

Youth Bible Drill

It's summertime and . . . the auditorium is crowded. A line of teenagers stretches across the stage . . . each teen has won his or her State Youth Bible Drill.

"Attention"

Each teenager has a Bible at his or her side.

"Present Bibles"

They lift their Bibles to waist high; one hand supports it while the other rests on top.

"Jonah"

Their eyes register recognition. They know this book!

"Start"

Within two seconds, each teenager has located Jonah, placed a finger on the book, and stepped forward. A gasp of awe escapes from the crowd.

Youth Bible Drill is an exciting way for teenagers to learn to use their Bibles to meet the challenges of life. It involves competition, but that is not what Youth Bible Drill is all about. If teenagers can locate a verse quickly, learn to answer a question using Scripture, become familiar enough with key verses that they can locate them from a few words — those teens are winners!

Youth can quickly become focused on winning the drill. It is important for leaders to remind them of the more profound goal — to learn to use the Book of Life to make a difference for today and tomorrow.

Youth Bible Drill is a church event for youth in grades 7 through 9. While preparing for the drill, youth develop skills in using their Bibles — locating books and verses, memorizing passages, and locating passages dealing with doctrinal and ethical concerns. Working together to prepare for the drill, teenagers increase their love for the Bible; its words and phrases become a part of them. Youth also gain poise and confidence as they respond to drill calls with speed and accuracy.

Youth Bible Drill can be part of a weekly discipleship group or can be a special weekly, one-hour activity. Youth who are members of a seventh, eighth, or ninth grade youth discipleship group are eligible to participate.

If your church does not have a Discipleship Training program, youth may participate in the drill with the help of an adult church member.

KJV and HCSB Drill Combined

In your church drill, all youth will probably be using the same Bible translation. However, in most State Drills, some youth will be using the King James Version while others will be using the Holman Christian Standard Version of the Bible. As a leader, your preparation will help alleviate confusion and help the drill run smoothly.

Before the drill, write out each verse in three columns, KJV in one column, and HCSB in the other column. This will help you to check the accuracy of answers, regardless of the translation being used.

The Identifying Verses Drill presents a challenge when KJV and HCSB are used in the same drill.

Explain to the youth that you will say a phrase from the Identifying Verses list as translated in King James, followed by the same phrase as translated in the Holman Christian Standard. Say the phrase in each translation before you give the command "Start."

Youth Bible Drill Verses and Cycles

The verses for Youth Bible Drill are grouped in three cycles. Youth who participate in the drill for all three years in which they are eligible will be learning different verses each year.

Verses for the Doctrinal Drill cycles are selected from the doctrines outlined in The Baptist Faith and Message. Youth are challenged to learn verses that are foundational to understanding Baptist distinctives.

While selecting verses for the new cycles, attention was given to language that would communicate clearly to youth today. Verses were chosen to help youth as they face the many challenges learning to walk daily with Christ.

Step-by-step...a suggested planning outline

You will need to provide training for the adults you enlist to assist in your church drill. All enlistment needs to be completed at least one week prior to the training session. This calendar includes a step-by-step outline of things to do to make your church drill positive and successful.

October

- Enlist the support of your pastor and church staff. Request a small budget to cover expenses for materials and driller recognition.
- Secure the dates for the State Drills. Set a date for the church drill (at least two weeks before state date). Include all dates on the church calendar.

- Contact your state Discipleship Training Department office and secure enough copies of the current cycle of drill verses for all active youth and youth leaders.
- Order copies of this guide for each judge and each adult who will be working with drillers.
- Enlist two or three adults to assist you as a training and preparation team. Provide each adult member of the training team with a copy of this guide.
- The State Youth Discipleship leader can be a valuable resource person. Call the state office and secure his/her name.

