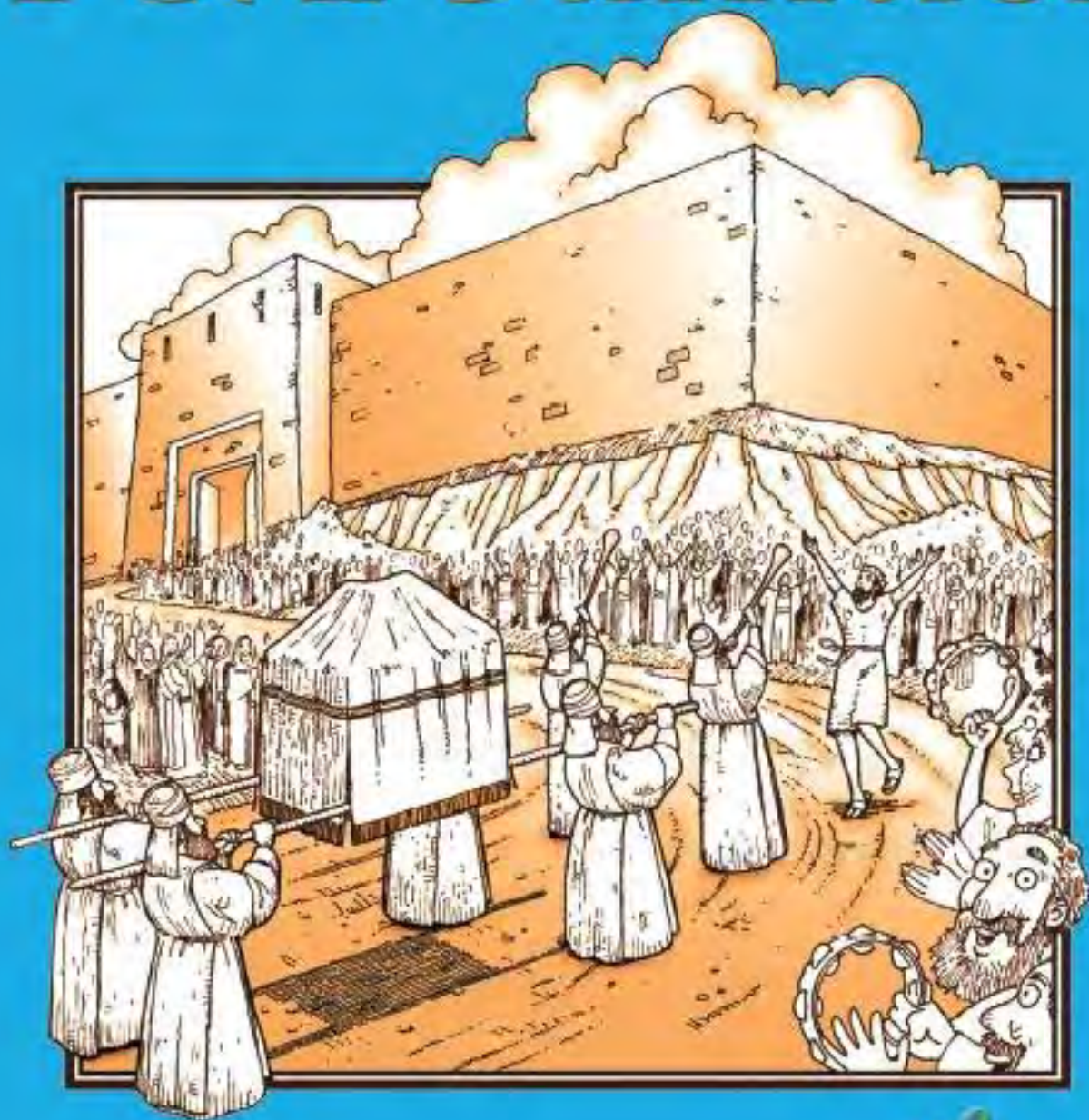


Bible Studies for Children

1 & 2 Samuel



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1 & 2 SAMUEL



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The first Children's Bible Quiz, created by Rev. William (Bill) Young, was introduced with three demonstration teams from the Kansas City District—Kansas City First, Kansas City St. Pauls, and Overland Park—at the 1968 General Nazarene Young People's Society Convention in Kansas City, Missouri (USA).

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welcome

Welcome to *Bible Studies for Children: 1 & 2 Samuel!* In this collection of biblical studies, the children learn about God's holiness and his faithfulness to his people, even when they made a bad choice.

Bible Studies for Children: 1 & 2 Samuel is one of six books in the Bible Studies for Children series. These studies help children to gain an understanding of biblical chronology and the meaning of biblical events. As the children learn about the lives of the people in these studies, they discover God's love for all people and their place in his plans. God often uses miracles to achieve his purposes. However, he prefers to work with people to accomplish what he wants to do.

