

**BEGINNER BIBLE BOWL PRACTICE MADE EASY**  
***THE GAME PLAN...THE SCHEDULE...FUN & GAMES...COOL REWARDS***

***THE GAME PLAN***

A Game Plan for Success

Teaching a group of 5 to 30 elementary school children to learn the Bible and truly have a command of the Scripture material is an honorable goal. Finding a way to make it happen can seem more intimidating than parting the Red Sea. However, if you think about how God allows us grow as Christians, He doesn't expect us to mature overnight; rather, He gives us baby steps to take, one by one, until we reach the full measure of Christ.

We use a similar approach with our Beginner Bible Bowl weekly practices. We break down the entire season's text into "baby steps": easily digestible segments of 10 verses at a time (approximately 30 verses total for a single practice night). Then we throw in a few carnival games, relay races and the chance to earn "Beginner Bible Bowl (BBB) bucks" to spend on candy and toys. This game plan for teaching the Word of God has been both fun and rewarding for the children who have participated with us. We believe it is a simple formula that can be implemented in any church, school or organization with a few dedicated volunteers who are willing to help make it happen.

A Schedule that Works

If you tell a group of kids that you're going to study the Bible for an hour and 45 minutes, you'll probably lose half of them at "hello." However, if you can engage them as soon as they arrive with some fun, carnival-style games, give them the chance to earn BBB bucks right away and then break the evening into short segments of study interspersed with relay races and games, you'll be amazed at how quickly the time passes and how much fun they'll have while they are learning.

Assuming your weekly practice time runs from 6:15 to 8:00 p.m., here's a schedule that seems to work very well:

<b>6:15 – 6:30pm</b>	15 Minutes – Carnival-style Games
<b>6:30 – 6:45pm</b>	15 Minutes – Players Scripture Reading
<b>6:45 – 7:05pm</b>	20 Minutes – Get It! Got It! Go! Session #1 – 10 Verses/Question Study, 60 Second Challenge, Active Relay
<b>7:05 – 7:25pm</b>	20 Minutes – Get It! Got It! Go! Session #2
<b>7:25 – 7:45pm</b>	20 Minutes – Get It! Got It! Go! Session #3
<b>7:45 – 8:00pm</b>	15 Minutes – Check Homework, Quote Time, Award BBB Bucks, Open Reward Zone and Cookies

On the following pages, we will explain what each part of this schedule looks like and how you can implement it at your own Beginner Bible Bowl team practice.

## ***THE SCHEDULE***

### **6:15 – 6:30pm      Carnival-style Games**

- **Goal:** To allow kids to ease into practice with fun and games and review questions from previous week.
- **How it looks:**
  1. Prior to 6:15, room has been set up with four carnival-style game stations and “Q&A” stations, with volunteers ready to go at each station.
  2. Kids find a partner and then approach a volunteer at a “Q&A” station.
  3. Volunteer asks both kids a series of 10 questions, which they answer “head-to-head” to provide a more quick-recall style experience.
  4. After completing questions, kids then choose to play one of four carnival-style games, earning 3 to 5 BBB bucks per game.
  5. Time permitting, kids can then return to another volunteer, answer 10 more questions, and play another carnival-style game.

### **6:30 – 6:45pm      Scripture Reading**

- **Goal:** To provide kids the benefit of reading the week’s Scripture aloud and/or highlighting it as it’s being read.
- **How it looks:**
  1. All kids are encouraged to open their BBB text to the week’s Scripture with highlighters ready.
  2. Volunteer leads the group in reading the verses aloud, allowing kid volunteers to read a verse or two at a time. (This works well if you have a microphone handy.)

### **:45 – 7:45pm      Get it! Got it! Go! Sessions**

- **Goal:** To break down the study material for the week into three, 20-minute sessions.
- **How it Looks:**
  1. Each session consists of three main activities: 8 minutes of study time (“**Get it!**”), 4 minutes of review time (“**Got it!**”) and 8 minutes of active relay games to reinforce what they’ve just studied (“**GO!**”).
  2. Each session focuses on only ONE page of Rapid Fire questions (available through National Bible Bowl).
  3. The goal of each weekly practice is to complete at least three of these 20-minute sessions, which should cover approximately 30 verses of Scripture per week.