November–December

- Before you begin training youth, practice by yourself or with another adult who has worked with Bible Drill. Master the rules and commands. Practice giving the commands and calls at home in front of a mirror. Be consistent with the wording of the commands. Become thoroughly familiar with the rules.
- Learn the proper responses to the commands. Judges will be looking for any behavior that does not comply with drill rules. You must be familiar with the rules in order to caution participants when necessary.
- Announce the drill and its purpose at a time when all youth will be present.
- Contact all youth who participated in the Children’s Bible Drill and encourage them to continue building their Bible skills through the youth drill.
- Enlist youth.
- Consider offering a clinic where rules and helpful advice are given to potential drillers.
 - Older youth who participated in past drills could be enlisted to give a demonstration drill.
 - Speech and English teachers at local schools can provide valuable guidance in helping youth to practice speaking clearly and hints for becoming relaxed in front of an audience.
 - Consider calling area churches for the names of youth who have participated in Youth Bible Drill. Invite them to demonstrate a drill to your group. Save time for questions and answers.
- Set a time and place for drillers to meet weekly. Announce dates of training sessions, church and state drills.
- Begin weekly meetings. As you lead the weekly group sessions, work on developing skills in this order:
 1. handling the Bible with respect

2. accuracy in locating books and verses
3. knowledge of the Bible
4. finally, speed

January–February

- Continue weekly practice sessions and practice drills.
- Enlist youth to make posters promoting the church drill. Place articles in the church newsletter to generate interest and give support to drillers.
- Work with youth ministers in the area to schedule ways to feature youth who are preparing for the drill. A practice drill involving two or three churches might help drillers become more relaxed and better prepared for the actual drill.
- Pray for each youth and adult worker involved.
- Encourage youth. Take them to Adult classes to demonstrate their knowledge and skill. The adults will be impressed and will encourage the youth. Drillers will gain confidence as they drill before an audience.
- Encourage the adult leaders who are working with drillers.

March–April

- Provide opportunities for youth to participate in practice drills before different groups. Adult classes are good options. Drillers will benefit from adult support and encouragement.
- Plan to recognize the efforts of drill participants. A certificate of recognition or a small gift would help them remember the event. Some churches plan a special banquet for recognition. Be sure to recognize all participants, not just the winners.
- Begin enlistment. See detailed information below.
- Enlist judges. Details for judging a drill are included in this manual. Each judge will need:
 - (1) a copy of this guide,
 - (2) a copy of the drills you will call
 - (3) score sheets (one sheet per twelve drillers).
- Enlist a timekeeper. The timekeeper will need a stopwatch to accurately call time.
- Enlist the minister of music and a pianist to lead congregational singing while the judges are recording scores.
- Enlist someone to be responsible for the sound system.

- Enlist ushers. They will assist late-comers in being seated in order to assure that drillers are not disturbed by people moving in or out during a drill. The ushers should seat people only between individual drills.
- Schedule a room where the judges can go to tally scores.
- Conduct a training session at least three days before the drill for judges and others who will assist with the church drill. Go over the score sheet, criteria for judging, and specific duties of judges, timekeeper, ushers, and all others involved.
- Practice where the church drill will be held if possible.
- A sample warm-up drill is included. Use it as a guide to prepare for your church drill.
- Select the verses you will call for the church drill. Choose five calls and one alternate call for each drill. For the Book Drill and the Scripture-Searching Drill, choose the calls from any part of the Bible. For the other three drills, you must choose calls from the official annual list of cycle verses.
- Prepare a typewritten copy of your church drill calls.
- In your church drill, all youth will probably be using the same Bible translation. However, in the State Drills, some youth will be using the KJV and others will be using NIV or HCSB. Help your youth prepare for a drill using all three translations. See the information regarding a drill using all three.
- Gather items for the drill:
 - typewritten copy of the calls you will give for each drill (one copy for each judge)
 - numbered cards (with straight pins) for driller identification (you might use three colors if you have KJV and HCSB translations)
 - pencils
 - score sheets
 - calculators
 - stopwatch
 - copies of list of verses
 - item of recognition
- Conduct the church drill. Be available for drillers to get feedback on their scores. Help drillers understand ways they might prepare if they will be going on to another drill.
- Honor all drillers in some way. Options include: a small gift, certificate, or banquet.

Judging the Drill

You will need to provide training tools for the adults you enlist to score your church drill. Conduct a training session at least three days before the drill. Enlist persons who are interested in working with youth. Avoid enlisting parents of drillers.

Four judges plus a timekeeper are needed. Enlist the judges and timekeeper at least one week prior to the training session. Three judges will score regular points and one judge will score bonus points.

Participants in all drills should be identified by numbers that are visible to the leader and the judges. Refer to the drillers by the numbers they are wearing, not by name.

To assist in judging, limit the number of participants for each drill to 12.

