

QUIZMASTER HELPS

Every quiz needs a good quizmaster. Consider that the quizzers have been working hard for months, and sometimes close to a year to prepare and quiz when you meet them. It is only fair that you are prepared to be a quizmaster. Consider the following ideas:

- Actually read the material ahead of time. It never hurts to refresh your memory. The quizzers have read it many times by now. It is only fair that you read it, if you are to rule on their answers.
- Familiarize yourself with the rulebook ahead of time. Know how the game is played.
- Give your rulings quickly, fairly, boldly, and with simple explanation. Consider that the kids have poured themselves into quizzing, and for many of them answering is a scary and/or emotional event.

To rule quickly and fairly, familiarize yourself with the material ahead of time, have a scripture portion with a concordance available to you, and consider the basic rules of quizzing.

- Did they answer what the question asked? (for example if the question asked for a WHO, did they answer with a WHO, a person or a name of a person. If they didn't its wrong.)
- Did they provide you with any incorrect information?
- Was the question an according to, or could their answer be more general?
- Did they answer with the right part of the trinity?
- Is their answer really vague, like a pronoun. Do you need to ask them to be more specific, or is the pronoun what the scripture says?
- If they answered a memory verse, did they get it word for word perfect? They are allowed to restart, but their final version still has to be word for word perfect. Did they need the reference, and if they gave a reference was it complete-book, chapter, and verse?

To rule boldly and with simple explanation, consider the quizzer's position. They have poured themselves into quizzing and studying. For many of them this is scary and uncomfortable, and they are taking a huge step of boldness to even attempt to answer. So answer them with confidence, and where possible, give them a very short explanation if their answer is wrong. You do not need to defend yourself, but quizzers will complain less, understand more, and be more prepared to try again, if they can see a clear reason why their answer was wrong. Keep in mind that it is their answer that was wrong, not them. Be Gentle, but firm. And try to be consistent in your rulings.

Accept that you are not perfect, but that you do the best you can. After a quiz, coaches may come to you and share grievances, or question a ruling. Hear what they have to say, and reply with sympathy. Consider reminding them that their quizzers have the option of challenging during a quiz, or apologize to them if there was an error made on your part. But keep in mind that once the quiz is over there is very little that can be done, and you will have imperfect quizzes from time to time.

Don't take emotional fits personally. Unless you are a really bad quizmaster, you are not really responsible for making a quizzier cry or a coach scream. Quizzers cry when they get frustrated with themselves and make mistakes. And coaches scream when they are having a bad day or encounter a problem that they can't fix for the kids that they care so much for. And sometimes as a quizmaster you are the only one left to blame. So know that you will probably at some point in your quizmastering career get yelled at for something you had no control over, for something you don't agree with, or for an honest mistake, and you probably will make a quizzier cry. It comes with the job.

Encourage quizzers and coaches. Build relationships with them during down times. Let them know that you are human and not some almighty, powerful, mean quizzing master. Many serious quizzers admire those in authority over them. You may have a great opportunity to influence others for good, by connecting with the quizzers and coaches you serve as quizmaster.

May God richly bless you for serving the youth and helping them grow in their faith.
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