



Hiding God's Word in Kid's Hearts

by Dan Rector
National JBQ Festival Coordinator

The Junior Bible Quiz match was almost over, and we were behind. This was the state championship, and there was only one question left. The quizmaster read the final question, and Darrel hit his buzzer to give the answer. I held my breath as Darrel began to respond. Would he answer correctly? Would we win the game and be the state champions?

Many people have discovered that Junior Bible Quiz (JBQ) is one of the best programs available to help children commit the Word of God to heart and learn to apply it to their lives. As one of the fastest growing programs in children's ministry today, JBQ in the U.S. involves more than 10,000 children and over 2,000 teams.

What Is JBQ?

JBQ is a quizzing program that uses the *Bible Fact-Pak* as its foundational curriculum. The *Bible Fact-Pak* is a teaching tool that helps children learn, understand, and apply important Bible truths. It includes over 500 questions and answers.

Some of the questions provide background about the Bible and its contents. Other questions

explore the teachings and doctrine within the Bible. All of the questions together give children a solid basis for a strong and lasting relationship with God.

The success of JBQ involves some exciting competition principles. During JBQ meets, two teams of four quizzers each sit behind a set of buzzers. Each quizzer may activate his own



buzzer at any point during the reading of the question, and the first one to buzz in gets to answer. If the answer is correct, the quizzer's team is awarded points based on the difficulty of the question. Through the competition of quizzing, children learn to win without boasting, lose without complaining, and treat opponents and officials with respect.

The Goal of JBQ

JBQ, based on cooperative competition, motivates children

Did Darrel answer correctly?

All eyes were on Darrel as he finished the answer to the question. There was a moment of silence before the quizmaster responded, "Correct for 10 points." We won the match! We were the state champions.

That day Darrel answered an important question. I knew that throughout life Darrel would face many more important questions. Would he continue to answer correctly? I strongly believed that Darrel's background of Bible knowledge would help him make correct decisions throughout his life.

to learn the questions and answers in the *Bible Fact-Pak* and helps assess their knowledge. But the primary goal of JBQ is to plant the Word deep in the hearts of children so they may grow in close relationship with God.

Elementary-age children, especially in grades three through six, are often referred to as being in the "golden age of memorization." Poems, Bible verses, and stories learned at this age can usually be quoted for a lifetime. How important it is to capitalize on the ability to memorize God's Word!

When a child commits God's Word to memory, the Holy Spirit can help him recall those words for guidance and strength. For example, a child tempted to yell angry words may stop when the Holy Spirit reminds him, "In your anger do not sin" (Ephesians 4:26). Helping children hide God's Word in their hearts will not only help them know right from wrong now, it will also guide their decisions in the years to come.

Being a part of JBQ is not the only way to help kids learn about God's Word. Children within your local church can be challenged to learn the *Bible Fact-Pak* questions, beginning with the suggested review questions in Radiant Life's Primary, Middler,

and Preteen Sunday School Teacher Guides. Children can compete against themselves as they answer these *Bible Fact-Pak* questions correctly, or Sunday School classes may want to challenge each other to quiz matches similar to spelling bees.

As children learn the all-important truths in God's Word through JBQ and the *Bible Fact-Pak* on their own, they will develop a love for the Bible and an understanding that its truth can guide their lives daily. Success in Junior Bible Quiz is not dependent on winning in competition. Success comes when a child internalizes and develops a love for God's Word, allowing it to guide him throughout his life.

On December 30, 1995, Darrel was tragically killed in an automobile accident. The following were the final words of my eulogy at his funeral:

"If this were a quiz match today and we were on the final question, Darrel would answer correctly! It may sound something like this:

"Question. Question number 20 for 20 points. Quotation Question. Quote the verse of Philippians that expresses what the Christian's attitude should be toward both life and death.

"'Red two,' the quizmaster would call. Darrel would respond with the quote: 'Philippians 1:21, For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.'"

Questions for Further Study—

1. Why is it important to commit God's Word to memory?
2. What is the "golden age of memorization"?



This article appears in the *Junior Bible Quiz Manual*, a how-to book containing everything you need to know to start, run, and improve a Junior Bible Quiz team. The *Junior Bible Quiz Manual* contains information for quizzers, parents, coaches, and area coordinators, and includes several reproducible pages. This and other JBQ products are available from Gospel Publishing House, 1-800-641-4310, or visit gospelpublishing.com.