

Bible Olympics

(With two sets of questions suitable for children and youth/adults)

This can be set up as a special event for a church or Christian club, or the different sections used separately as an ongoing weekly series for individuals or teams. First sign up each contestant and give them a number, then seat them in front of the “audience” or rest of the group. Contestants can enter whichever races they prefer. (Note – although this is a fun way to test individual’s bible knowledge, it is also a good way to help those watching to learn more biblical facts!)

1) 100 meter dash

Each contestant is given an answer sheet and pencil, and should write their number at the top. The number of each question is written already on the left-hand side and each contestant must write his/her answer alongside as soon as the question has been asked. The question master reads the list of questions aloud clearly and quickly until the time-keeper says the time is up (such as 2 minutes). Immediately the answer sheets are collected and checked by the judges as the questions and correct answers are read aloud to everyone. Gold, silver and bronze “medals” are awarded to the top three contestants with most correct answers. (See Part B for suggested list of questions for each contest level: children or adult)

2) Marathon

Contestants are blindfolded and line up side by side along a starting line, and then each is given two large cards, one saying TRUE (in their right hand) and the other FALSE (in their left hand). As each statement about a Bible character or event is read aloud, each contestant must lift up the card with the answer that they think is correct. Contestants who answer incorrectly must remain where they are, but those who answer correctly may take one giant step forward for each correct answer. After a total of 20 Bible statements have been read gold, silver and bronze “medals” are awarded to the three contestants who have advanced the furthest. (See Part B for suggested list of questions for each contest level: children or adult)

3) Javelin throw (to pinpoint Bible characters)

Contestants are seated in front and each is given paper, pencil and a Bible (all the same version). Each “question” consists of a Bible reference which they must look up in the Bible and read, in order to find the name of the Bible character mentioned in the text. Bible references are called out every 20 seconds for adults and every 40 seconds for children. After reading out all 10 references the papers are collected up and judged as the correct answers are read aloud. Gold, silver and bronze “medals” are awarded to the top three contestants with most correct answers. (See Part B for suggested list of references for each contest level: children or adult)

4) Hurdles (bible quotes)

Prepare a “course” with a starting line and a finish line and with hurdles (chairs) at intervals. Beside each chair is a judge and on each chair is a large poster with a scripture verse written out but with a key word missing. The contestants must wait in a separate area (out of earshot) until it is their turn. Each contestant is timed and when he/she arrives at each chair he/she must provide the correct missing word for the scripture verse. They cannot move on until they give the correct word. Gold, silver and bronze “medals” are awarded to the top three contestants with best time for the completed course. (See Part B for suggested list of references for each contest level: children or adult)

5) Obstacle race (obstacles overcome by miracles in the Bible)

This can be played with a similar “course” but on each chair is a large picture portraying a biblical miracle (or key words to identify it). Again the contestants must wait in a separate area (out of earshot) until it is their turn. Each contestant is timed and when he/she arrives at each chair he/she must explain to the judge how God overcame the “obstacle” in that Bible story with a miracle. Gold, silver and bronze “medals” are awarded to the top three contestants with best time for the completed course. (See Part B for suggested bible stories for each contest level: children or adult)

6) 3-legged race (the “couples” are husbands and wives in the Bible)

Each contestant is given an answer sheet and pencil, and should write their number at the top. The number of each question is written already on the left-hand side and each contestant must write his/her answer alongside as soon as the question has been asked. Each “question” involves a pair of Bible characters and the “answer” is the name of his wife or her husband. The answer sheets are collected and checked by the judges as the correct names are read aloud. Gold, silver and bronze “medals” are awarded to the top three contestants with most correct answers. (See Part B for suggested list of names for each contest level: children or adult)

Bible Olympics Part B (Suggested list of questions and answers for two different age levels – obviously questions should be adjusted according to the amount of bible knowledge of the contestants)

1a) 100 meter dash – children

1. Who killed the giant, Goliath? (David)
2. Where did Adam and Eve first live? (Garden of Eden)
3. Who built the Ark? (Noah)
4. In which town was Jesus born? (Bethlehem)
5. Who was swallowed by a big fish? (Jonah)
6. Who betrayed Jesus? (Judas Iscariot)
7. Who was Esau's twin brother? (Jacob)
8. Who received the 10 commandments from God? (Moses)
9. In which city was Jesus crucified? (Jerusalem)
10. Who had a coat of many colors? (Joseph)
11. Which sea did God open for the Israelites to cross? (Red Sea)
12. How many disciples did Jesus choose? (twelve)
13. In which river was Baby Moses placed? (River Nile)
14. Who did Jesus raise from the dead after 4 days? (Lazarus)
15. What kind of den was Daniel thrown into? (lions' den)
16. Who baptized Jesus? (John the Baptist)
17. Which is the first Gospel in the Bible? (Matthew)
18. Who was the strongest man in the Bible? (Samson)
19. After how many days did Jesus rise from the dead? (three)
20. How many days did it rain on the Ark? (forty)

