

**Shenango
Valley
Bible Quiz League**



*Official
Rule Book*

6.3 Situation Questions

Situation questions promote an understanding of settings, emotions and chains of events. They encourage quizzers to memorize and attribute direct quotations, order events, explain motives and derive cause and effect. Situation questions are only written when the quiz material is narrative in nature: either a gospel or the book of Acts. Each Situation question consists of a quote and one, two or three questions about that quote. The following are possible questions:

- Who (said it)? In the event that more than one person has said the quote, for instance when a New Testament figure quotes an Old Testament figure, the answer will be the person to have spoken the quotation most recently.
- To Whom (was it said)?
- When (was it said)?
- Where (was it said)?
- How (was it said)?
- Why (was it said)?
- In Reply/Response to what (was it said)?
- About whom (was it said)?
- About what (was it said)?
- (What was the) Reply?
- (What was the) Response?
- (What was the) Result?

Answers to the questions may come from any reasonable number of verses from the same Scripture passage. The quote must cover only one verse and must start at the beginning of a quotation. Although the beginning of a quote that spans more than one verse may be used, the quizzers need to quote only the portion of the quote found in the first verse.

6.4 Reference questions

1. If identical questions can be asked from more than one verse and there is more than one answer from different parts of the material, a reference is applied to lead the quizzers to a specific portion of Scripture. If the identical questions come from the same chapter, a chapter and verse reference must be applied. If identical questions come from different chapters, a Chapter and Verse or Chapter Only reference may be applied.
2. Questions that are exactly the same for the first five words or more should also be referenced. It is preferred that these be asked as Chapter Only references, unless two or more questions beginning with the same five or more words occur within the same chapter, in which case a Chapter and Verse reference must be applied.
3. When answering a reference question, a quizzers will be called incorrect if he or she provides material outside the verse of the reference is drawn from with one exception. A quizzers may provide the antecedent for a pronoun even if the antecedent is not contained within the verse from which the reference is drawn.
4. Chapter and Verse References will begin with, "According to _____ Chapter ____ Verse _____,"
5. Chapter Only References will begin with, "According to _____ Chapter _____,"

Shenango Valley Bible Quiz League Youth for Christ Style Official Rules

Revised August, 2004

1. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

These rules are drafted to provide the basis of competition for all quizzes sponsored by the Shenango Valley Bible Quiz League. The Shenango Valley Bible Quiz League exists to encourage youth to learn/memorize God's Word so that they grow deeper in their relationship with God. This is a cooperative effort of all the churches involved.

2. PREPARING TO QUIZ

2.1. Eligibility Requirements

Any quizzers who is high school age or younger is eligible to participate in the Shenango Valley Bible Quiz League.

2.2. Team Composition

1. A team may have up to five team members: three starters and two substitutes (*Teams are encouraged to have only 3 quizzers for league quizzing so that quizzers do not have to sit out.*)
2. The starting quizzers begin the quiz sitting interspersed with the quizzers on other teams.
3. The starters are number 1-2-3 starting from the quizmaster's left.
4. Seating order, as well as the captain and co-captain, will be designated on a line-up submitted to the scorekeeper prior to the quiz.
5. If a team has less than three members, they may still compete and will be numbered consecutively, beginning with one.
6. Each team may have one coach and one assistant coach.

2.3. Captain and Co-Captains

1. Each team will have a captain and a co-captain.
2. If the captain leaves the quiz, the co-captain serves as the acting captain. A captain who returns to the quiz reassumes the role of acting captain.
3. When both the captain and the co-captain have either errored out or been substituted out, their coach will appoint a new acting captain.

2.4. Officials

The following positions must be filled before the start of a quiz: Quizmaster, Material Judge, Technical Judge and Scorekeeper. One official may fill more than one position.

