

## SUGGESTED STEPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL QUOTE-A-THON

Here are a few tips for running a quote-a-thon. There are many different ways to do one and the ideas I share may well be just a springboard for you. I am sure that you will need to personalize it for your church and your ministry. Don't forget that we have an opportunity to participate in National Bible Sunday.

1. Get permission from your pastor to have a quote-a-thon.
2. Have your plan organized when you meet with your pastor.
3. Have a notice put in the bulletin and also on the power point if your church uses it for announcements. Let the congregation know in advance that this is both a spiritual endeavor and also a way that the quizzers are raising funds for their travel expenses and supplies. When they quote in the Sunday morning service(s), with eloquence, people are very moved to support a ministry that teaches the Word with such depth.
4. Plan to have all or most of the quizzers that are going for the memorization award quote in the services one week before the quote-a-thon and of course, the week of the quote-a-thon. You should schedule this in advance and practice with the quizzers in the sanctuary before they quote in front of the congregation. Last year I had two of my quizzers audition for our pastor. I was trying to assure him that two could quote separate chapters in under 5 minutes. I met with them in the sanctuary and we discussed things such as how to stand, how to have good eye contact, how to avoid a monotone voice, and what to do if they go blank and need to be prompted, etc. Quoting in the service has been a positive experience for all of my quizzers. This is partly due to the advance preparation that we do together. For all the quizzers, I designate a coach or helper to sit in the front pew as a support and they are always ready to prompt them if they lose their place. I try to have the shy quizzers quote in the evening service so that there are fewer people watching them. One girl asked me to stand with her as she quoted. The reason why I have them quote in the services is twofold. First, it fulfills the requirement of quoting in a service for the memorization award. Secondly, it helps the congregation see what the kids are doing in BQ and this is an encouragement for the quote-a-thon.
5. The actual quote-a-thon can take place anytime on "Bible Sunday," we have found afternoon or early evening works best. I have every quizzer and adult that is doing any memorization at all participate. I make sure that I have a one to one ratio for the listeners and the quoters. We meet 15 to 30 minutes before the actual hour for the quoting begins, so that we can get organized. Have the quizzers and adults quote for one hour and tabulate the number of verses correctly quoted. Make it a big ordeal by having special food or organizing a game night for after the quote-a-thon. In our church we always quoted before our evening service. We would have great food and do an in depth interactive devotion with the quizzers. As for the actual quoting--- during the hour they must quote everything they have memorized before they can begin to repeat chapters. For some quizzers they will quote 15, 16 or more chapters during this time. Others quizzers will quote only the 4 or 5 chapters that they have struggled to memorize. They can even quote primary and secondary verses if that is how they are studying. I try to make each quizzer feel special about their level of study—whatever it may be. Remember, only verses correctly quoted during the designated hour count.

There are a couple of different ways to tabulate the contributions for the actual quoting.

People can make a contribution either by verses quoted or just a lump sum. For instance, if your quizzer quotes 300 verses and Mrs. Miller has pledged 5 cents a verse, then she would contribute a total of \$15.00. Most of the people I know will contribute just one lump sum. 2, 5, 20, 25 etc. dollars, no matter how many verses are quoted. Another way to do the contributions is to tabulate the amount based on quoting 100 verses. This is a lot easier to understand and market for the quizzers. Of course, the better quizzers will quote 300 or so verses in an hour, but only 100 will count for the fundraising.

I make pledge sheets for the kids that have the following headings:

NAME	PLEDGE/100 VERSES OR LUMP SUM	TELEPHONE #
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Our pastor has allowed our quizzers to stand in the lobby before and after select services to get these pledges. I put their pledge sheets on a clipboard, set up a table with BQ study items on it and have the kids circulate with their clipboards. The announcement has already been made concerning the quote-a-thon and the pastor has endorsed this fund raiser publicly. The congregation has heard several quizzers quote chapters in the services and is eager to support BQ. If your pastor does not want you to stand in the lobby before or after services, you'll have to get a little more creative about getting pledges. Make sure you give each quizzer a target for their pledges. I also encouraged our quizzers to contact family members and others outside of our congregation for pledges/donations.

We have given different incentives for quoting. The most exciting was letting the one who quoted the most verses put a pie in someone's face. The kids love this. Of course, we really pump them up to get them motivated for this. One year I made a meter and we colored it red throughout the hour that they quoted as the verses came in. I left this in the church lobby for a week after the quote-a-thon so everyone could see the results...I usually put up a bulletin board as well.

All 4 JESUS,

Susan and Jim DeFazio