1b) 100 meter dash – adults

1. Who was the first murderer in the Bible? (Cain)
2. Which is the longest book of the Bible? (Psalms)
3. How many people were on the Ark with Noah? (seven)
4. Who was Isaac's mother? (Sarah)
5. In which river did John baptize people? (River Jordan)
6. Who was the first king of Israel? (Saul)
7. Who wrote down the first 5 books of the Bible? (Moses)
8. Where did the Apostle Paul live in his final years? (Rome)
9. Who succeeded the Prophet Elijah? (Elisha)
10. Who hid the Israelite spies in Jericho? (Rahab)
11. Which two cities were destroyed by fire? (Sodom and Gomorrah)
12. Who was the wisest king in the Old Testament? (Solomon)
13. Who wrote most of the Epistles (letters) in the NT? (Paul)
14. On which mountain did God speak to Moses? (Mt. Sinai)
15. Where were the Jews taken to live in captivity? (Babylon)
16. Along with Joshua, which spy gave a good report? (Caleb)
17. In which town was King David born? (Bethlehem)
18. Which disciple denied Jesus three times? (Peter)
19. How many men won the battle with Gideon? (300)
20. In which garden did Jesus pray before his arrest? (Gethsemane)

2a) Marathon – children

1. God created the earth in 7 days. (False – 6 days)
2. The first woman was called Eve. (True)
3. Noah was in the Ark for just 40 days and 40 nights. (False – over a year - *Genesis 8:13-16*)
4. Abraham was 90 years old when Isaac was born. (False – 100 - *Genesis 21:5*)
5. Jacob lied to his father. (True)
6. Joseph was sold as a slave by his own brothers. (True)
7. God drowned Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea. (True)
8. The Israelites wandered in the desert for 50 years. (False – 40)
9. There were 12 tribes of Israelites. (True)
10. The Israelites shouted and the walls of Jerusalem fell down (False - Jericho)
11. The first king of Israel was King David. (False – Saul)
12. The wisest king in the Old Testament was Solomon. (True)
13. Queen Esther was very ugly. (False – beautiful)
14. Wise men brought gold, silver and frankincense to Jesus. (False – not silver, myrrh)
15. John the Baptist was related to Jesus. (True – mothers were cousins)
16. Jesus had no brothers or sisters. (False – at least 6 - *Matthew 13:55,56*)
17. Jesus grew up in Nazareth. (True)
18. Jesus baptized John the Baptist in the River Jordan. (False – John baptized Jesus)
19. Jesus was tempted by the Devil in the wilderness. (True)
20. The first great missionary in the Bible was Paul. (True)

2b) Marathon – adults

1. Adam and Eve's first grandchild was called Enos. (True)
2. Noah's three sons were Seth, Ham and Japheth. (False, Shem not Seth)
3. Sarah was 90 years old when Isaac was born. (True)
4. Rachel was the mother of Jacob and Esau. (False – Rebekah)
5. Jacob had to work 14 years to marry Rachel. (True)
6. Joseph was Jacob's youngest son. (False – Benjamin)
7. Moses' father-in-law was called Jehu. (False – Jethro)
8. The enemy against Gideon numbered about 135,000. (True – *Judges 8:10*)
9. Ruth was King David's grandmother. (False – great grandmother)
10. Twice David had the opportunity to kill Saul but didn't. (True)
11. Solomon had 700 wives. (True)
12. Elisha was bald. (True – *2 Kings 2:23*)
13. The 3 alive in the furnace were Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah (True – *Daniel 1:7*)
14. Esther replaced the previous queen, Queen Vishnu. (False – Vashti – Vishnu is a Hindu god!)
15. John the Baptist's father was struck dumb. (True)
16. One of the first disciples called by Jesus was Andrew. (True)
17. Jesus preached a lot by the Dead Sea. (False – Sea of Galilee)
18. Peter's prayers raised Dorcas from the dead. (True)
19. Saul was watching when Philip was stoned to death. (False – Stephen was stoned to death)
20. Because of a shipwreck Paul got to preach in Cyprus. (False – Malta)

