

Quizzers,

We are moving ever closer to our National Quizzing Competition in July at FUEL '26. I know this year is going to be awesome. I can't wait to see you all quiz on the books of Ruth and Jonah!

As you continue studying, I wanted to give you some thoughts about questions, the format, and also to get some information from you.

First, let me get your info! If you have a team, please register at <https://form.jotform.com/261583713691160> . We want to have a general knowledge of how many teams and quizzers we should be expecting to compete before the first day of quizzing, which is Monday at FUEL.

Also, if you are a solo quizzer or coach, or have a team that is "unfinished" (without coach or 3rd or 4th quizzer), still register! We want to be able to put quizzers together with teams and coaches so that everyone who put in the time and effort to study the material will be able to compete at FUEL!

With that out of the way, let's get into the nitty-gritty.

One of the best ways to get to know the material is to formulate questions yourself, and that means you need to know how to write questions! Questions in quizzing can sometimes sound weird, so I have reproduced below a few questions that are very likely be asked at FUEL, in order to help you write questions. Also, I will give an couple examples of bad questions and why they are bad.

Good

Question number 1, question: Between what two can more than a hundred twenty thousand people not distinguish?

Answer: Their right and their left

This question is grammatically correct, and asks a question based out of the facts of the text.

BAD

Question number 2, question: Who can they not distinguish between?

This question contains multiple errors.

- This question is grammatically incorrect. Grammar demands no dangling participles. It should be worded in the same way "question 1" (see above).
- However, is also wrong because the text is not about a "who" but about a "what" (their right and left hand).
- Finally, the question is looking for two answers and so that should be contained in the question.

Good

Question number 3, question: What did Naomi answer her?

Answer: "Go ahead, my daughter."

While a number of different characters "answer" each other, only one time does Naomi answer her. Also, because this is asking what Naomi "said" (or answered) the answer must be verbatim.

Bad

Question number 4, question: what did Boaz say?

- This question has multiple answers based on different verses.
- Therefore, this question needs an "according to"...

Question number 5, question: According to Ruth 3:14, what did Boaz say?

Answer: "Don't let it be known that a woman came to the threshing floor."

Good

Question number 6, question: In where is Bethlehem?

Answer: Judah

Also Good

Question number 7, question: According to Ruth 3:3-4, what nine should you do?

Answer: (1) go (2) put on perfumed oil (3) wear your best clothes (4) go down to the threshing floor (5) don't let the man know you are there (6) notice where he is lying down (7) go in (8) uncover his feet (9) lie down

I put these two questions back to back to show how questions are not simply one level of difficulty.

Bad

Question number 8, question: Of what was Nineveh the capital?

- Nineveh was the capital of Assyria for a time, and this kind of trivia is fun for parties and walking across dangerous bridges. HOWEVER, this detail does not appear in Jonah, so no question will ask about information outside of the text.

QUIZZERS: I want to note that much of what makes an amazing quizzier is the ability to anticipate a question. You are allowed to jump at any point after I say the second "question". If you hear "What ni..." and you jump, then you can and must finish the question and give the answer! Practice jumping before the question is done, not waiting until the end! This is make competition fast and exciting, and will help you become a top quizzier.

We aren't done yet! There are other question types as well:

Both "Quote" and "Finish this verse" questions will be included in every match! Memorizing these verses will not only guarantee that you will know at least one question each match, but any question based on those verses you will also know better.

The questions will look like this:

Question number 10, question: Quote Ruth 1:20.

Answer: "Don't call me Naomi. Call me Mara," she answered, "for the Almighty has made me very bitter."

Question number 11, question: Finish this verse and give the reference: ""Don't call me Naomi. Call me Mara,"..."

Answer: "... she answered, "for the Almighty has made me very bitter."" Ruth 1:20

Less frequent, but still available question types are "Put in Order" and "Formulate" questions. Put in order will be asked like this "Put the following three things in the order they are mentioned within Ruth/Jonah. The three things are _____, _____, and _____." Put in order questions will only come from one book (either Ruth or Jonah).