The philosophy of *Bible Studies for Children* is to help children to understand what the Bible says, to learn about how God helped people, and to know God through a relationship with him. This includes biblical study, biblical memorization, and application of biblical teachings in real life situations.

Bible Studies for Children uses the *New International Version* of the Bible.

BOOKS

The following is a short description of the books in this series and the way they interact with each other.

Genesis provides the foundation. This book tells how God created the world from nothing, formed man and woman, and created a beautiful garden as their home. These people sinned, and God punished them for it. Genesis introduces

God's plan to reconcile the broken relationship between God and people. It introduces Adam, Eve, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God made a covenant with Abraham (in Genesis 15) and renewed that covenant with Isaac and Jacob. Genesis ends with the story of Joseph as he saves civilization from famine, and God's people move into Egypt.

Exodus tells how God continued to keep his promise to Abraham in Genesis 15. God rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. The Lord chose Moses to guide the Israelites. The Lord set up his kingship over the Israelites. He led and ruled the Israelites through the establishment of the priesthood and the Tabernacle, the Ten Commandments and other laws, and the prophets and judges. At the end of Exodus, only a part of the Lord's covenant with Abraham is completed.

Joshua/Judges/Ruth tells how God completed his covenant which began in Genesis 15. Finally, the Israelites conquered and settled into the land God promised to Abraham. The prophets, the priests, the law, and the worship rituals declared that God was the Lord and King of the Israelites. The 12 tribes of Israel settled into the promised land. This study emphasizes these judges: Deborah, Gideon, and Samson.

In **1 and 2 Samuel**, the Israelites wanted a king because the other nations had a king. These books tell about Samuel, Saul, and David. Jerusalem became the center of the combined nation of Israel. This study shows how people

react differently when confronted by their sins. While Saul blamed others, or he used an excuse, David admitted his sin, and he asked God for forgiveness.

Matthew is the focal point of the entire series. It focuses on the birth, life, and ministry of Jesus. All the previous books in the series pointed to Jesus as the Son of God and the Messiah. Jesus ushered in a new era, and the children learn about it in several events: his teachings, his death, his resurrection, and the mentoring of his disciples. Now, God provided a way for people to have a relationship with him through Jesus.

At the beginning of **Acts**, Jesus ascended to heaven, and God sent the Holy Spirit to help the Church. The good news of salvation through Jesus Christ spread to many parts of the world. The believers preached the gospel to the Gentiles, and missionary work began. The message of God's love transformed both Jews and Gentiles. There is a direct connection between the evangelism efforts of the Apostle Paul and Peter to the lives of people today.

CYCLE

The following study cycle is suggested specifically for those who will participate in the optional Quizzing aspect of *Bible Studies for Children*.

1 & 2 Samuel (2010-11)

Matthew (2011-12)

* Acts (2012-13)

Genesis (2013-14)

Exodus (2014-15)

Joshua/Judges/Ruth (2015-16)

* 1 & 2 Samuel (2016-17)

** Indicates a World Quiz year.*

SCHEDULE

Bible Studies for Children has twenty studies. Allow 60 to 120 minutes of class time. The following schedule is a suggestion for each study.

- + 15 minutes for **Activity**
- + 30 minutes for **Biblical Lesson**
- + 15 minutes for **Memory Verse**
- + 30 minutes for **Additional Activities** (*optional*)
- + 30 minutes for **Quizzing Practice** (*optional*)

PREPARE

Thorough preparation of each study is important. The children pay attention better and gain better understanding of the study if the teacher prepares it well and presents it well. **Bold** text in each study indicates suggested words for the teacher to say to the children. The following steps are guidelines for the teacher as he or she prepares each study.

Step 1: Quick Overview. Read the Memory Verse, Biblical Truth, Focus, and Teaching Tip.

Step 2: Bible Passage and Biblical Commentary. Read the verses in the Bible study passage and the information in the Biblical Commentary, including any Words of Our Faith, People, Places, or Things.

Step 3: Activity. This section includes a game or other activity to prepare the children for the biblical lesson. Become familiar with the activity, the instructions, and the supplies. Bring any necessary supplies to class with you and set up the activity before children arrive.

Step 4: Biblical Lesson. Review the lesson and learn it so that you tell it as a story. The children want the teacher to tell the story rather than to read it from the book. Use the Words of Our Faith, People, Places, and Things from each lesson to provide additional information as you tell the story. After the story, use the provided ques-

tions. They will help the children to understand the story and to apply it to their lives.

Step 5: Memory Verse. Learn the memory verse so that you are able to teach it to the children. A list of the memory verses and suggested memory verse activities are on page 122. Choose from the activities to help the children to learn the memory verse. Become familiar with the activity that you choose. Read the instructions and prepare the supplies. Bring any necessary supplies to class with you.