3a) Javelin throw – children

1. Matthew 3:1 (John the Baptist)
2. Genesis 45:4 (Joseph)
3. 1 Samuel 17:45 (David)
4. Acts 17:2 (Paul)
5. Judges 16:28 (Samson)
6. Deuteronomy 5:1 (Moses)
7. Exodus 15:21 (Miriam)
8. John 11:11 (Lazarus)
9. 1 Kings 9:10 (Solomon)
10. Hebrews 11:7 (Noah)

3b) Javelin throw - adults

1. Numbers 27:19 (Eleazar)
2. 2 Kings 12:19 (Joash)
3. 2 Corinthians 3:13 (Moses)
4. Job 25:1 (Bildad)
5. Judges 3:16 (Ehud)
6. Philemon 10 (Onesimus)
7. Haggai 1:15 (Darius)
8. Ezra 5:16 (Sheshbazzar)
9. Ephesians 6:21 (Tychicus)
10. 1 John 3:12 (Cain)

4a) Hurdles – children

1. For God so loved the world that He gave his only beloved _____ that whoever believes in Him will not die but have everlasting life. (SON - *John 3:16*)
2. The Lord is my _____ I shall not lack.. (SHEPHERD – *Psalms 23:1*)
3. _____ each other as I have loved you. (LOVE – *John 15:12*)
4. Nothing is impossible for _____. (GOD – *Luke 1:37*)
5. Go into all the world and _____ the Gospel. (PREACH – *Mark 16:15*)
6. Do to _____ what you would have them do to you. (OTHERS – *Matthew 7:12*)

4b) Hurdles – adults (as above but then also these following)

7. Do not _____ or you too will be judged. (JUDGE – *Matthew 7:1*)
8. If any of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a _____ at her. (STONE – *John 8:7*)
9. If we _____ our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us.....(CONFESS – *1 John 1:9*)
10. So God created man in his own _____. (IMAGE – *Genesis 1:27*)
11. My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious _____ in Christ Jesus. (RICHES – *Philippians 4:19*)
12. For He will order his _____ to protect you wherever you go. (ANGELS – *Psalms 91:11*)

5a) Obstacle race – children

1. Moses, Egyptians, Red Sea – (Moses lifted up his rod and God miraculously opened up a path for the Israelites to go through the sea on dry ground)
2. Joshua, Israelites, Jericho – (Joshua and the Israelites walked around the walls in silence then blew horns and cried out, and miraculously the walls fell down and they took the city)
3. Giant, David, stones – (David trusted God, threw the stones and killed Goliath miraculously)
4. Daniel, lions, den – (God sent an angel to shut the mouths of the lions, saving Daniel's life)
5. Crowd, Jesus, preaching – (God multiplied 5 loaves and 2 fish miraculously to feed over 5,000 people)
6. Paul and Silas, prison, chains – (They praised God and He sent an earthquake to miraculously set them free)

5b) Obstacle race – adults (as above but then also these following)

7. Gideon, 300 men, 135,000 enemies – (Gideon obeyed God and used torches in pots, got miraculous victory)
8. Naaman, leprosy, Elisha – (Naaman obeyed prophet's word, dipped 7 times in river and was healed)
9. Elijah, famine, widow – (Widow believed prophet's word, made bread for Elijah, and God multiplied the flour and oil to last through the famine)
10. No money, Jesus, taxes – (Jesus prayed, God miraculously provided fish with coin in mouth)
11. Tomb, Lazarus, dead – (Jesus prayed and called Lazarus to come out, and God raised him from the dead)
12. Beggar, lame, Peter and John – (Peter and John had no money to give but shared faith in Jesus, and the beggar was healed)

6a) 3-legged race – children (complete the couples)

1. Adam and _____ (Eve)
2. Abraham and _____ (Sarah)
3. Isaac and _____ (Rebekah)
4. David and _____ (Bathsheba, Michal or Abigail)
5. Samson and _____ (Delilah)
6. Joseph and _____ (Mary)

6b) 3-legged race – adults (as above but then also these following)

7. _____ and Rachel / Leah (Jacob)
8. Moses and _____ (Zipporah)
9. Boaz and _____ (Ruth)
10. _____ and Elizabeth (Zechariah)
11. _____ and Sapphira (Ananias)
12. Aquila and _____ (Priscilla)