**Introduction**

Welcome to the fourteenth annual Central California Conference Bible Challenge. This year we hope to make the Bible Challenge more meaningful in the lives of our students. We will involve students from 5-8th grades who have a desire to learn more about the Bible and how it applies in daily life. We will be combining Biblical knowledge questions with higher-level thinking and evaluative questions. In addition, we will ask students to become active in making a change in their communities by participating in service projects on the day of the challenge. The school teams **who want to** may present a short skit, poem, song, or other activity that exemplifies the idea of what “Outsiders in the Palace” or the message in these OT books means for us.

**Central California Conference**

**Bible Challenge Committee**

Ken Bullington - Office of Education

Vicky Lauritzen - Office of Education

Premila Willmott - Office of Education

Jamie Grisham – Office of Education

Melinda Mauia – San Francisco Adventist School

Ennaoj Hawthorne - San Francisco Adventist School

**Rationale**

The Bible Challenge tradition started because of the perceived need to encourage and increase in-depth Bible study and application skills among our young people. It is a means to augment their faith, further ground their belief in the tenets of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and ultimately strengthen their relationship with Jesus.

**Eligibility**

All elementary schools in the Central California Conference are invited to participate. Every student in the fifth through eighth grades is encouraged to be involved in studying the book of Luke as part of his/her Bible class or as a separate component. However, only the top two scholars from each grade level will be selected to attend the Bible Challenge.

The teacher/coach will choose an alternate(s) in the event that the appointed representative for a given grade is unable to attend.

If a small school is unable to meet the required number of participants per grade level, special consideration will be made in consultation with the CCC Office of Education.

**Dateline**

The committee chose **Luke** as the assigned Bible books for this school year, in line with the Pathfinder Bible Experience.

Throughout the first semester students will be reading these books and preparing for the event using any method they and their teachers or coaches feel appropriate.

Each school must confirm their participation in the 13th annual Bible Challenge with the Office of Education no later than **November 30, 2018**.

The names and grades of the students, alternates (if necessary), and the name of the teacher/coach from each of the participating schools must be submitted to the Office of Education by **December 14, 2018**. You may now register your school on our website at <http://cccedu.adventistfaith.org>.

Essay question responses are due at the CCC Office by **January 14, 2019**. See pages 7 and 8 for more information.

The Bible Challenge will be held on Saturday, **January 19, 2019,** at Fresno Adventist Academy, 5397 E. Olive Avenue, Fresno, CA.

**Teacher/Coach**

We trust that this will be an adventure for you and your students. As a teacher/coach, you will carry the greater responsibility in this effort. The students will depend on you to initiate the study group and build them up when they need it. You are the one with the experience and the ability to infuse enthusiasm in the process.

Remind yourself that the goal of this event is to encourage students to read the Bible and experience the benefits that come with diligent Bible study and application of its principles. Students will respond positively if they sense your interest in their progress, and also your appreciation and belief in good Bible study.

**Winner’s Circle**

The panel of judges will award the first, second and third places to the three teams with the highest number of points. Points will be accrued for the ability of the team to respond to the questions correctly, and the rubric score for the essay questions.

Every Bible Scholar will receive a certificate of participation. Honorary mentions may be given to teams exhibiting the greatest team effort and sportsmanship.

**Tips on How to Prepare for**

**the Bible Challenge**

* Prayerfully read the assigned Bible books individually, or read it in a group followed by discussions. Assign chapters to certain students and have them report to the group.
* Teams are encouraged to use the ***New King James Version*** for consistency and clarity.
* Listen to tape recordings of the assigned book of the Bible. Bible tapes are available from your local Adventist Book Center.
* Use drama, monologue, skits, etc.
* Play games and develop crossword puzzles.
* Invite guests to come to the group and tell stories from the assigned book to the class.
* Invite pastors, teachers, and the students to develop practice questions for the team.
* Practice using the Bible Challenge format.
* Use the Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary as an additional resource.

**Bible Challenge Format**

The Bible Challenge will begin at 1:30 p.m. The team members will be divided into the 5th/6th grade groups and the 7th/8th grade groups. **Lunch will NOT be provided.** Please bring sack lunches or make other appropriate arrangements for your team to eat before we begin at 1:30.

**Schedule of Events**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Time | Grades 5&6 | Grades 7&8 |
| 1:00 | Arrive and Register | |
| 1:30 | Worship and Introductions | |
| 1:50 | 5/6 Bible  Challenge | 7/8 Team Activity #1 |
| 2:20 | 7/8 Team Activity #2 |
| 2:50 | Break | |
| 3:15 | 5/6 Team Activity #1 | 7/8 Bible  Challenge |
| 3:45 | 5/6 Team Activity #2 |
| 4:15 | Team Presentations | |
| 4:45 | Awards Presentation, Closing | |

**Essay Question Format**

Please note the format for the team essay question (Life Application Question). In order to allow sufficient time for students to think about and format their responses, these will be completed, submitted, and scored before the actual Bible Challenge on January 19. This is a **team** **essay**, not individual ones. Each team should submit only one essay for grades 5/6, and one for grades 7/8.

**Essay Question Procedure**

There will be one essay question for each grade level (5/6 and 7/8). Each team sponsor will be given the question(s) before Thanksgiving break.

The sponsor will be responsible for scheduling **three** 40-minute sessions for their team(s). The first two sessions will allow team members, **with assistance from their teacher or coach**, to read the question, discuss it, do research, and sketch an outline for their response. The third and final session they will complete their answer (without assistance) and give it to the team sponsor.

*\*\*Students* ***may*** *receive assistance and instruction from teachers during the first two sessions,* but **not during the final session**.

If your school has difficulty with scheduling these sessions, please contact the Office of Education for an alternate plan.

These essays are **due at the CCC Office** **no later than January 15**.

**Life Application Question Scoring Rubric**

Team Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Total Score \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 3 points | 2 points | 1 point |
| Completeness of Answer | Response directly answers all parts of the question | Response directly answers some parts of the question | Response Somewhat answers the question |
| Biblical References | 2 Biblical references are included | 1 Biblical reference is included | No direct Biblical references are included |
| Knowledge and Analysis | Response shows clearly stated train of thought with examples to support your thinking | Response shows some flow of thought with at least one example to support your thinking | Response shows unclear train of thought and very little support. |
| Neatly written | 1 point if it is neat, 0 points if it is messy | | |

**Presentation Guidelines**

All students, grades 5-8, are invited to participate together in sharing the school presentation. Teams may select from a wide variety of formats such as: skits, songs, poems, puppet shows, videos, or other creative ideas. These presentations are **not required**, and will **not** be judged or included in the final scoring for prizes.

**Proposed Team Service Activities**

**(Actual activities may vary slightly from this list, depending on available resources.)**

* Decorate cookies for firefighters/police
* Write letters to veterans
* Twenty Grains of Rice – fight hunger

Participants will be able to help with two of the above activities. Service Activities will not be scored, but it is expected that all team members will participate.

**Area Map of**

**Fresno Adventist Academy**

5397 E. Olive Avenue

Fresno, CA 93727

559-251-5548