Responsibilities

Regular Judges

- Regular Judges mark only mistakes (see below).
- Place the number of the mistake (1-5) in the corresponding box on the score sheet beside the call number and under the participant number for each driller who makes a mistake. (All others will receive points for the call.) The vertical numbers on the score sheet are the call numbers and the horizontal numbers are participant identification numbers.
- Score each participant as an individual.
- If two mistakes in one call are made, deduct points for only one mistake.

Bonus Judge

- The judge scoring bonus points will place a check mark in the box under the participant's identifying number on the score sheet for the call in which a bonus point has been earned.
- On each call, the participant who steps out first scores one bonus point.
- If two or more step out at the same time, each receives a bonus point.

Timekeeper

- The timekeeper will call "Time" eight seconds after the leader gives the command, "Start."
- The timekeeper needs a stopwatch to accurately call time.

Chairman of the Judges

One of the four judges will have the additional responsibility of serving as chairman and share results and mistakes with participants. Judges should try to give participants the benefit of any doubt.

Drill Caller

The drill caller is responsible for conducting the drill and checking the accuracy of answers. Be prepared to handle the unexpected. If some distraction occurs when the call is being given causing a youth to make a mistake in responding, instruct the judges to disregard that call and give an alternate call.

Youth may give the wrong reference, make a mistake in recitation, obviously have the wrong Scripture, become upset or begin to cry.

When a driller becomes upset, say: Number _____, we will wait just a minute before giving the next call. If a driller is so upset that it is difficult to continue, say: Number _____, if you like, you may excuse yourself from the drill. Or if you would like to continue, we will pause for a minute.

When the drill is complete, ask the minister of music to lead singing while the judges exit the room to compile their scores. Announce the names of youth who qualify to participate in the state drill (see qualifications on page 13).

Announce the date of the state drill and encourage the congregation to pray for youth as they prepare for it.

Mistakes

Participant receives no points (regular or bonus) if he or she...

- Fails to step forward within eight seconds.
- Gives an incorrect response (includes any driller who raises a hand indicating an error).
- Fails to stand straight or keep his eyes on the drill leader until the command "start" is given.
- Steps forward before the index finger is on the correct response.
- Fails to handle Bible according to instructions or abuses the Bible.

Computing a Final Score

(1) To determine regular points, on each score sheet deduct the participant's amount of errors from 100.

Each drill has five calls.

- Locating Books Drill point value:(3)three
- Scripture Searching Drill point value:(3)three
- Identifying Verses Drill point value:(4)four
- Doctrinal Drill point value:(5)five
- Bible Answers Drill point value:(5)five

- (2) Total the regular points from each score sheet for each participant, adding any bonus points to obtain a final score.

Example: Each judge could potentially score 100 points per participant, therefore a participant with a perfect score could have 300 points plus a possible 25 bonus points for a grand total of 325.

Each Judge Needs:

- (1) a copy of the current Youth Bible Drill Cycle Verses (available from your state Discipleship Training Department or the Youth Section, see above).
- (2) to become familiar with the types of drills, commands, individual duties, mistakes, and score sheets.

Types of Drills

(1) Book Drill (Five Calls—Three Points Per Call)

The leader calls the name of any book in the Bible. At the command Start, participants begin searching for the book that was called. A participant steps forward after he has located the book and placed his index finger on any verse in that book. When called upon, the driller should be able to name: (1) the book that immediately precedes the book called, (2) the book called, and (3) the book that immediately follows the book called.

(2) Scripture Searching Drill (Five Calls—Three Points Per Call)

The leader announces a Scripture reference to be found. Scripture-searching drills are taken from any part of the Bible. A participant must locate the Scripture reference and place his index finger on the verse before stepping forward. When called upon, he must read the verse and state the Scripture reference.

(3) Identifying Verses Drill (Five Calls—Four Points Per Call)

The leader quotes a part of a verse taken from the official list of verses. It may be any part of a verse. A leader, however, should quote enough of a verse to provide the participants with a reasonable clue. A participant must correctly locate the verse and place his index finger on the verse before he steps forward. When called upon, he must be able to read the entire verse and state the correct Scripture reference.

