



Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
Department of Youth Ministries

Archdiocesan and Diocesan Bible Bowl Rules

Topics

The Department of Youth Ministries choose the text to be studied each year. This is announced online at <https://www.teensoyo.org/bible-bowl>, along with study guides, practice questions, current rules, online team registration, and other pertinent information.

Participants

Each parish and mission of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America is eligible to enter teams in each division. Each team shall consist of three (3) members, with up to two (2) alternates.

The team divisions are the following:

| TEAM | AGES |
|------------|--|
| Pre-Teen | 10-12 years old |
| Teen | 13-19 years old (the teen division in the Diocese of Los Angeles and the West is divided into two divisions: Junior Teens (ages 13-15) and Senior Teens (ages 16-19). Other Dioceses may do likewise with the approval of the Diocesan Bishop and by notifying, in writing, the Department of Youth Ministries Chairs of the preference no later than January 1 of that year) |
| Adult | Ages 20 and older |
| Alternates | Must be within the above stated age group to participate. Alternates' participation is usually at the half-way point of the Bible Bowl competition. |

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. Team t-shirts are encouraged.

Team Registration

To participate in the Bible Bowl, all teams must register online at <https://antiochianevents.com/> **no less than two weeks** beforehand (teams that have not registered online **will not be allowed to compete** without the approval of the Diocesan Bible Bowl Coordinator and the Department of Youth and Parish Ministries Chair). Registration opens every year on February 1 unless communicated otherwise.

The Bible Bowl & Support from The Diocese

The Diocesan Bible Bowl shall be held in conjunction with a Diocese's Parish Life Conference. The winning team in each division shall be presented with an award by the Diocese, not the Archdiocese. The winning Teen (or Senior Teen) team is expected to represent their Diocese at the Archdiocese Bible Bowl competition, held at either the Archdiocese Convention (odd numbered years), or the summer meetings at the Antiochian Village (even numbered year).

Team Funding

Each Diocese Ministry Council shall compensate their winning Teen/Senior Teens team up to \$2,500.00 USD (based on actual expense) in the form of a stipend, to assist with their travel and lodging expenses (i.e., economy airfare, gas/parking, lodging/hotel, etc...). The Diocese Bible Bowl Coordinator and winning team pastor shall facilitate additional funds from the Diocese organization and individual donors to assist the winning team with their travel expenses, if required.

Bible Bowl Questions

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

- 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 OSB can be purchased online from [Ancient Faith Store](#), the Antiochian Village [Bookstore](#), [Amazon](#), and other major online retailers or parish bookstores.
- Some questions may be phrased as multiple choice, fill in the blank, true and false, or Yes and No. These questions will be asked in a way that can be answered with one word, a few words or, at most, a short phrase.
- Each team will be expected to answer all questions during the Bible Bowl using the following format:
 - For at least the first round, each team will have a turn to give an oral answer to the question (answered out loud and not written down), When a team has to give an oral answer, the team members may talk to each other to arrive at a single answer. The team members will also then decide who will be the spokesperson to say the team's answer out loud (this happens only when the Master of Ceremonies asks for the answer).
 - As one team discusses what to give as their oral answer, all other teams' participants will write down their individual answer on a carbonless paper. Teams whose members are writing down their answers may not talk with each other.
 - In the following rounds, oral questions may continue. As a means of saving time, however, all questions in round two and onwards may be answered in writing and not with an oral answer.

How a Question is Asked

1. Teams will have drawn the questions they will be asked at least the day before the Bible Bowl competition.
2. Teams will decide who their spokesperson will be when it is their turn to give an oral answer.
3. The Bible Bowl will be started with a welcome from the MC, and it is they who will ask all questions asked during the Bible Bowl, whether a team is giving an oral answer or writing it down.
 - a. The question will be asked two times;
 - b. The timekeeper will call “time” 10 seconds after the question has been asked a second time;
 - c. The team giving the oral answer has to wait for the MC to ask them to give their answer out loud;
 - d. All other teams/participants have to pass their answer sheet to the monitor who will verify the answers that were written down, and confirm if they are correct or incorrect
 - i. If there is doubt about a written answer, the monitor will raise their hand to indicate a challenge to the question and answer.
 - e. After all answer sheets have been handed back to the monitor, the MC will ask the team giving an oral answer for their answer.
 - f. The MC will say out loud whether that team’s oral answer is correct or incorrect.
 - g. Each monitor will have four large cards to indicate a possible score of 0 to 3 for team who wrote their answers down.
 - h. The MC will ask for and announce each teams score so that the scorekeepers can record this into an electronic score sheet.

Score

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Oral Answer | Correct Answer = 3 points Incorrect Answer = 0 points |
| Written Answers | 1 point for each correct answer |
| Number of Rounds | One (1) round is completed when all team have been able to give an oral answer to a question. The total number of rounds is determined by the number of teams participating, or the time allotted (minimum: 1.5 hours; maximum: 2 hours). |
| Final Team Scores | Determined by correct answers given in both oral and written answers. |

Tiebreaker

If a first-place tie occurs between **Teen** Bible Bowl teams **only** (13-19 year olds), a tie-breaker question will be asked (only one winning Teen team can represent the Diocese at the Archdiocese level). The tie-breaker will end when a team beats the score of the other team following each question. The same rule will apply at the Archdiocese level.

Judges

All questions and answers will come from the assigned text.

Participants have a right to challenge the answer, but should only do so if they are sure their challenge will succeed.

In all disputed cases, the final decision lies in the hands of the judges once they have reviewed the challenge against the actual text. Should the judges feel there is a discrepancy in the text (the question was misleading and confusing), they will direct that the question and its answer not be used; another question will be substituted.

- The three (3) judges should be assigned from members of the clergy or other individuals who have a graduate degree in Orthodox Theology from an Orthodox Theological School. The Judges will be selected or approved by the Coordinator of this event (who is selected by the Diocesan SOYO Spiritual Advisor and or Diocesan Youth Director).
- It is preferred that judges not have a participating team in the Bible Bowl.

Timekeeper

All questions will be asked and repeated once by the person asking the questions.

The timekeeper runs the clock for ten (10) seconds after the question has been asked for a **second time**. The timekeeper shall announce when time is up. At the end of the ten (10) seconds, participants shall pass their answer sheet to the monitor, and then the team giving the oral answer will be prompted by the MC when to do so.

Team Monitors

One (1) monitor will be placed with a team from a parish different than their home parish, and will be assigned to check their **written** answers. It is also the responsibility of the monitor to ensure that each team member is doing his or her own work, and not looking at their teammates' sheets. The monitor will then give the combined score of correct answers for that team when asked by the MC. In the event of a question and/or answer being challenged by their team, the monitor is the team spokesperson for clarification with the judges.

Electronic Release

Because each Diocese is sent the same set of questions and Parish Life Conferences occur on a staggered schedule, no member of any Bible Bowl Team, Coach, or family member may release video or audio recording of the Bible Bowl without the written approval of the Archdiocese Department of Youth Chairs. This including email, posting on social media, streaming of video/audio, or publication on any website. However, photographs are permitted and can be released.

The Archdiocese Bible Bowl falls under the direction of the Department of Youth Ministries. All questions and requirements should be submitted to Fr. Philip Rogers and Erin Ghata, at youth@antiochian.org.