Step 6: Additional Activities. The additional activities are an optional part of the study. These activities will enhance the children's biblical study. Many of these activities require additional supplies, resources, and time. Become familiar with the activities that you choose. Read the instructions and prepare the supplies. Bring any necessary supplies to class with you.

Step 7: Quizzing Practice. Quizzing is the competition part of *Bible Studies for Children*. Quizzing is an optional part of the study. If you choose to participate in Quizzing, spend time with the children in preparation. There are practice questions for each study. The first ten questions are for a Basic Level of competition. There are three possible answers for each question, and these questions are simpler. The next ten questions are for an Advanced Level of competition. There are four possible answers for each question, and these questions are more comprehensive. Children, with guidance from their teacher, choose their level for competition. Based on the number of children and the resources available, you may choose to offer only the Basic Level or only the Advanced Level. Before you ask the practice questions, read the scripture passage to the children.

children's Bible quizzing

Children's Bible Quizzing is an optional part of *Bible Studies for Children*. Each church and each child decides whether to participate in a series of competitive events.

Quizzing events follow the rules outlined in this book. Children do not compete against each other to determine a single winner. Churches do not compete against each other to determine a winner.

The purpose of Quizzing is to help children determine what they learned about the Bible, enjoy the competitive events, and grow in the ability to display Christian attitudes and behaviors during competitive events.

In Quizzing, each child challenges himself or herself to attain an award level. In this approach, children quiz against a base of knowledge, not against each other. Quizzing uses a multiple-choice approach that allows every child to answer every question. Multiple-choice questions offer several answers, and the child chooses the correct one. This approach makes it possible for every child to be a winner.

QUIZZING SUPPLIES

Each child needs Quizzing numbers to answer the questions. Quizzing numbers are four cardboard squares that each have a tab at the top with the numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 respectively. The numbers fit inside a cardboard box.

Cardboard Quizzing boxes and numbers, pictured below, can be ordered from the Nazarene Publishing House in Kansas City, Missouri, United States of America.

If cardboard Quizzing boxes and numbers are unavailable in your area, you can make your own Quizzing numbers from paper, paper plates, wood, or whatever you have available. Each child needs a set of Quizzing numbers.

Each group of children will need a person to score their answers. There is a reproducible score sheet on page 126. Use this score sheet to keep track of each child's answers.

If possible, provide some type of an award for the children's performance in each Quizzing event. Suggested awards are certificates, stickers, ribbons, trophies, or medals.



CHILDREN'S QUIZZING OFFICIAL COMPETITION RULES AND PROCEDURES

Please follow these rules. Competitions that do not operate in accordance with the *Children's Quizzing Official Competition Rules and Procedures* will not qualify for other competition levels.

AGE AND GRADES

Children in grades 1-6* may participate in Children's Quizzing competitions. Seventh graders, regardless of age, participate in teen Quizzing.

BASIC LEVEL COMPETITION

This competition level is for younger or beginning quizzers. Older quizzers who prefer an easier level of competition may also participate in the Basic Level. The questions for the Basic Level are simpler. There are three answers for each question, and there are fifteen questions in each round. The district or regional Children's Quizzing director determines the questions and the number of rounds at each Quizzing competition. Most competitions have two or three rounds.

ADVANCED LEVEL COMPETITION

This competition level is for older quizzers or experienced quizzers. Younger quizzers who want a greater challenge may participate in the Advanced Level. The questions for the Advanced Level are more comprehensive. There are four answers for each question, and there are twenty questions in each round. The district or regional Children's Quizzing director determines the questions and the number of rounds at each Quizzing event.

SWITCHING BETWEEN LEVELS

Children may switch between Basic Level and Advanced Level only for invitational Quizzing competitions. This helps leaders and children determine the best level for each child.

For the zone/area, district, and regional competitions, the local director must register each child for either Basic Level or Advanced Level. The child must compete at the same level for zone/area, district, and regional competitions.

TYPES OF COMPETITION

Invitational Competition

An invitational competition is between two or more churches. Local Children's Quizzing directors, zone/area Children's Quizzing directors, or district Children's Quizzing directors may organize invitational competitions. Individuals who organize an invitational competition have the responsibility to prepare the competition questions.

Zone/Area Competition

Each district may have smaller groupings of churches that are called zones. If one zone has more quizzers than another zone, the district Children's Quizzing director may separate or combine the zones to create areas with a more equitable distribution of quizzers. The term area means that zones are combined or divided.

Churches located in each zone/area compete in that zone/area. The district Children's Quizzing director organizes the competition.

Questions for the zone/area competitions are official questions. E-mail ChildQuiz@nazarene.org

*For countries other than the United States, grades 1-6 are generally ages 6-12.

to request these questions from the General Children's Quizzing Office.