2.4.1. Quizmaster

1. The quizmaster must know and understand the rules thoroughly.
2. The quizmaster must be familiar with the portion of Scripture being studied.
3. Questions must be read at a normal, conversational rate. Both hesitating and reading too quickly must be avoided, since they may cause inaccurate quizzing.
4. The quizmaster must read all questions at the same rate of speed, except Finish type questions which are read with noticeable pauses between words.
5. The quizmaster must render decisions firmly and consistently.
6. The quizmaster is responsible for calling fouls.
7. The quizmaster must maintain a positive attitude toward the quizzers and coaches.
8. The quizmaster must keep the quiz moving at a consistent pace. A quiz should not be rushed, but it is important to maintain the quickest pace which does not interfere with accuracy.
9. The quizmaster must remember the importance of edifying both the quizzers and the audience. He or she should speak clearly and be enthusiastic about quizzing. To this end, quizzers should be called by name, the score should be announced often and frozen chairs should be promptly recognized.

2.4.2. Material Judge

1. The material judge will assist the quizmaster in determining the accuracy of an answer which has been contested or when the quizmaster otherwise requires assistance in making a decisions.
2. The material judge will check the accuracy of the quizmaster's reading of the question by following along as he or she reads each question.

2.4.3. Technical Judge

1. The technical judge will check equipment for proper operation.
2. The technical judge will keep time on the five-second limit to jump, the thirty-second limit for completion of the answer and the forty-five-second limit for time-outs.

2.4.4. Scorekeeper

1. The scorekeeper will record the following information:
 - a) Quiz line-ups as they are received from each team.
 - b) Each team's score.
 - c) The outcome of each question.
 - d) The record of substitutions, including any changes in seating order resulting from substitutions.
 - e) Each team's number of remaining time-outs.
 - f) When time-outs were called and by which team.
2. The scorekeeper will inform the quizmaster of the following:
 - a) Point deductions for errors.
 - b) Point deductions for fouls.
 - c) Frozen chairs and error-outs.

6. QUESTION TYPES

6.1. Questions

1. All questions will be written from the 1984 New International Version of the Bible.
2. Questions may only contain words that appear in the verse or verses in the question is drawn from, an interrogative word and, when a form of the verb 'to be' is absent, the correct form of the verb 'to be.'
3. Questions must be both grammatically and Scripturally correct. The exception to this rule is that questions beginning with "What if" may be asked, despite being grammatically incorrect.
4. One of the following interrogatives must appear within each regular or reference question: how, how long, how many, what, when, where, which, who, whom, whose or why. Questions taken directly from Scripture not containing one of the interrogatives are permitted.
5. The placement of an interrogative is not restricted to a particular portion of the question.
6. Pronouns will not be clarified within questions.
7. When an answer contains a pronoun, the clarification of the pronoun may be required.
8. Direct question and answer pairs from Scripture may be used.
9. Direct questions from the Scripture which are answered by rhetorical questions also appearing in Scripture are acceptable.

6.2. Memory Questions

Memory questions promote memorization of the key verses in a Scripture passage. For the following question types, the quizmaster will read up to the first 5 words slowly, with noticeable pauses between words.

Finish This Verse: starts at the beginning of a verse and goes to the end of the verse.

Finish These Two Verses: starts at the beginning of a verse and goes to the end of the next verse.

Finish These Three Verses: starts at the beginning of a verse and spans three verses.

Finish This: starts somewhere after the first word of the verse and goes to the end of the verse.

Finish This and the Next Verse: starts somewhere after the first word of the verse and goes to the end of the next verse.

Finish This and the Next Two Verses: starts somewhere after the first word of the verse and goes to the end of the second following verse.

Finish This Verse and Give the Reference: starts at the beginning of a verse and goes to the end of that verse. Additionally, the quizzer is required to state the correct book (when necessary), chapter (when necessary) and verse.

To be called correct, a quizzer must quote word-perfectly all the requested material once from beginning to end before time expires.

4.11. **Protests**

1. A coach may place a quiz under protest when he or she feels a rules violation has taken place and has not been settled correctly.
2. A protest must be lodged before the next question begins.
3. The quizmaster will recognize the protest and will attempt to work out situation with the coaches of the teams participating in the quiz. If the problem cannot be resolved, the quiz will continue under protest.
4. Upon completion of the quiz, if the protest has not been settled, the protest board will rule on the protest.
5. All of the quizmasters serve on the protest board.
6. The involvement of the officials, captains and coaches present in the quiz is at the discretion of the protest board.
7. In the event the protest is honored, the quiz will be replayed starting with the protest question.

