



Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese  
Department of Youth and Parish Ministries

## Archdiocesan and Diocesan Bible Bowl Rules

Effective and Revised October of 2016

### Topics

Each year the text to be studied is chosen by the Department of Youth and Parish Ministry and is posted online at <http://www.OrthodoxYouth.org>, along with study guides, practice questions, current rules, the team sign-up forms, and other pertinent information.

### Participants

Each parish and mission of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America is eligible to enter one teen team in each age category. The Pre-Teen and Teen Team consist of three (3) members and up to two alternates are permitted. The Adult Teams consist of two or three members (2 or 3) (depending on the diocesan practice) and one alternate is allowed.

- Pre-Teens, ages 10-12
- Teens, ages: 13-19\*
- Adults Ages 20 and above

\*The exception to the teen category is that the diocese of Los Angeles and the West has two teen divisions ages 13-15 and 16-19, all other rules apply. The winning 16-19-year-old team will represent the Diocese of the West in the Archdiocesan Competition. The winning teen team in all other dioceses will represent their diocese.

Each Team may have one or two alternates enter at the halfway point of the Bible Bowl. At least one team member must stay for the entire competition.

### Questions

All questions will come directly from the assigned text. All Biblical texts will come from *The Orthodox Study Bible*.

Those wishing to gain more insight into the Biblical text may want to use the footnotes in The Orthodox Study Bible. These notes are especially helpful as they expand upon the text, though questions will not come from the footnotes.

The Orthodox Study Bible may be purchased online from the Ancient Faith Store at <http://store.ancientfaith.com/orthodox-study-bible>

Some questions may be phrased as multiple choices, fill in the blank or true and false. These questions will be asked in a way that can be answered with one word or a few words or at most, a short phrase.

Each team will be expected to answer all questions during the bowl using the following format: For at least the first round, each team, in turn will be asked to give an oral answer to the question. When a team is asked for an oral answer, the team members may confer among themselves to arrive at the single team answer. As one team confers to give their oral answer, all other teams will individually write down their answer. Teams giving written answers may not confer with their teammates. In following rounds, oral questions may continue or as a means of saving time all questions in round two and on may all be written with no oral questions.

*Example: When question (1) is asked, the team responding to the question will give one oral answer from the entire team. Before this team responds out loud, all other participants will write down their answer on their own private sheet. At a signal from the timekeeper, the monitors will collect their team's individual sheets compiling only the number of correct answers while the team responding orally to the question will give their answer by the selected member. After the Bible Bowl MC confirms their answer is correct or incorrect the monitors will announce the number of correct answers for their team..*

**Score:**

A correct oral answer will count for 3 points. An incorrect oral answer will count for zero points. Teams giving written answers will be awarded one (1) point for each correct written answer. The total number of points awarded to a team for both oral and written questions will determine the final team scores. One round is completed when all teams have been asked to answer an oral question. The number of rounds in the bowl can be determined by the number of teams participating or by the time allotted. One and one-half hours should be considered the minimum amount of time for a complete Bible Bowl, though no Bible Bowl should exceed 2 hours.

**Tiebreaker:**

If a tie should occur amongst the teen Bible Bowl teams, a tiebreaker question will be conducted, as there will be only one Diocesan Teen Team winner that will represent the diocese on the archdiocese level. The same rule will apply on the archdiocese level so there will be one Archdiocesan winner.

**Judges:**

All answers will come from the assigned text. The participants have a right to challenge the answer, but the final decision is in the hands of the judges once they review the

challenge against the actual text as found in the Orthodox Study Bible or other non-biblical text.

The Judges are the sole authority on whether the answer is correct or incorrect. Should the judges feel there is a discrepancy in the text, such that the question was misleading and confusing they will direct that question, and its answer, not be used and another question be substituted. The three (3) judges should be assigned from members of the clergy or other individuals who have a degree in Orthodox Theology from an Orthodox Theological School. The Judges will be selected or approved by the Chairperson of this event (who is selected by the Chairman of Department of Youth and Parish Ministries of the Archdiocese or his designate, such as the Diocesan SOYO Spiritual Advisor and or Diocesan Youth Director). It is preferred that judges be chosen from those that do not have a participating team in the Bible Bowl.

**Bible Bowl Coordinator:** Please make sure the MC has had time to look over the questions before the event. The MC should be well versed in the Scriptures. The Questions will be prepared and chosen by the Archdiocese Department of Youth and Parish Ministry.

Choice of questions: A list of question numbers will be provided by the Department of Youth from which each team's questions will be chosen randomly. A typical Bible Bowl on the Archdiocesan level will consist of 5 rounds, approximately 35 questions, within a two-hour time frame. A Typical Bible Bowl on the Diocesan level will be 1 to 4 rounds depending on the number of teams participating and the number of questions that can be asked and answered in the approximate 90 to 120 minutes of a typical Bible Bowl.

### **Timekeeper**

All questions will be asked and repeated once by the MC. The timekeeper starts the clock running for Ten (10) seconds upon completion of the question being asked for the second time. The timekeeper shall signal when the answering time is up. Ten (10) seconds will be allowed to answer a question then the score sheet is given to their monitor.

### **Monitors:**

One monitor is assigned to each team to check their answers and give the combined score for that team. It is recommended that each monitor be placed with a team from a different parish than their own home parish. The monitor is the spokesperson in the event a question needs to be asked to the judges. It is also the responsibility of the monitor to ensure that each team member is doing his or her own work.

### **Proper Attire:**

Participants are asked to dress appropriately for the Bible Bowl in a manner that represents their diocese and parish well in a public Church event. Participants are

representing their Diocese and should dress accordingly. Torn jeans or t-shirt attire would be considered inappropriate unless the t-shirt is an obvious parish or diocesan apparel.

**Suggestions to assist the coordinator with the Bible Bowl:**

It is best if the diocese festival coordinator oversees the teams and answers any questions needed during the bowl instead of reading the questions. The person reading the questions (the MC) should be knowledgeable in Scriptures and know how to pronounce names and places in the text of the questions. The person asking the question may be a clergyman or a lay person.

In addition, to make sure no one sees each other's written answer, it is suggested that carbon paper be used. You can purchase carbon paper at any paper supply store. Use two sheets of notebook paper with carbon between and this way the answer will only show up on the second sheet preventing a team member to see what the other participant has written down. The answers are written by using a "shish kebab stick" (wooden skewers – not more than 12" in length) and not a regular pen or pencil. You can purchase these sticks at any grocery store or online. The sheets should have numbered lines for each answer, so monitors will know which response is the current answer to the question being written.

This event is to be enjoyable, but also we need to take it seriously as many hours are spent studying for this event. The room should be quiet during the asking and answering of all questions and the cheering should be appropriate to the event.