



# STARTING THE YEAR OFF RIGHT

## *7 tips for motivating your team*

Derived from the article "7 Tips for Motivating Your Team" by Kevin Kearns found at <http://top7business.com/?id=567>

As a coach you will be leading your quizzers through the amazing Gospel of Mark this year. Maybe your students have already started studying and having team practice; maybe you just heard about Bible Quiz for the first time and are still trying to figure things out. Whatever the circumstance, this season you can be assured that hard work will be accomplished, friendships developed and strengthened, the Word of God hidden in hearts and lives changed. How can you ensure that this happens with your quizzers? Motivate them to succeed.

Motivation has been examined for centuries, but no matter how many books we read on new approaches, we still find ourselves thinking, "now what on earth would motivate him or her to do that?" Leadership would be much easier your quizzers would just do everything you told them to, right? Well maybe some of the tips below can help you as you strive to achieve that level of leadership. The seven tips below cover motivation strategies and, in some cases, how to avoid turning attempts at motivation into de-motivation.

1. **Be Great:** Being great is contagious. People like to be part of something great. Sport team merchandise sales always skyrocket when they win a championship. However, as soon as the team loses its greatness, the attraction weans. The same is true for quizzers and coaches. Staff and quizzers will be easily motivated if your organization is great. As a leader, it is your responsibility to do something about that – to the level of your position and hopefully beyond. Leaders that believe and share clear values, goals and vision for their ministry and team create a sense of greatness. If you do not currently have clear values, goals or vision, a good first step may be for you to outline your goals and vision and ask your team a few questions, such as: Are we great? If so, what makes us great? If not, why not? Great or not great, how can we improve?
2. **Equal But Different:** Discover why each team member comes to participate. We all have our reasons for working beyond the minimal to survive. Some quizzers will participate for friendship and loyalty. Some will work for esteem and appreciation. Some will work for travel and incentives such as tournaments and competition. Still others will work to accomplish great things. What drives each of your team members? The answer to this question will impact how you approach them. No matter how great the ministry, if quizzers and coaches are unable to see how the objectives of the ministry fit into their personal goals, they will not stay motivated. How do you find out their whys? One way is to ask them why they come to participate. Unfortunately, some people do not know the answer, or the answer they give is only at the surface level, with the real reason being deeper. You may need to depend on your long-term observations to determine the whys beneath the surface.
3. **Let it Go:** Pick your battles. There has only been one perfect person to walk the Earth, and although we strive to be like Jesus the rest of us are flawed, whether we see it or not. Quizzers are people, too, and in their youth will make mistakes. Depending on the nature of the mistake and the intentions behind it, consider letting it go with just a small comment or no comment at all. Some mistakes require action and you obviously cannot let those go. If a mistake is based on good intentions, has little negative impact, and a lesson was learned, perhaps you can let it go. Pray that the Lord gives you wisdom as you help guide these lives into mature Christian beings.
4. **Blast 'Em:** Hold your quizzers accountable. Letting it go can work when it is a minimal issue, however, accountability is the gift that keeps on giving. Although not always pleasant, holding a team member accountable in the present will actually save you stress in the future. Not only do you improve the likelihood of that individual improving, you also signal to every other quizzer what is and is not acceptable. If you don't deal with an issue as soon as possible, you end up with larger issues. Much like paying taxes, accountability is a pay me now or pay me later concept. If you choose to ignore it and pay it later, be prepared for the late fees and penalties.
5. **Get Connected:** Build relationships with your kids. There are few motivators more powerful than relationships. When we believe another person has our best interests in mind, we are willing to give more effort. If trust is not established, it is much more difficult to give more than the minimum. Quizzers are not going to go above and beyond if they do not believe their coach would do the same for them. Every interaction you have with your quizzers either adds or takes away from a strong relationship with them. Build excellent opportunities for your quizzers to bond with you and with each other. Spend time with their families and let them spend time with yours. Provide opportunities for them to be together, apart from practice time and competition. Think about doing a community service project together or assist them in earning their 2009 Mark Discipleship Award. The time spent with them will be a rich reward to both them and you.
6. **Everybody Wins:** Keep competition healthy. The intent of competition is to motivate quizzers to do their best work while memorizing the Word. What do you think happens after unhealthy competition is over? The team who is willing to win at any cost is the only one having a good time. Teams within the district may drop out and quizzers can get discouraged. However, healthy competition works to motivate both teams and individuals, so make sure that your quizzers are competing with good attitudes and right motives. Reach out to new coaches and network with others in your district. Make sure that your quizzers are friendly to other teams. If they are, competitions will be fun and they will look forward to both their individual study time and their time together with other teams.
7. **Buy Donuts:** Ok, maybe it doesn't have to be donuts, but reward your team! Similar to competition, when done right, little things like incentives and rewards can be nice motivators. Unexpected rewards are always a hit! However, if done too often, even rewards lose their value and create an environment of entitlement. If you do it in an effort to motivate improved performance, don't over do it.