5. **SCORING**

5.1. **Team Scoring**

1. A correct answer when 2 or 3 teams are jumping scores 20 points and moves the quizzer to the topmost available chair.
2. A correct answer when only 1 team is eligible to jump scores 10 points but involves no movement of the quizzer.
3. An incorrect answer to a free question does not count as an error.
4. After making 3 errors on 20-point questions, a quizzer errors-out and leaves the quiz. He or she may be replaced by a substitute without calling a time-out.
5. 10 points will be deducted for each of the following:
 - a) A team's fourth error in a quiz and every subsequent error.
 - b) An error after question number 14.
 - c) A team's second foul in a quiz and every second foul thereafter.However, no more than 10 points will be deducted for a single error.
6. When a team challenges for a position when, the team loses 20 points of their score. If they get a correct answer in the course of the challenge, even on a free question, they receive 20 points.
7. A team cannot have a negative score at any point of the quiz. When the score is zero, no error or foul points may be assessed.
8. When a team gets their second foul and possesses a team score of zero, the next foul (and every foul thereafter) will result in a 10-point deduction.

5.2. **Individual Scoring**

Each individual will receive a RATE based on how he or she has done in his or her quizzes. Here is the formula which will be used:

1. 20 points will be awarded for each correct answer with 2 or 3 teams jumping.
2. 0 points are deducted for each error a quizzer commits.
3. 10 points are awarded for each free question a quizzer answers.
4. 40 points will be awarded to any quizzer who appears in a quiz when his or her team attains a position win.
5. A quizzer's rate is determined by dividing his or her total points by the total number of quizzes in which he or she appeared.

2.5 **Equipment**

1. None chairs should be set up facing the audience. The medal chairs can be identified with color as desired.
2. There will be 3 medal chairs:
 - a) Chair #1 (from left) is the gold chair.
 - b) Chair #2 (from left) is the silver chair.
 - c) Chair #3 (from left) is the bronze chair.
3. The chairs are normally placed in a straight line, but they may be placed in an arc if this allows the quizzers to see the quizmaster more easily or if the space is limited.
4. The quizzers will begin the quiz with all of the first quizzers designated on the lineups sitting in chairs 1 through 3, all the second quizzers designated on the lineups sitting in chairs 4 through 6, and all the third quizzers designated on the lineups sitting in chairs 7 through 9. (Example: 111, 222, 333)
5. The quizmaster's table should face the chairs and be far enough away to allow all quizzers to comfortably see the table without turning their chairs.
6. Chairs for coaches and substitutes should be placed on both sides of the quizmaster's table. At no time should coaches or substitutes be seated at the quizmaster's table.
7. All quizzes must use some form of electronic equipment that determines which quizzer is eligible to answer.
8. In the event of an equipment malfunction or improper use of the quiz equipment, a quiz will be replayed from the earliest time the malfunction may have begun.

3. **OBJECT**

There are two ways to win a quiz: by score or by position. A position win takes precedence over winning by score.

3.1. **Winning by Score**

A team wins the quiz when they secure first place by scoring the most points in the quiz.

3.2. **Winning by Position**

A team wins by position if their three quizzers are sitting on the gold, silver and bronze chairs, with each quizzer answering a 20-point question, including the question which leads to all three sitting in a medal chair. The quiz ends when this scenario occurs. A position win must take place after question six.

3.3. **Winning by Position with a Challenge Question**

A challenge question is a way to win by position in one question.

1. To be eligible to call for a challenge question, a team must hold two of medal chairs and have answered the previous question correctly. Each of the quizzers sitting on a medal chair must have answered a 20-point question correctly.
2. The challenge must be called for before the start of the next question by either the captain or the quizzer who answered the question correctly.
3. A time-out cannot be issued once the challenge has been called for until the challenge is over.