### **Get it! (8 minutes)**

- **Goal:** To study 10 Rapid Fire verses and study questions.
- **How it Looks:** The key component to facilitating effective study is to have small groups.
  1. Divide the entire group into teams of 4-6 players, with a minimum of two volunteers assigned to each group.
  2. Assign each volunteer two to three players.
  3. Volunteers will read aloud the 10 verses and questions from the Rapid Fire book to the kids in their group.
  4. Volunteers will ask the kids to answer all questions associated with each verse as quickly as possible. The goal is to get each group to go through the same questions as many times as possible in the eight-minute “Get it!” period.



## ***THE SCHEDULE (cont.)***

### **Got it! (4 minutes)**

- **Goal:** To develop speedy recall by answering as many questions as possible in two, 60-second intervals.
- **How it Looks:**
  1. Keep all kids in the same small groups of two to three players per volunteer.
  2. Volunteer asks Rapid Fire questions to one player at a time, going around the group so every player is answering.
  3. Volunteers should keep track of how many questions his/her group answers correctly.
  4. Each team is encouraged to answer as many questions as possible to maximize the team's ability to earn BBB Bucks (5 to 10 BBB bucks awarded to EACH member of the team; teams with higher average number of correct questions per player will receive 10 bucks per player, while those with a lower average receive 5 per player).

### **GO! (8 minutes)**

- **Goal:** To have FUN learning God's Word! This is an active relay that will require movement combined with review of the Rapid Fire questions studied during the **Get it!** and **Got it!** segments of the session. Additionally, teams will earn BBB Bucks that will be divided among the kids based on how well they perform the relays.
- **How it Looks:**
  1. Prior to the GO! Segment, a coordinator provides each team with items needed for the relay (e.g., nets, ping-pong balls, Dixie cups, etc.).
  2. Combine small groups of kids into the original four to six-player teams.
  3. One volunteer in each team becomes the designated reader of Rapid Fire questions; the remaining volunteers will play the relay game alongside the kids. (One volunteer may need to facilitate the game relay by holding a target, etc.)
  4. Kids will line up and participate in pre-planned relay-style games after answering a Rapid Fire question one at a time. For example, the first kid on the team may answer a question and then throw a ball into a target that is held by one of the other volunteers. While Player One is throwing the ball, Player Two is answering his/her Rapid Fire question and ready to play the relay game.
  5. Volunteers should keep track of his/her team's score in the relay (e.g., how many ping-pong balls were caught in the net).
  6. BBB Bucks are earned by either achieving a designated score in the game or by comparing scores with another team in the room (for example, if two teams are compared, the team scoring highest receives 10 BBB Bucks per player and the team scoring lowest gets 5 BBB Bucks per player).

***THE SCHEDULE (cont.)*****7:45pm – 8:00pm      Wrap-Up and Rewards**

- **Homework Check** – Each week the kids are given the opportunity to complete homework consisting of a bubble test, quote review sheets, a (not)fill-in-the-blank sheet, and/or a Quiz Pro. Each completed segment is worth 5 BBB Bucks.
- **Quote Time** – Each week kids are assigned a set number of quotes (usually 3 to 5) to memorize. Volunteers will listen to kids recite any assigned quotes for the week. Each quote is worth 20 BBB Bucks. Maximum of 5 quotes for BBB Bucks each week.
- **Group BBB Bucks Awarded** – BBB Bucks are distributed to players by volunteers based on teams' total earnings for the night, plus any individual BBB Bucks earned for homework completed or quotes recited.
- **Cookie Time** – Each night kids get the chance to celebrate hard work and play with cookies or snacks.
- **Reward Zone** – Kids have an opportunity to shop for candy and toys in the Reward Zone each night, using the BBB Bucks they have just earned (or have been saving).

## ***FUN AND GAMES***

### **Totally Awesome Fun Relay Games**

We have used our imagination and inexpensive items purchased from stores like Wal-Mart and Dollar Tree to provide lots of “Minute-to-Win-It”-type games to help reinforce the Scriptures we have studied. Here is a sample of some of the games that we play.