District Competition

Children advance from the zone/area competition to the district competition. The district Children's Quizzing director determines the qualifications for the competition and organizes the competition.

Questions for district competitions are official questions. E-mail ChildQuiz@nazarene.org to request these questions from the General Children's Quizzing Office.

Regional Competition

The regional competition is a competition between two or more districts.

When there is a regional Children's Quizzing director, he or she determines the qualifications for the competition and organizes the competition. If there is not a regional director, the participating district directors organize the competition.

Questions for the regional competitions are official questions. E-mail ChildQuiz@nazarene.org to request these questions from the General Children's Quizzing Office.

World Quiz Competition

Every four years, an international World Quiz is sponsored by the Children's Ministries International Office. Children's Ministries International determines the dates, locations, costs, qualifying dates, and the overall qualifying process for all World Quiz competitions.

DISTRICT CHILDREN'S QUIZZING DIRECTOR

The district Children's Quizzing director operates all competitions according to the *Children's Quizzing Official Competition Rules and Procedures*. He or she has the authority to introduce additional Quizzing procedures on the district as long as the procedures do not conflict with the *Children's Quizzing Official Competition Rules*

and Procedures. The district Children's Quizzing director contacts the General Children's Quizzing Office in Children's Ministries International, when necessary, to request a specific change in the *Children's Quizzing Official Competition Rules and Procedures* for a district. The district Children's Quizzing director makes decisions and solves problems within the guidelines of the *Children's Quizzing Official Competition Rules and Procedures*. The district Children's Quizzing director contacts the General Children's Quizzing Office for an official ruling on a specific situation, if necessary.

REGIONAL CHILDREN'S QUIZZING DIRECTOR

The regional Children's Quizzing director creates a regional Children's Quizzing leadership team that consists of all district Children's Quizzing directors on the region. The regional Children's Quizzing director remains in contact with this team to keep procedures consistent across the region. He or she operates and organizes the regional competitions according to the *Children's Quizzing Official Competition Rules and Procedures*. The regional Children's Quizzing director contacts the General Children's Quizzing Office in Children's Ministries International to request any changes in the *Children's Quizzing Official Competition Rules and Procedures* for a specific region. He or she resolves any conflicts that may arise by applying the guidelines of the *Children's Quizzing Official Competition Rules and Procedures*. The regional Children's Quizzing director contacts the General Children's Quizzing Office for an official ruling on a specific situation, if necessary. He or she contacts the General Children's Quizzing Office to place the regional quiz date on the general church calendar.

In the United States and Canada, the regional Children's Quizzing director is a developing position. Currently that person does not preside over

district Children's Quizzing directors on the region.

QUIZMASTER

The quizmaster reads the competition questions at a Quizzing competition. The quizmaster reads the question and multiple-choice answers two times before children answer the question. He or she follows the *Children's Quizzing Official Competition Rules and Procedures* established by the General Children's Quizzing Office and the district/regional Children's Quizzing director. In the event of a conflict, the final authority is the district/regional Children's Quizzing director who consults the *Children's Quizzing Official Competition Rules and Procedures*. The quizmaster may participate in discussions with scorekeepers and the district/regional Children's Quizzing director concerning a challenge. The quizmaster may call a time-out.

SCOREKEEPER

The scorekeeper scores a group of children's answers. He or she may participate in discussions with scorekeepers and the district/regional Children's Quizzing director concerning a challenge. All scorekeepers are to use the same method and symbols to insure correct tabulation of scores.

OFFICIAL COMPETITION QUESTIONS

The district Children's Quizzing director is the only individual on the district who may obtain a copy of the official zone/area and district competition questions.

The regional Children's Quizzing director is the only individual on the region who may obtain a copy of the official regional competition questions. If there is not a regional Children's Quizzing director, one participating district Children's Quizzing director may obtain a copy of the official regional competition questions.

Order forms for annual official questions will be sent by E-mail in December of each year. Contact the General Children's Quizzing Office at ChildQuiz@nazarene.org to update your E-mail address. The official questions will arrive by E-mail by the middle of January, to the people who request them.

COMPETITION METHODS

There are two methods of competition.

Individual Method

In the individual method of competition, children compete as individuals. Each child's score is separate from all other scores. Children from the same church may sit together, but individual scores are not added together to obtain a church or a team score. There are no bonus questions for individual quizzers.

The individual method is the only method that may be used for the Basic Level competition.

Combination Method

The combination method combines individual and team Quizzing. In this method, churches may send individual quizzers, teams, or a combination to a competition.

The district Children's Quizzing director determines the number of children needed to form a team. All teams must have the same number of quizzers. The recommended number of children for a team is four or five.

Children from churches that do not have enough quizzers to form a team can compete as individual quizzers.