4. When the challenge is called for, the challenging team forfeits 20 points (the last correct answer) from their team score.
5. The challenge question is given to three quizzers: the quizzer on the challenging team who is not sitting on a medal chair, the quizzer not on the challenging team who is sitting in a medal chair, and the quizzer on the third team who is the corresponding number of the quizzer who is sitting on a medal chair.
6. If at any point during the challenge any quizzer answers the question correctly, the challenge is over.
 - a) If the quizzer challenging for the chair answers the challenge question correctly, he or she swaps chairs with the quizzer currently in medal chair being challenged, 20 points are awarded and a position win is secured.
 - b) If the quizzer sitting in the medal chair answers the challenge question correctly, he or she remains in that chair, 20 points are awarded and the challenge ends with the quiz continuing from that point.
 - c) If the quizzer from the third team answers the challenge question correctly, he or she swaps chairs with the quizzer currently in the medal chair being challenged, 20 points are awarded and the challenge ends with the quiz continuing from that point.
7. If at any point during the challenge the quizzer challenging for the chair answers the challenge question incorrectly, then the challenge is over and the quizzer is assessed an attempt, not an error.
8. If one of the quizzers not challenging for the chair answers the question incorrectly, then he or she receives an error and the tossup question goes only to the two quizzers who remain in the challenge. If the other quizzer not challenging for the medal chair answers incorrectly, then a free question, worth 20 points, will be given to the challenging quizzer for the position win.

4. QUIZZING

4.1. Quiz Structure

It is recommended that all quizzes be three-way, if possible.

4.1.1 Three-Way Quiz Structure and Movement

4.1.1.1. Regular Questions (Three Teams Jumping)

Unless an error was made on the previous question, all three teams are eligible to jump on each question. If the question is answered correctly, that quizzer receives 20 points, moves to the topmost chair that is not frozen and the other quizzers move right to fill in the gap. If an error is made, the next question is asked to the two remaining teams. This question is called a toss-up question.

4.8. Contesting

1. Any acting captain may contest a quizmaster's decision on an answer.
2. The acting captain may not confer with the quizmaster, coach or other teammates before contesting or while contesting.
3. A contest must be made immediately after the quizmaster's decision.
4. All contests and rebuttals will be heard before a time-out may be taken.
5. After a contest is made, the quizmaster will give the other acting captains the opportunity to agree with the contest and/or provide additional information.
6. After all contests are completed, any remaining acting captains may rebut the contest, if they choose to do so.
7. Either the acting captain of the team being contested against or the quizzer whose answer was contested may rebut.
8. The quizmaster, with the assistance of the material judge, will rule on the contest(s).
9. A question itself may not be contested, although an acting captain may request that it be thrown out.

4.9. Thrown Out Questions

1. If a question contains erroneous information or there has been a serious mispronunciation in the reading of the question, the quizmaster may throw out the question.
2. A captain may bring an erroneous question or mispronunciation to the quizmaster's attention. This does not count as a contest.
3. If a question is thrown out, it will be replaced by a question of the same type.

4.10. Fouls

The quizmaster may call a foul against a team for any of the following:

1. Verbal communication between quizzers and/or their coach or coaches after "Question" is called and before the final decision is rendered, or, in the event of a contest, before the completion of the contest.
2. A quizzer jumping after "Question" is called, but before the quizmaster begins reading the question.
3. A quizzer starting to answer before being recognized by the quizmaster.
4. A quizzer's hands or feet touching the chair from the time "Question" is called until a quizzer is called upon to answer.
5. A quizzer's hands or knees touching the floor from the time "Question" is called until a quizzer is called upon to answer.
6. A quizzer placing his or her jump pad on the front edge of the chair. This infraction occurs if the quizzer's pad falls from the chair when he or she jumps.
7. A quizzer activating his or her light by lifting his or her leg while remaining seated.
8. Failure to submit a written line-up prior to the start of the quiz.
9. Continued discussion once the final decision to a contest has been rendered.
10. A coach, team or cheering section engaging in conduct that is not in line with a Christian witness.
11. A quizzer attempting to trick other quizzers into jumping by pretending to jump.
12. Any other infraction of the rules as determined by the quizmaster.

4.4 Freezing a Chair

1. When a quizzer correctly answers three 20-point questions, he or she freezes – holds permanently – the topmost chair available.
2. Once frozen, the quizzer is not eligible to answer regular questions, but may answer toss-up questions and free questions directed to his or her team.
3. After a chair is frozen, the next chair becomes the topmost chair available.
4. If a quizzer who has frozen his or her chair is removed from the quiz, that quizzer cannot reenter the quiz and the frozen chair is released from the freeze. (Note: if there are other frozen chairs at the time, those quizzers should move to the left and the quizzer entering as a substitute should sit in the topmost chair available.)