Formulate question will sound like this "Formulate a question and give a supporting reference for the following answer: The answer is _____."

If you are like me, the silence of those blanks is deafening, so below are the lists (which I believe are exhaustive) of words that can fill those blanks. The lists are simply in ABC order, which means if you want to know where the items are from, you will need to read Acts.

Put in Order - Ruth

1. Amminadab
2. barley harvest
3. bread in vinegar sauce
4. Ephrathah
5. Ephrathites
6. Family Records of Perez
7. famine
8. Hezron
9. his sandal
10. judges
11. Lord had paid attention to his people's need
12. Nahshon
13. Obed
14. Orpah
15. Rachel and Leah
16. Ram
17. Salmon
18. the shawl you're wearing
19. she gave birth to a son
20. Tamar
21. ten men of the town's elders
22. Wherever you go I will go
23. winnowing barley

Put in Order - Jonah

1. Amittai
2. the captain
3. God appointed a plant
4. God appointed a scorching east wind
5. God appointed a worm
6. God relented from disaster
7. a hundred and twenty thousand people
8. Joppa
9. The King of Nineveh
10. the Pit
11. seaweed
12. Sheol
13. A ship going to Tarshish
14. They cast lots
15. three days and three nights
16. The word of the Lord came to Jonah
17. The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time
18. worthless Idols
19. your breakers and your billows

Formulate

1. Bethlehem
2. Boaz
3. Elimelech
4. The Fish
5. God
6. Jonah
7. The Lord
8. Moab
9. Naomi
10. Nineveh
11. Ruth

Note, the lists are rather different: the list for “Put in Order” are names, phrases, or words that appear almost exclusively one time, and for certain only in one section. The rule book clarifies that is the *first* mention of a name, so if “Obed” and “Hezron” were two of your names, it would not matter than Obed is mentioned again AFTER Hezron, the answer would be “Obed”, “Hezron” and the third item in it’s proper place.

The “Formulate” list, on the other hand, are words that are used multiple times throughout the text (a minimum of 5). It might be a good study tip to choose the verse and question to each of these words beforehand. Also, look at number 13. To clarify, a question would be asked in this way:

Question number 12, question: “Formulate a question and give a corresponding reference for the following answer. The answer is god.”

Even though the question says God, your answer could be God or gods depending on the way you ask your question. All permutations of “prophet” is acceptable. Also, in judging these questions, certain descriptive or possessive words are allowed to be attached to answers. For example:

Question number 14, question: “Formulate a question and give a corresponding reference for the following answer. The answer is God.”

Answer: “According to Ruth 1:16, what will your God be?” Answer, “My God”.

This *answer* formulates a grammatically correct question (which is helpful, but not strictly necessary), uses an according to (thus giving the reference) and answers with a permutation of “God”. Certain permutations could go too far. “The Lord God of Israel” is not acceptable as an answer for “God.” “Put in order” and “Formulate” questions will be sporadically placed in matches (usually one in each match).

Finally, I am a big fan of clear rules and clear guidelines: I will be making sure to update and resubmit our quizzing rulebook by the end of June, which will be emailed out at the final email from the quizmaster before FUEL.

Quizzers, coaches, those who are reading this far that aren’t one of those groups,

Quizzing is a challenge, quizzing is competition, quizzing is *fun*.

But quizzing is also important. The material from Ruth and Jonah shows us God’s love for those who are on the outside of God’s people. Ruth, a Moabitess, is added to God’s people and becomes an ancestor to the Messiah; Jonah shows us that the Lord is willing, even eager, to forgive those who repent and seek him. What a beautiful reminder of what God has done and will do for us!

May you not only be blessed by the fun, the competition, and the challenge of quizzing, but may you be blessed by the changes it makes in your life!

May you be blessed by memorizing God's word and drawing closer to him!

May you hide God's word in your heart and come to know the Lord who pays attention to the needs of his people, who relents from sending disaster, but who will accept all those who are on the outside and draws them in.

Question number *a very important one*, question: Who is excited for FUEL?

Answer:

Jake Ballard

Quizmaster