(4) Doctrinal Drill (Five Calls—Five Points Per Call)

The leader announces a doctrinal statement taken from the official list of doctrinal drill verses. A participant must correctly locate the verse listed with that doctrinal statement and place his index finger on the verse before he steps forward. When called upon, he must be able to: (1) recite the doctrinal statement as listed in the annual supplement, (2) read the verse, and (3) state the Scripture reference.

(5) Bible Answers Drill (Five Calls—Five Points Per Call)

The leader announces a question taken from the official Bible Answers Drill verses. Before he steps forward, a participant must correctly locate the verse listed that answers the question. When time is called, the leader will instruct the

drillers to close their Bibles. The driller must be able to: (1) quote the question, (2) recite the correct verse, and (3) state the Scripture reference.

Drill Commands

- “Attention.” Stand straight; one foot not extended in front of the other; eyes focused on the leader until the command “Start”; Bible held at side (in either hand), with Bible spine down, palm under the Bible.
- “Present Bible.” Bring Bible to waistline. A driller who searches with his right hand should hold the Bible on his left hand with Genesis down and his right hand resting flat on top of the Bible. A driller who searches with his left hand should hold the Bible on his right hand, Genesis up, with left hand resting flat on the front cover of the Bible. The driller’s thumb and fingers should not extend around the sides of the Bible. Following “Present Bible,” the leader announces the call. The call is stated only once, unless a driller requests that it be repeated.
- “Start.” This command is the signal for drillers to begin searching. In the Book Drill, the index finger may be placed upon any verse in that book. In other drills, the driller finds the verse, places his index finger on the actual verse called (first part, if verse is split), and steps forward.
- “Time.” A timekeeper calls out the word “time” at the end of eight seconds. All drillers stop searching. (When time is called, in the Bible Answers Drill, the leader will instruct the drillers to close their Bibles.) The leader will call on one driller to respond.
- “Attention.” Drillers return to their original positions, Bibles held at side, and ready for the next call.

Sample Warm-Up Drill

Here is an example of a sample drill. Using the current cycle of verses and questions, substitute correct phrases and verses for drills three, four, and five. Your words are listed in regular black type. A driller’s answer is highlighted in italics.

To help you relax and become accustomed to my voice, I will give you one call from each of the five types of drills. This warm-up will not be scored. The timekeeper, however, will call time at the end of eight seconds.

Attention. Present Bible. The first drill is the Book Drill. I will call out a book of the Bible. You will find that book, place your index finger on any verse in that book, step forward, and be prepared to name the book which immediately precedes the book called, the book called, and the book which immediately follows the book called. (pause) Acts. Start. Time. Number __ (Call on one driller who has stepped forward. He or she will respond) *John, Acts, Romans*

Attention. Present Bible. The next type of drill is the Scripture Searching Drill. I will give you a Scripture reference taken from any part of the Bible. You will find that reference, place your index finger on it, step forward, and be prepared to read that verse and repeat the reference. (pause) Psalm 50:1. Start. Time. Number __ (response) *The mighty God, . . . going down thereof. Psalm 50:1.*

Attention. Present Bible. The third drill is the Identifying Verses Drill. I will give you a phrase from one of the verses on the list. It may be the first part, the last part, or the middle part. You will find that verse in the Bible, place your index finger on the verse, step forward, and be ready to read the verse and give the reference. (pause) Example: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Start. Time. Number __ (response) *For all the . . . as thyself. Galatians 5:14.*

Attention. Present Bible. The fourth drill is the Doctrinal Drill. I will give you a doctrinal statement from the list. You will find the appropriate verse in the Bible, place your index finger on that verse, step forward, and be prepared to give the doctrinal statement, read the verse, and give the Scripture reference. (pause) Penalty for sin. Start. Time. Number __ (response) *For the . . . Lord. Romans 6:23.*

Attention. Present Bible. The last drill is the Bible Answers Drill. I will ask you a question taken from the list. You will locate the verse which answers that question, place your index finger on that verse, step forward, be prepared to quote the question and the verse from memory, and give the Scripture reference. I will instruct all of you to close your Bibles before I call on one of you to recite. (pause) Which Scripture sets forth the Lord's requirement of man? Start. Time. Close Bibles. Number __ (response) *He hath . . . with thy God? Micah 6:8.*

Now, relax a minute, take a deep breath, and be ready to begin the drill, which will be scored.