In the combination method, teams qualify for bonus questions. The bonus points awarded for a correct answer to a bonus question become part of the team's total score, instead of an individual quizzers' score. There are bonus questions with the official questions for zone/area, district, and regional competitions. Bonus questions typically involve recitation of a memory verse.

The district Children's Quizzing director selects either the individual method or the combination method for the Advanced Level of competition.

TIE SCORES

Ties between individual quizzers or teams are never broken. All individual children or teams who tie receive the same recognition, the same award, and the same advancement to the next level of competition.

BONUS QUESTIONS

Bonus questions are part of the Advanced Level, but only with teams, not individuals. Teams must qualify for a bonus question. Bonus questions occur after questions 5, 10, 15, and 20.

To qualify for a bonus question, a team may have only as many incorrect answers as there are members on the team. For example, a team of four members may have four or fewer answers that are incorrect. A team of five members may have five or fewer answers that are incorrect.

The bonus points for a correct answer become part of the team's total score, not of the individual child's score.

The district Children's Quizzing director determines the way children answer bonus questions. In most situations, the child verbally gives the answer to the scorekeeper.

Prior to the reading of the bonus question, the local Children's Quizzing director selects one team member to answer the bonus question. The same child may answer all of the bonus questions in a game, or a different child may answer each bonus question.

TIME-OUTS

The district Children's Quizzing director determines the number of time-outs for each church. Each church receives the same number of time-outs, regardless of the number of individual quizzers or teams from that church. For example,

if the district director decides to give one time-out, each church receives one time-out.

The district Children's Quizzing director determines if an automatic time-out will occur during the game and the specific point at which the time-out will occur in each game.

The local Children's Quizzing director is the only individual who may call a time-out for a local church team.

The district Children's Quizzing director or quizmaster may call a time-out at any time.

The district Children's Quizzing director, prior to the start of the competition, determines the length of the time-outs for the competition. All time-outs are to be the same length.

SCORING

There are two methods for scoring. The district Children's Quizzing director selects the method.

Five Points

- Award five points for every correct answer. For example, if a child answers 20 questions correctly in an Advanced Level round, the child earns a total of 100 points.
- Award five points for every correct bonus answer in an Advanced Level team Quizzing round. For example, if every member of a team with four persons answers 20 questions correctly in an Advanced Level round and the team answers four bonus questions correctly, the team earns a total of 420 points.

Basic Level points will be lower as there are only 15 questions per round, and it is individual competition only.

One Point

Award one point for each correct answer as follows:

- Award one point for every correct answer. For example, if a child answers 20 questions correctly in an Advanced level round, the child earns a total of 20 points.

- Award one point for every correct bonus answer in an Advanced Level team Quizzing round. For example, if every member of a team with four persons answers 20 questions correctly in an Advanced Level round and the team answers four bonus questions correctly, the team earns a total of 84 points.

Basic Level points will be lower as there are only 15 questions per round, and it is individual competition only.

CHALLENGES

Challenges are to be an exception and are not common during a competition.

Request a challenge only when the answer marked as correct in the questions is actually incorrect according to the Bible reference given for that question. Challenges issued for any other reason are invalid.

A quizzer, a Children's Quizzing director, or any other competition participant may not request a challenge because they dislike the wording of a question or answer or think a question is too difficult or confusing.

The local Children's Quizzing director is the only person who may issue a challenge to a competition question.

If an individual other than the local Children's Quizzing director attempts to issue a challenge, the challenge is automatically ruled as "invalid."

Individuals who issue invalid challenges disrupt competition and cause children to lose concentration. Individuals who consistently issue invalid challenges or create problems by arguing about a challenge ruling will lose their privilege of challenging questions for the remainder of the competition.

The district Children's Quizzing director, or the quizmaster in the absence of the district Children's Quizzing director, has the authority to remove the privilege of challenging questions from any or all individuals who abuse the privilege.

The district Children's Quizzing director determines how to challenge a competition question prior to the start of the competition.

- Will the challenge be written or verbal?
- When can a person challenge (during a game or at the end of a game)?

The district Children's Quizzing director should explain the procedure for challenges to local Children's Quizzing directors at the beginning of the quiz year.

The quizmaster and district Children's Quizzing director follow these steps to rule the challenge.

- Determine if the challenge is valid or invalid. To do this, listen to the reason for the challenge. If the reason is valid, the answer given as the correct answer is incorrect according to the Bible reference, follow the challenge procedures outlined by the district.
- If the reason for the challenge is invalid, announce that the challenge is invalid, and the competition continues.

If more than one person challenges the same question, the quizmaster or district Children's Quizzing director selects one local director to explain the reason for a challenge. After a question has one challenge, another person may not challenge the same question.

If a challenge is valid, the district Children's Quizzing director, or quizmaster in the director's absence, determines how to handle the challenged question. Select one of the following options.