God bless you as you start your new season. If there is anything that I can help you with this year, please let me know!

Bernie Elliot, Jr.  
Assemblies of God National Bible Quiz Coordinator

## BIBLE QUIZ OFFICE TRANSITION

Many thanks to Jason Womelsdorf for the past year of service to the Bible Quiz community. Jason will be following God's calling into a new area of life in the military and we seek everyone's prayers of blessing and protection as he embarks on this new adventure.

During this transition time, please send all office correspondence to Pastor Bernie Elliot at [elliottbq@aol.com](mailto:elliottbq@aol.com) or to [bq@ag.org](mailto:bq@ag.org).

## NEW TO BIBLE QUIZ?

Do you know a coach at your church or in your district who is new to Bible Quiz? Make sure that they are signed up for all of the newest news and updates on *Coach's Connection* each month. To subscribe, coaches may send their first and last name, church, city, state, and e-mail address to [elliottbq@aol.com](mailto:elliottbq@aol.com) or to [bq@ag.org](mailto:bq@ag.org). Several previous issues of *Coach's Connection* can be found at [www.biblequiz.com](http://www.biblequiz.com).

## NATIONAL BIBLE QUIZ ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The National Advisory Committee will be meeting in October to seek God's direction for the Bible Quiz ministry. One of the subjects of the meeting will be how to grow the ministry of Bible Quiz. Everything is on the table. The NAC is asking that the entire BQ community of coaches, quizzers and officials give their input. This can be about anything from how we structure the ministry, to how we promote, to what color the books are (if that is an issue for you). There have been some interesting ideas kicked around on the forum recently. Will they happen? We don't know, but they definitely will be discussed.

Doug Black will be coordinating the response from the forum. Feel free to send your thoughts directly to him by e-mail at [dougbq@bellsouth.net](mailto:dougbq@bellsouth.net). All responses will be compiled and brought before the committee. Responses should be sent to Doug by the end of September to have in time for the October meeting. Thanks in advance for all of your help. We are excited about your ideas!

## MARK BREAKDOWN AND INFORMATION

What an excellent time as we get ready for a new book in the Bible Quiz cycle—the Gospel of Mark. New products are developed and people across the country are excited to memorize a new book of God's Word. Start recruiting your students now. For tips on recruiting from coaches around the country, check out "Recruiting Quizzers" under Coaching Tips at [www.biblequiz.com](http://www.biblequiz.com). For a complete description on each of the products go to [www.biblequiz.com](http://www.biblequiz.com). The breakdown of material for competition will be:

### A-League

Meet #1	Chapters 1-5	192 verses
Meet #2	Chapters 6-9	178 verses
Meet #3	Chapters 10-12	128 verses
Meet #4	Chapters 13-16	<u>175 verses</u>
		Total: 673 verses

### Novice League

Meet #1	Chapters 1-4	149 verses
Meet #2	Chapters 5-6	99 verses
Meet #3	Chapters 7-8	74 verses
Meet #4	Chapters 9-10	<u>100 verses</u>
		Total: 422 verses



## MARK CORRECTIONS AND CHANGES

Thanks to everyone who caught the mistakes and sent the corrections to the office. Please note the following corrections for the 2008-2009 season over the Gospel of Mark:

### Chapter Analysis

Mark Chapter 1: Section Title "Jesus Drives out and an Evil Spirit" should read "Jesus Drives out an Evil Spirit"

Mark Chapter 2: Individuals, Abiathar 16 should read 26

### Application Questions

- 1) The last question on page 4 should read "What did Jesus mean..."
- 2) Page 5 # 4—simply delete the word "Statement." Should be just "Application Question."
- 3) Page 5 # 6—the word "follow" in the answer should read "follower."

### Coach Pro CD ROM

When you click on the Chapter Test, Galatians chapter 2 will appear rather than Mark chapter 2. Just run the Update Manager; there should be an icon on your desktop that says "2008 Mark Update Manager." When you run it, the file called ChapterTests.bq-ques should be listed with a checkmark beside it. Then just click the "Download" button.

### Bible Quiz Rule Book

During Mark the Bible Quiz Rule Book will no longer be for sale but will be available in a downloadable version. More information to come.



