that is misread. NOTE: We will do everything in our power to ensure that questions are correct and easily understood. However, in the event that a question is thrown out, all participants will be given credit for a correct answer. Teams with 4 members will get the 10 point bonus.
- 6) The rounds will begin on time, regardless of the tardiness of any participant for any reason. The only exception will be if the Bible Bowl staff has an unforeseen problem.
- 7) There should be no talking or disturbances during the rounds, especially, during the reading of a question. If any team causes a disturbance, they will be given one warning. After the warning, they will be disqualified at the Bible Bowl staff's discretion.
- 8) Eyes and heads must remain straight ahead. Anyone caught blatantly cheating will be given one warning. The next time they are caught, that participant will be disqualified from the competition.
- 9) The top sixteen positions will advance to the Semi-Finals. All teams tied for the last spot will advance to the semi-finals. The team that has the top score in each division will receive a bye. All teams tied for the top score will receive a bye to the final round. In the event of four or more teams tying for the bye, there will not be a semi-final round for that division. The remaining 12 positions plus ties will receive a semi-finalist plaque.
- 10) The following table shows an example:

Spot 1		4850
Spot 2		4840
Spot 3	(Tied)	4800

Spot 3	(Tied)	4800
Spot 3	(Tied)	4800
Spot 6		4720
Spot 7		4710
Spot 8		4700
Spot 9	(Tied)	4600
Spot 13		4580
Spot 14		4570
Spot 15		4560
Spot 16 (Tied)		4550
Spot 16 (Tied)		4550
Spot 16 (Tied)		4550
Not in Semi-Finals		4540

- 11) Any discourtesy or verbal attacks given to the scorekeepers will result in disqualification of a participant or coach.
- 12) No changes will be made to the official team score after the quizmaster begins the next question. The only exception is an addition error. Team coaches must communicate with the mandatory scorekeeper in between questions to correct any errors.
- 13) The semi-finals will consist of 25 questions. The top three teams (plus ties) will advance to the final round. In the event of a tie for the final spot, all teams tied will advance to the finals. An exception to this would be in the case of ties for the bye, in which the number of teams advancing to the finals will be reduced.

Final position	Semi-final team	Semi Score
1	Spot 1	Bye
2	Spot 2	1200
3	Spot 2 (Tied)	1200
4	Spot 3	1100
5	Spot 4	1080
6	Spot 4	1080
Semi-Finalist	Spot 6	1050
Semi-Finalist	Spot 8	1000
Semi-Finalist	Spot 8	1000
Semi-Finalist	Spot 10	980
Semi-Finalist	Spot 11	900

Semi-Finalist	Spot 15	850
Semi-Finalist	Spot 16	850

- 14) The teams(s) with the bye and the advancing teams will be asked 25 questions. There will not be any tie breaker questions and the round may end in a tie! At the end the round, all teams will receive an award indicating place.
- 15) Additional plaques may have to be ordered after Bible Bowl in the event of ties.

Plaque	final team	Semi Score
1st	Spot 1	1250
2nd	Spot 2	1200
2nd	Spot 2	1200
3rd	Spot 3	1100
4th	Spot 4	1080
Finalist	Spot 5	1050

### **WHAT TO DO DURING ROUNDS**

Step #1: Listen to quizmaster. The questions will also be on the screens.

- 1) Question number will be given first so coaches and scorekeepers can ensure they are on the correct question.
- 2) The book, chapter, and verse are given next.
- 3) The question is read, along with three multiple choice answers (A, B, C), and after 5 seconds, TIME is called.
- 5) There is no talking during the round and especially no disturbances during the reading of the question.

Step #2: Hold up answer card

- 1) Without touching the card, participants must determine which card to pull.
- 2) After five (5) seconds, the quizmaster will call "time".
- 3) Immediately pull the answer card, and raise it high and straight in the air.
- 4) After the quizmaster gives the correct answer, all incorrect answer cards must go down and return to their folder.

Step #3: Scores are tallied and checked

- 1) Official scorekeepers tally scores on the official scoresheet.
- 2) Coaches tally scores on their individual score sheets.
- 3) Coaches double check their score sheets, and the official scoresheet.
- 4) Coaches must raise their hand to notify the scorekeeper if they find a mistake in the official scoring. This must be done before the next question is read.
- 5) After a few seconds the next question is read.

### **WHAT TO DO AFTER THE FOURTH ROUND**

Step #1: Coaches and scorekeepers must collaborate to ensure that the official scores that are submitted are correct.

Step #2: Eat lunch.

Step #3: **When returning from lunch, 90 and above award recipients, participants must stand in in the designated areas.**

Step #4: Awards Presentation

Step #5: Team finalists announced and seated

Step #6: Semi-Finals Round

Step #7: Finals Round

### **T-SHIRTS**

Almost all congregations design and purchase their own t-shirts showing their Bible Bowl pride. There will be a contest on Bible Bowl day for the best-looking and most creative t-shirt. The Bible Bowl committee is not involved with the judging of this contest.

If you wish to participate in the tee shirt contest, please submit your shirt designs by email in a jpeg format. Shirts must be uploaded as part of the registration process.