Option A: Eliminate the question, and do not replace it. The result is that a game of 20 questions becomes a game of 19 questions.

Option B: Give every child the points he or she would receive for a correct answer to the challenged question.

Option C: Replace the challenged question. Ask the quizzers a new question.

Option D: Let the children who gave the answer that was listed as the correct answer in the official

questions keep their points. Give another question to the children who gave an answer that was an incorrect answer.

AWARD LEVELS

Children's Quizzing has the philosophy that every child has an opportunity to answer every question, and every child receives recognition for every correct answer he or she gives. Therefore, Children's Quizzing uses multiple-choice competition, and ties are never broken.

Children and churches do not compete against each other. They compete to reach an award level. All children and all churches who reach the same award level receive the same award. Ties are never broken.

The following are the recommended award levels.

- ✦ Bronze Award = 70-79% correct
- ✦ Silver Award = 80-89% correct
- ✦ Gold Award = 90-99% correct
- ✦ Gold All Star = 100% correct

Resolve all scoring and challenge decisions before presenting awards. The quizmaster and scorekeepers should be sure all final scores are accurate prior to the presentation.

Never take an award from a child after the child receives an award. If there is a mistake, children may receive a higher award but not a lower award. This is true for individual awards and team awards.

COMPETITION ETHICS

The district Children's Quizzing director is the person on the district who has the responsibility to conduct the competitions in accordance with the *Children's Quizzing Official Competition Rules and Procedures*.

1. Hearing Questions Before the Competition. Since competitions use the same questions, it is not appropriate for children and workers to attend another zone/area, district, or regional competition prior to participation in their

own competition of the same level. If an adult Quizzing worker attends another competition, the district Children's Quizzing director may choose to disqualify the church from participation in their competition. If a parent and/or child attends another competition, the district Children's Quizzing director may choose to disqualify the church from participation in their competition.

2. Worker's Conduct and Attitudes. Adults are to conduct themselves in a professional and a Christian manner. The discussions about disagreements with the district Children's Quizzing director, quizmaster, or scorekeepers are to be private. Children's Quizzing workers should not share information about the disagreement with the children. A cooperative spirit and good sportsmanship are important. Decisions and rulings of the district Children's Quizzing director are final. Relay these decisions in a positive tone to the children and to the adults.

CHEATING

Cheating is serious. Treat it seriously.

The district Children's Quizzing director, in discussion with the district Children's Ministries Council, determines the policy to follow in the event that a child or an adult cheats during a competition.

Make sure that all local Children's ministries directors, children's pastors, and local Children's Quizzing directors receive the district's policy and procedures.

Before accusing an adult or a child of cheating, have evidence or a witness that cheating occurred.

Here is a sample procedure. Ensure that the quiz is not interrupted and that the person accused of cheating is not embarrassed in front of others.

- ✦ If you suspect that a child cheated, ask someone to serve as a judge to watch the areas, but do not point out any child who is suspected. After a few questions, ask the opinion of the judge. If the judge did not see any cheating, continue with the quiz.

- ✦ If the judge saw a child cheating, ask the judge to affirm it. Do not act until everyone is sure.
- ✦ Explain the problem to the local Children's Quizzing director, and ask the director to talk with the accused person privately.
- ✦ The quizmaster, judge, and local Children's Quizzing director should watch for continued cheating.
- ✦ If the cheating continues, the quizmaster and the local Children's Quizzing director should talk with the accused person privately.
- ✦ If the cheating continues, the quizmaster should tell the local Children's Quizzing director that the child's score will be eliminated from official competition.
- ✦ In the case that a scorekeeper cheated, the district Children's Quizzing director will ask the scorekeeper to leave, and a new scorekeeper will take his or her place.
- ✦ In the case that someone in the audience cheated, the district Children's Quizzing director will handle the situation in the most appropriate manner.

UNRESOLVED DECISIONS

Consult with the General Children's Quizzing Office regarding unresolved decisions.

STUDY **One**

1 Samuel 1:1-28; 2:11

Memory Verse

“For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil”
(1 Peter 3:12).

Biblical Truth

God cares for us, and he hears our prayers.

Focus

In this study, the children will learn that God loves us and wants us to worship him. Prayer is one way to worship God. God hears our prayers.

Teaching Tip

Tell the children about a time when God answered yes to an important prayer that you prayed. Remind the children that God listens and answers every prayer. He does not always answer yes. Sometimes the answer is wait or no. He still wants to hear from the children, and they should not hesitate to pray about anything.

BIBLICAL COMMENTARY

Read 1 Samuel 1:1-28; 2:11. Samuel was an important prophet at a crucial time in the history of Israel. Samuel's life began under miraculous circumstances.