## ON YOUR MARK VIDEO SERIES by General Superintendent Dr. George O. Wood

If you didn't already know, our General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God, Dr. George O. Wood, is a phenomenal Biblical preacher. The son of missionary parents to China and Tibet, Dr. Wood holds a doctoral degree in pastoral theology from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, and a juris doctorate from Western State University College of Law in Fullerton, California. With a wealth of knowledge and depth of teaching, Dr. Wood will lead you on a marvelous journey through the Scripture you are studying. You and your students will not want to miss his video teaching series on the Book of Mark.

For more information or to view/listen to the series on the Book of Mark go to [www.georgeowood.com](http://www.georgeowood.com) and click on the "On Your Mark" icon. On this site you may watch the video pod cast, listen to the audio pod cast and/or subscribe to an e-mail edition of this series.

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### What is the FIRE BIBLE: Student Edition?

The FIRE BIBLE: Student Edition is the first true Pentecostal study Bible for students, igniting a generation in the Word of God. This FIRE BIBLE contains the most comprehensive study notes of any student Bible, ever. An amazing resource that quizzers will not want to miss. Don't have a FIRE BIBLE? Go to [fbse.ag.org](http://fbse.ag.org) for information on how to purchase yours today.

### FIRE STARTERS at [fbse.ag.org/firestarters.cfm](http://fbse.ag.org/firestarters.cfm)

A new National Youth Ministries resource for you to utilize this year are the Fire Starters. Each downloadable pdf contains Fire Starters for two days of study. You can download these free of charge or simply refer to them online.

### INDIVIDUALS (SELF-GUIDED STUDY)

Fire Starters are designed to help you read and study through the New Testament in one year, regardless of when and where you start. But, even if you aren't following the one-year track, you can still select the Fire Starter that corresponds to whatever you are reading in the Bible on any given day. The Fire Starters provide 10 to 20 minutes of study, including the Bible reading. Check out the Fire Starters for the Book of Mark as you begin studying for the quiz season!

### FAMILIES

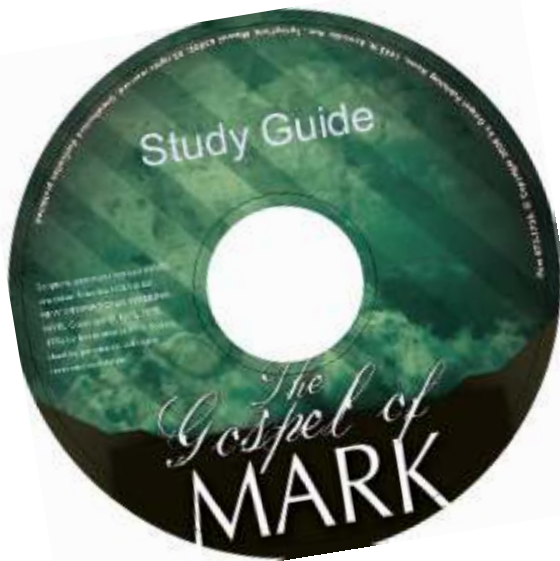
Fire Starters can also be used to facilitate family time in God's Word. The family leader can start by referring to the "THINK" section. Sometimes this gives background information on the passage. Other times it may be an illustration that could remind family members of personal examples or opinions they could share. Often, the first section contains thought-provoking questions that can spark some opening discussion.

### SMALL GROUPS and BIBLE QUIZ TEAMS

The Fire Starters are highly adaptable for small group leadership and study, directly linked to the notes and commentary in the FIRE BIBLE: STUDENT EDITION. The wide array of questions in the "RESPOND" section will provide more than enough interaction to fill most small group discussion times. Use Fire Starters together with the Mark Bible Quiz Study Guide with your Bible Quiz team this year.

## MARK PRODUCTS TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE

We hope that the new series of products over the Gospel of Mark will be an enormous blessing to you and your team. Maybe you have looked at the Study Guide in the past, and maybe this product is totally new to you. But we assure you that this is a product you will want to use with your quizzers this year.



Now reproducible within your own church, this combined resource will help students and coaches alike as you study, understand and apply the scriptures to your life. With a fantastic commentary on the Book of Mark, it's perfect for individual devotional time or group studies such as Sunday school class settings. Devotional questions and application points provide opportunities for personal application and reflection. Application points also allow the student to work on the 2008-2009 Mark Discipleship Award.

Coach Susan Paula from Michigan says: "We have 43 kids signed up to quiz this season in TBQ. After reviewing the Discipleship Award requirements our pastor recommended we make it part of our ministry. Once a month we will extend our practice time to go over the Discipleship application points & projects and help the kids get started on each requirement. Each student will be responsible to complete the work on their own, but we hope to give them lots of support. Thank you for providing this opportunity."