4.5 Time-Outs

1. Each team is allowed two time-outs per quiz.
2. Time-outs are 45 seconds in length.
3. Only the coach or acting captain may call a time-out.
4. Only the coach and assistant coach are allowed to confer with the team during time-outs.
5. A time-out may be called after any question.
6. Only one time-out is permitted between successive questions.
7. No time-outs will be permitted once a Specialty question has been announced.
8. A technical time-out may be called by the quizmaster at any time and will not be charged to any team. No substitutions are permitted during technical time-outs.

4.6 Substitutions

1. Substitutions may be made only during time-outs, unless a quizzer who has errored-out is being replaced.
2. Only one substitution per team may be made during each time-out.
3. A quizzer who has frozen his or her chair and then been substituted out of the quiz may not return.

4.7 Tie Jumps

Some electronic equipment will register tie jumps.

1. When members of the same team tie, the captain will immediately decide who answers.
2. When members of opposing teams tie, the question will be replaced with a toss-up question on which only the tied teams may jump. If a toss-up question resulting from a tie jump results in an error, the following question will be handled as if there had been no tie.

4.1.1.2 Toss-up Questions (Two Teams Jumping)

After an error when three teams are jumping, a toss-up question is asked to the two other teams. If the toss-up question is answered correctly, that quizzer receives 20 points, moves to the topmost chair that is not frozen, the quizzers move right to fill in the gap and the next question is a regular question to all three teams. If the toss-up question is answered incorrectly, an error is recorded and the next question is a free question to the remaining team.

4.1.1.3 Free Questions (One Team Jumping)

A free question is asked to one team when two teams error consecutively. Whether answered correctly or not, the quizzer does not move. If answered correctly, the quizzer receives 10 points. The question following a free question is always a regular question to all three teams.

4.1.2 Question Numbering

All teams must jump on questions 13, 14, 15 and, if necessary, all questions after 15. Hence, an error on question 12 is followed by a toss-up or free question numbered 12A. An error on an 'A' question causes the next question to be numbered 'B.'

4.1.3 Ending a Quiz

Quizzes must end with a correctly answered question. Quizzes end on question number 15 if it is answered correctly and there are no ties to be broken. If necessary, the quiz will proceed past question 15 until a question is answered correctly and all ties are broken.

4.1.4 Breaking Ties

The following procedure will be used to break any ties which exist after question 15 (or, if necessary, 15A or 15B) has been completed and a question numbered 15 or greater has been answered correctly:

1. If one of the three teams is not tied, its place is declared and this team remains seated on the chairs but does not participate in the tiebreaker(s).
2. Single questions are added until the tie is broken by a correct answer. A and B labeling, toss-ups and free questions proceed as usual.
3. If all three teams are tied and an error is made, the toss-up question goes to all the quizzers on the two teams who are eligible to jump. An error on the toss-up will result in a free question going to the whole remaining team.
4. If two teams are tied and an error is made, the free question goes only to the corresponding number on the other tied team.
5. If a three-way tie remains, this procedure should be

4.1.5 Two-Way Quizzes

1. Two-way quizzes begin on question 6.
2. Unless an error was made on the previous question, a question is directed to both teams and is called a toss-up question.
3. All other rules for three-way quizzes apply to two-way quizzes.