Samuel's mother, Hannah, had difficulty becoming pregnant. In Hannah's culture, her inability to become pregnant brought her shame. Her husband's second wife, Penninah, tormented Hannah. Hannah prayed to the Lord for a son.

Hannah's prayer was not selfish. Hannah wanted to have a child for at least three reasons: to please her husband, to relieve her shame, and to end the torment from Penninah. Hannah vowed to dedicate her son to the Lord's service.

God gave Hannah a son, and Hannah dedicated him to the Lord as she promised. Hannah's sacrifice brought blessings to her and to the nation of Israel.

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD

- + God listens to us when we pray.
- + God answers our prayers.

WORDS OF OUR FAITH

Prayer is a conversation with God that includes talking and listening. We can pray anytime, anywhere, and about anything.

PEOPLE

Elkanah was Samuel's father.

Hannah was Elkanah's wife and Samuel's mother.

Peninnah was Elkanah's other wife.

Eli was a priest at Shiloh.

Samuel was the son of Elkanah and Hannah. Hannah dedicated him to the Lord before his birth.

PLACES

Ramathaim was the town where Elkanah and his family lived. **Ramah** was the short name for Ramathaim. It was about 30 kilometres north of Jerusalem.

Shiloh was the town where the Tabernacle was located.

The Tabernacle was a place or a house of worship. It was designed for a large congregation.

ACTIVITY

Before the children arrive, choose a location within a few minutes from your classroom. This location could be inside or outside. The area must be large enough to fit all the children. At this location, make a simple altar made of stones. This altar will represent the Tabernacle in Shiloh. At the Tabernacle, Elkanah and his family worshipped the Lord and sacrificed to the Lord.

Say, **Today we will take a walk. This will help you understand what the people in today's study experienced.**

Lead the children to the location you chose for the altar. At the location, sing with the children one or two songs of worship. Ask a child to pray.

Say, **In the Old Testament, people travelled a long distance to the Tabernacle to worship God. Perhaps some of you travelled a long distance today. We will learn about Elkanah who took his family to the Tabernacle to worship God and to sacrifice to God. They travelled about 30 kilometers to the Tabernacle. Elkanah and his family made the trip only once a year, because it was a long trip for them. We took a walk to this place to worship God and to pray. However, we do not have to travel to worship God or to pray. We can worship God and pray anywhere and anytime!**

Return to the classroom.

BIBLICAL LESSON

Prepare the following story, adapted from 1 Samuel 1:1-28; 2:11, before you tell it to the children.

Elkanah was from the town of Ramathaim. He had two wives, Hannah and Penin-

nah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah did not have children.

Every year Elkanah would take his family to Shiloh, to worship at the Tabernacle. The priest at the Tabernacle was Eli. Eli had two sons who were also priests at the Tabernacle. At the Tabernacle, Elkanah worshipped the Lord and sacrificed to him. When it came time for Elkanah's sacrifice, he gave portions of the meat to Peninnah and her children. Elkanah gave Hannah a double portion of the meat, because he loved her, and because she was unable to have children. Peninnah provoked Hannah so much that Hannah wept and would not eat.

At the Tabernacle in Shiloh, Hannah wept and prayed. Hannah made a vow to the Lord. She asked him to give her a son. In return, Hannah would give the son back to the Lord to live in Shiloh and learn from the priest, Eli. Hannah also vowed that no one would cut her son's hair. This was another way that people dedicated their lives to the Lord.

As Hannah prayed, she moved her lips, but she did not say anything aloud. Eli did not understand what Hannah was doing, so he accused her of being drunk. Eli said to her, "How long will you keep on getting drunk?"

"Not so, my lord," Hannah replied, "I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking. I was pouring out my soul to the Lord. Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief." After she explained her prayer to Eli, he blessed her. Hannah was no longer sad.

The next morning, Elkanah and Hannah worshipped the Lord, and then they returned to Ramah.

The Lord heard and answered Hannah's prayer. Hannah became pregnant and gave

birth to a son. Hannah named him Samuel, saying “Because I asked the Lord for him.”

The next time Elkanah went to Shiloh to offer sacrifices, Hannah did not go. Hannah said to Elkanah, “After the boy is weaned, I will take him and present him to the Lord. The boy will always live in Shiloh.” It was tradition for a mother to nurse a child until the second or third birthday. Elkanah supported Hannah’s decision to wait.

After Samuel was weaned, Hannah took him to the Tabernacle in Shiloh. They also brought a sacrifice. Hannah said to Eli, “I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the Lord. I prayed for this child, and the Lord answered my prayer. I now give the child to the Lord.”

Samuel stayed at the Tabernacle in Shiloh with Eli. Eli trained Samuel to serve the Lord.

Encourage the children to answer the following questions. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions. These questions will help the children to understand the story and to apply it to their lives.