- **Cup Stacking** – Use small solo cups. Have teams race to build their tower of cups by answering one question at a time relay style. Typical tower is 28 cups. (7-6-5-4-3-2-1) Keep cups in Ziploc Baggies and have coach put cups back in baggie to complete challenge.
- **Wood Block Tower** – Give each team 25 Blocks and have them build a tower one piece at a time while answering questions. Team with tallest tower gets bonus bucks. This is crazy fun when time is running out and the tower comes crumbling down as they try to get one more piece on the tower.
- **Catch** – There are millions of versions of catch. Use any ball (one per team) and any item you can catch with (cup, bowl, paper towel, hat, etc). Have players answer questions relay style and earn points for a successful throw and catch. Have one of the young adult leaders be the catcher and make sure he/she is dressed in something silly.
- **Pom-Pom Blowout** – Use pom-pom craft balls and race to the end blowing your pom-pom with one blow at a time. Always take turns answering questions.
- **Sombrero Hat Catch** - Give the kids ping pong balls and have them toss them onto a volunteer wearing the sombrero while answering questions.
- **Games are endless.** Use your imagination with silly things in the craft closet. Buy some goofy clothing accessories or bring some from home to dress up or embarrass your volunteers. It’s great for them to be silly with the kids. Above all – be silly. Or, as King David said, “Be Undignified for God.”



## ***COOL REWARDS***

### **The Beginner Bible Bowl BBB Buck Reward Zone**

What are the benefits of learning and memorizing God's Word? The Bible itself tells us the rewards are innumerable. Psalm 119 says "sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" (v. 103). But how can we help our kids truly "own" these promises for themselves? We believe that giving kids real-life "sweetness" (e.g., trinkets & treats) as weekly motivators can encourage them to learn and memorize God's Word far beyond their (and our) expectations! Using this system of BBB Bucks has consistently proven to be effective, with kids earning as many as 7,000 BBB Bucks during the course of the season and learning more than 75 Scripture verses by heart!

The BBB Buck Reward Zone is a critical element to our practices. Kids love to shop – who am I kidding, we all love to shop– especially with free money! Well, it's not exactly free, the kids really have to earn it through homework, memorizing Scripture, or competing in silly games over Bible questions. How cool is that? I promise you...this works. Some kids spend their bucks immediately, some save almost the whole year. We believe an incentive to spend more time in God's Word is better than no incentive to spend more time on a video game.

Be creative with your Reward Zone. Have parents or willing donors buy candy, Dollar Store items, and gift cards. A good time to encourage donors to purchase candy is immediately after a holiday (e.g., Halloween, Christmas, Easter). Remember that all candy should be individually wrapped. In addition, it's probably a good idea to avoid nut-filled candy (as so many children these days have allergies).

The BBB Buck Reward Zone works well if you designate different levels of rewards so that, whether kids earn 50 BBB Bucks a week or 150, each one has the opportunity to enjoy immediate rewards for the time that they have invested in learning the Scripture. To follow are some suggested levels and prizes for a Reward Zone that seem to be effective in motivating kids with different abilities and dedication levels to study the Bible Bowl material.

***COOL REWARDS (cont.)***

**1<sup>st</sup> Level BBB Buck Prizes - 5 BBB Bucks**

- Tootsie rolls
- Dumdum suckers
- Laffy Taffy

**2<sup>nd</sup> Level BBB Buck Prizes – 25 BBB Bucks**

- Individual-sized candy bars – M&Ms, Butterfingers, KitKats, Hershey chocolate  
(These usually come in packets of 7 to 10 and cost about a dollar a package.)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Level BBB Buck Prizes – 50 Bucks**

- AirHeads  
(We purchase 4-5 boxes of full-sized AirHeads—I think there are 50 per box)

**4<sup>th</sup> Level BBB Buck Prizes – 100 Bucks**

- Full-sized candy bars - M&Ms, Hershey chocolate, Skittles, Starburst, 3 Musketeers  
(You can buy boxes of brand-name candy at Sam's, Costco, and Target)

**5<sup>th</sup> Level BBB Buck Prizes – 250 BBB Bucks**

- Monster Candy Boxes - Nerds, Whoppers, Milkduds, Sours, etc.  
(These are the kinds of candy boxes you might see at the movie theaters; normally they are about a dollar a box; any assortment would be fine except **no nuts**).