To order the Mark Study Guide (product 731738) and other Bible Quiz products call GPH Customer Service at 1.800.641.4310 or order online at [www.gospelpublishing.com](http://www.gospelpublishing.com). For a complete listing of products and their descriptions go to [www.biblequiz.com](http://www.biblequiz.com) under the "Gospel of Mark" section.

## CHECK OUT [www.biblequiz.com](http://www.biblequiz.com) FOR NEW AND UPDATED INFORMATION

There is so much new happening in the world of Bible Quiz and we hope that you will check out the resources at [www.biblequiz.com](http://www.biblequiz.com). Nine training opportunities and retreats are available for your team this year, as well as 16 tournaments held across the nation. These training opportunities and tournaments will allow your kids to sharpen their skills while connecting with other students across the country who are as passionate about the Lord and His Word as they are. At [www.biblequiz.com](http://www.biblequiz.com) you can also view updates on coaching tips, review Mark question formats from the official writer, print off National and Master Memorization guidelines and forms, and keep up with upcoming news, events and resources that will be available in the future.

## 2008-2009 Season Opening Tournaments

Coaches—mark your calendars now to attend some of the best Bible Quiz tournaments in the country. Season opening tournaments are:

### 2008 Empire Classic

September 20, 2008

First Assembly of God, Binghamton, NY

Divisions: "A" and "Novice"

Writers: John Hunter (A), CJ Barna (Novice)

Material: Mark 1-4 (A); Mark 1-3 (Novice)

Registration: \$50 per team

Please contact Dave Pizzolo by phone at 347.996.9603 or e-mail [dave@pizzolo.com](mailto:dave@pizzolo.com) to register or for more information.

### 23rd Annual Michiana Tournament

October 25, 2008

Calvary Assembly of God, Elkhart, IN

Divisions: Five divisions with 12 teams in each.  
The brackets are as follows:

- Championship (national and regional-level "A" teams)
- Challenger ("A" teams)
- Crusaders (experienced "Novice" teams; 6-8 grade)
- Contenders (1st year "Novice" teams; 6-8 grade)
- Competitors ("B-League" teams; 7-12 grade)

Material: Mark 1-6 (Championship and Challenger);  
Mark 1-5 for all other brackets

Registration: \$60 per team

Please contact John Hunter (11667 Melridge Drive, Middlebury, IN 46540) at 574.825.7338 after 6:00 pm or at [indianatbq@hotmail.com](mailto:indianatbq@hotmail.com) for more information.

### Gold Cup Tournament

October 24-25 2008

Trinity Church, Cedar Hill, TX

Divisions: Gold, Silver and Novice

Writer: John Sullivan

Registration: \$65 per team  
\$5 per quizzer for One-on-One

Contact Information: Misty Flowers  
at [mflowers@trinitychurch.org](mailto:mflowers@trinitychurch.org) or  
972.291.2501 ext. 1152.

## 2008-2009 Additional Question Sets

### Karl Dawson Questions

100 sets now available for \$50 over the Gospel of Mark by Karl Dawson, former National Finals quizzing coach and author of BQ Coach Blog. Sets are written to help "A" quizzers master material and to help Novice quizzers develop their skills. A new system was used this year to ensure sets are better organized. Set breakdown includes:

- 2 sets per chapter (32)
- 4 sets per "A" section (16)
- 4 sets per Novice section (16)
- 16 sets over Mark 1-10
- 20 sets over Mark 1-16

All proceeds go to help a new Bible Quiz ministry get started. To order, or for more information, details and samples, visit [www.bqcoach.blogspot.com](http://www.bqcoach.blogspot.com), [www.agtbq.com](http://www.agtbq.com) or e-mail Karl at [karltdawson@mac.com](mailto:karltdawson@mac.com).

### Kevin Dawson

Kevin Dawson, former National Finals coach and quizzing with 20 years experience in Bible Quiz, has 100 sets of Mark questions for \$40. Practice sets contain two sets per chapter, five per league and 48 comprehensive, including 24 comprehensive sets focusing on concordance. Questions ship via e-mail and can be ordered online by credit card at [www.agtbq.com](http://www.agtbq.com). To pay by check please e-mail [kevinraydawson@gmail.com](mailto:kevinraydawson@gmail.com). Kevin is also available to write for tournaments.

### Richard Fair

Richard Fair has 60 sets of Mark questions available. Set breakdown includes:

- 1 set per chapter
- 8 sets covering the first four league breakdowns
- 3 sets written at League Finals level
- 3 sets written at District Finals level
- 3 sets written at Regional Finals level
- 3 sets written at National Finals level

The price for these sets is \$30. Please contact Richard at [richardcfair@gmail.com](mailto:richardcfair@gmail.com) or 417.818.9753.

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