1. Elkanah travelled about 30 kilometres to worship the Lord. How far would you travel to worship the Lord?
2. Hannah prayed to the Lord for a son. Why did she believe that God would answer her prayers?
3. Why would Hannah give up her only child? How do you think she felt?
4. How does the memory verse, 1 Peter 3:12, relate to this story?

Say, **God cares about you, and he listens to your prayers. You can talk to him about anything. He wants to hear when you are worried. He wants to know when you feel sad, and when you are happy. He loves you, and he listens to you. Take time now to**

thank God for his love and care. Thank him for hearing your prayer.

MEMORY VERSE

Practice the study’s memory verse. You will find suggestions on page 122.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Choose from these options to enhance the children’s Bible study.

1. Compare Hannah’s experience of praying for a son and giving him to God with the experiences of these other women of the Bible: Sarah (Genesis 17:15-18:5; 21:1-7), Elizabeth (Luke 1:5-25, 57-66), Mary (Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-7). Read these scriptures to the children. Ask, **How did each woman react when she learned she would have a son? What kind of faith did these women show?**

2. To review the story, tell the good experiences and the difficult experiences in Hannah’s life. Tell the good experiences and the difficulties experiences in your life. Then, tell what experiences in Hannah’s story could help you or encourage you.

NOTES:

QUESTIONS FOR BASIC COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 1:1-28; 2:11 to them.

1 Which of Elkanah's wives could not have children? (1:2, 5)

1. Hannah
2. Peninnah
3. Neither of them could have children.

2 Where did Elkanah go to worship and sacrifice to the Lord? (1:3)

1. Ramah
2. Shiloh
3. Zuph

3 What did Elkanah give to Hannah on the day of the sacrifice? (1:4-5)

1. Nothing
2. One portion of meat
3. A double portion of meat

4 Why did Elkanah give a double portion of meat to Hannah? (1:5)

1. He loved her, and she had no children.
2. He wanted to make Peninnah mad.
3. Both answers are correct.

5 What did Hannah do while she was in Shiloh? (1:10)

1. She wept much.
2. She prayed to the Lord.
3. Both answers are correct.

6 What did Hannah tell God that she would do if he gave her a son? (1:11)

1. She would give the son back to the Lord.
2. She would not use a razor on the son's head.
3. Both answers are correct.

7 Who said to Hannah, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him"? (1:17)

1. Elkanah
2. Peninnah
3. Eli

8 What did Hannah name her son? (1:20)

1. Hophni
2. Phinehas
3. Samuel

9 Where did Hannah take Samuel after he was weaned? (1:24)

1. The temple in Bethlehem
2. The house of the Lord at Shiloh
3. The hills of Ephraim

10 How long did Hannah say Samuel would be given over to the Lord? (1:28)

1. Until he was 18
2. His whole life
3. Until he was 12

QUESTIONS FOR ADVANCED COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read 1 Samuel 1:1-28; 2:11 to them.

1 What did Elkanah do year after year in Shiloh? (1:3)

1. He visited family.
2. He farmed his brother's land.
- 3. He offered a sacrifice and worshipped the Lord.**
4. All of the above

2 How many portions of meat did Elkanah give Peninnah? (1:4)

- 1. Enough for her and her sons and her daughters**
2. A double portion for her alone
3. Double portions for her and her children
4. None

3 Why did Peninnah provoke Hannah? (1:6)

1. Peninnah wanted a double portion.
2. Peninnah could not have children.
- 3. Hannah could not have children.**
4. All of the above

4 What did Eli think as he watched Hannah pray? (1:12-13)

1. Hannah was sleeping
2. Hannah was too loud.
- 3. Hannah was drunk.**
4. Hannah was too quiet.

5 What did Hannah tell Eli after he accused her of being drunk? (1:15-16)

1. "I am a woman who is deeply troubled."
2. "I was pouring out my soul to the Lord."
3. "I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief."
- 4. All of the above**

6 Why did Hannah name her son Samuel? (1:20)

1. Eli told Hannah to name her son Samuel
- 2. Hannah asked the Lord for a son**
3. It was the name of Elkanah's father
4. It was Elkanah's second name

7 When would Hannah present Samuel before the Lord? (1:22)

1. When he turned 12
2. When he was walking
3. When he turned 18
- 4. When he was weaned**

8 How long would Samuel live in the Tabernacle? (1:22)

1. For 18 years
2. Until the Lord spoke to him
- 3. Always**
4. For 12 years

9 Who trained Samuel to minister before the Lord? (2:11)

- 1. Eli the priest**
2. Elkanah
3. Hophni
4. Phinehas

10 Finish this verse: "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is..." (1 Peter 3:12)

- 1. "...against those who do evil."**
2. "...near those who do evil."
3. "...against those who do good."
4. "...against those who disobey him."