**6<sup>th</sup> Level BBB Buck Prizes – 350 BBB Bucks**

- Really Cool Clearance Items \$1-4 Bucks
- The Very Best Dollar Tree Gifts

**7<sup>th</sup> Level BBB Buck Prizes - 500 BBB Bucks**

- \$5.00 gift cards to kids' favorite stores

We have used the model that each BBB Bucks is worth \$.01. We started with our top reward, a \$5 Gift Card, and made it worth 500 BBB Bucks. It is our goal that a player that completes all of our BBB Buck-earning opportunities for a month (see table below) could earn a \$5 Gift Card for each block. Of course, we know that many won't save for that and would rather spend their money on the other cool trinkets or candy treats. Oriental Trader is a great resource for Reward Zone items. The last item we need to incorporate into this program is a local donation option where kids can turn in BBB Bucks and have a monetary value that would be matched by someone to give to charity.

**COOL REWARDS (cont.)**

**BBB Bucks Awarded Based on the Following:**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Number of Opportunities</b>	<b>Value of Each</b>	<b>Weekly Opportunity</b>	<b># Times in Block</b>	<b>BBB Buck Opportunity Per Block</b>
Quotes	5 per week	20 BBB Bucks	100 BBB Bucks	4 Times per Block	400 BBB Bucks per Block
Homework	4 per week	5 BBB Bucks	20 BBB Bucks	4 Times per Block	80 BBB Bucks per Block
Carnival Games	4 per week	3-5 BBB Bucks	Average 15 BBB Bucks	4 Times per Block	60 BBB Bucks per Block
Practice Games	6 per week	5-10 BBB Bucks	Average 40 BBB Bucks	4 Times per Block	160 BBB Bucks per Block
Quote Night			Only once a month	1 Time per Block	Coordinator's Choice

These sweet treats and fun rewards are temporary motivators. However, Jesus said, "My words shall never pass away." And, we believe the real rewards of Bible Bowl are truly eternal: growing a love for the Bible, sowing the Seed in the minds and hearts of children, developing the ability to change lives and affect others for eternity, enjoying the fun of competitive games, gaining friendships with likeminded Christian families, learning how to study and memorize material effectively, learning life skills of winning with humility and losing with grace, and honoring Jesus by digging into His Word and living it out in our lives.

The sooner you begin, the sooner your kids will WIN!!!



## *FINAL THOUGHTS*

### Methods We Have Found to Work

- **Players** – We do not expect our players to come to practice with the material already learned. We go over the material and play games so that they learn it while they are there. Then we send them home to practice that material for the week. We have found that parents and players like this better because there is not as much pressure on everyone. Hint: This has dramatically reduced our mid-season attrition rate.
- **Lead Coordinator** – One person from the organization will need to coordinate each week’s practice session. This coordinator’s responsibilities will include (but not be limited to) the following tasks:
  - Determine study material for each week (e.g., which pages from the Rapid Fire book and which Scriptures to read each night)
  - Set up four carnival-style games for practice opening
  - Divide each night’s attendees into proper teams for the Get It! Got It! GO! sessions
  - Serve as official timekeeper during all activities and maintain strict schedule of events throughout the night
  - Preset the three “GO!” session relay games (e.g., make sure to bring ping pong balls, nets, etc. needed for all teams)
  - Set up Reward Zone and delegate volunteers to work the Reward Zone and distribute cookies/snacks
- **Volunteers/Coaches** – We provide all the material for our coaches/volunteers. We do not ask them to prepare, just to come willing to follow directions, read questions, play games and enjoy leading the children. This allows more people to come in and volunteer without the pressure of having to be prepared. (Playing games helps alleviate the stresses of the day, and most volunteers really enjoy our practice nights!)
- **Young Adult Leaders** – We actively recruit older siblings, older Bible Bowl Players or any other kid 6<sup>th</sup> grade – 12<sup>th</sup> grade to volunteer. Once again, they just need to show up with a willing spirit. We do ask them to play along in the games with the kids. Young kids love to see older kids playing games. We try to have them wear silly hats or cool sunglasses during the games. This also helps you get your ratio down to two volunteers for every player. This is a great service opportunity for teenagers that looks good on a college application!

If you have any questions about how we implement our weekly Beginner Bible Bowl practice sessions, please don’t hesitate to contact us. We will be glad to help you get your program up and running. The goal of planting the seed of God’s Word in the hearts of our young people is a high calling, and we love making it fun for the kids and want to see as many as possible come to enjoy everything that Beginner Bible Bowl has to offer. We’re in this together!

**Southeast Christian Church Beginner Bible Bowl**

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