4.2. Quizmastering

1. The quizmaster will announce whether the next question is a Specialty, (i.e., a Memory, Reference or Situation type question), and if so, which type before beginning the sequence described below.
2. The quizmaster will begin each question with the following sequence: "Question Number _____, Question. _____?" The sequence may be interrupted and restarted until the word "Question" is said the second time. Once "Question" has been said the final time, the question is considered to be under way. From here on, this will be refereed to as "From the time 'Question' is called" or "After 'Question' is called."
3. The quizmaster will cease reading when the electronic equipment registers that a quizzer has jumped.
4. The quizmaster will call on the first quizzer to jump, as determined by the electronic equipment.
5. The quizmaster will not repeat a question, even if a quizzer jumps before the end of a question.
6. If a quizzer is obviously correct, the quizmaster will call him or her correct before the thirty-second time limit expires.
7. Once a quizzer has given incorrect information, the quizmaster will immediately rule the answer incorrect.
8. The quizmaster will never cut off a quizzer while he or she is speaking.
9. During the thirty-second answering period, the quizmaster will use the following prompts:
 - a) If a quizzer completes his or her question, but before he or she gives the answer, the quizmaster will tell the quizzer, "*That is the question.*"
 - b) If a quizzer has provided all of the information in the answer except the clarification of a pronoun present which is part of the answer, the quizmaster will say, "*Can you clarify?*" or "*Can you be more specific?*"
 - c) On a Reference question, if the quizzer has given all the information in both the question and the answer and the complete question was not read, the quizmaster will say, "*What is your question?*"
 - d) On Memory type questions, once the quizzer has quoted to the end of the required verse (and said the chapter and verse on a Finish This Verse and Give the Reference), if the quote is not yet correct, the quizmaster will say, "*Give it to me again.*" This will occur as often as needed until the quizzer quotes the verse perfectly, the quizzer supplies material not found in the verse and is called incorrect, the quizzer changes the meaning of the verse through misquoting or the thirty-second time limit expires.
 - e) On a Situation question, if a quizzer finishes the quotation before answering the questions, the quizmaster will say, "*That is the quote.*"
10. During the thirty-second answering period the quizmaster may use the following prompts:
 - a) If a quizzer answers the question correctly but is missing information found in the question, the quizmaster may tell the quizzer, "*That is the answer. I need more in the question.*"
 - b) If a quizzer answers the question correctly and completes the portion of the question which the quizmaster did not finish reading but adds

additional material not in the quizmaster's question, the quizmaster may say to the quizzer, "*Don't say anything else.*" This enables the quizmaster to check the accuracy of the additional material without allowing the quizzer to add further information which may result in his or her being called incorrect.

- c) If a quizzer has given nearly, but not all of the correct information, the quizmaster may say to the quizzer, "*I need a little more.*"

11. During the thirty-second answering period the quizmaster will use no prompts other than those described in the two previous rules.

4.3

Answering

1. After a question is read, if no quizzer jumps within five seconds, no one is permitted to answer.
2. A quizzer who jumps before a question is finished must provide all the material in the question and answer. However, the quizzer need not give the material in "question and answer" form, except on Reference questions.
3. Answers need not be word-perfect, except on Memory type questions.
4. When answering or completing a question, a quizzer may refer to persons of the Godhead by different, but not synonymous terms from those found in the passage. However, specific titles deemed significant by the quizmaster are required.
5. A quizzer who gives an incorrect question will be ruled incorrect. A correct question is one which asks for the same information asked for in the quiz master's question and which contains all of the material in the quizmaster's question.
6. A quizzer who provides any incorrect information will be called incorrect.
7. On a Finish This (or Finish This and the Next Verse; or Finish This and the Next 2 Verses) question, the quizzer may choose to quote from the beginning of the verse. As long as the quizzer does not change the meaning of the portion of the verse not included in the Finish This and quotes the required material perfectly, he or she will be called correct.
8. On a Memory question, the quizzer may quote past the end of the verse. As long as the quizzer quotes perfectly the material required in the question and does not change the meaning of the scripture in the extraneous material, the quizzer will be called correct.
9. If, in the quizmaster's discretion, the quizzer answers from or quotes from a different passage, then the quizzer will be called incorrect.
10. If the quizzer attempts to provide multiple answers from the same passage the intervening material must be stated thought perfectly and in verse order.
11. Recognizably mispronounced words are acceptable in an answer.
12. Nothing may be added to an answer after a quizzer sits down or the thirty-second time limit expires.
13. If the first five words of a question are exactly the same as the first five words of another question from a different verse which is part of the Scripture being used as the basis of competition, the alternate question and answer will be accepted if the quizzer and/or his or her teammates lead the quizmaster to the alternate reference or the quizmaster finds it through his or her knowledge of the material or by using a concordance.