



**BIBLE QUIZZING**

CANADIAN MIDWEST DISTRICT

# Question Writing Webinar

Fundamentals of Question Writing

# Webinar Overview

- Question Writing Motivation
- Resources
- Context
- Interrogative (Straightforward) / Multiple Answer Questions
- Finish/Quote Questions
- Situation Questions
- Reference Questions
- Question List Writing
- Q&A

# Question Writing Motivation

- What is the purpose of a question?
  - To test a quizzers' knowledge of the material
  - To give quizzers an opportunity to recite scripture in front of others
- These purposes should be kept in mind when...
  - Writing questions for a question set
  - Asking questions at quiz practice
  - Coaching during a quiz
- This webinar will cover technical rules/requirements

# Question Writing Motivation

- Some applications of knowing how to question write include:
  - Writing questions for a question set
  - Producing questions on the spot at quiz practice
  - Teaching quizzers how to write questions
  - Advising quizzers how to better respond to or initiate challenges
  - Coaching quizzers on how to respond to questions

# Resources

- Rule book

Contains question writing requirements

Can be found at: <https://cmdbiblequizzing.org/rules/>

- CBQZ application

Useful tool for writing all question types

Particularly useful for reference questions

Can be found at: <https://cbqz.org/app/>

- Slides

PDF version of the webinar slides are available at INSERT HERE

# Context

- A range of verses from the question's reference
- Context is limited to 5 verses before and after the reference for all questions except for Qs/FTVs/CVRs
  - The context is limited to the 1 (sometimes 2) verse range of a Q/FTV/CVR question
- Is usually thought of being important for quizzers when answering
- However, it's important to question writing as well
- For a question to be valid, its answer must be within context

# INT/MA Requirements

1. Must have exactly 1 inserted interrogative word at the very beginning or end of the question

- Who, Whom, Whose, What, Why, Where, When, Which, How

- At the beginning of a question:

Q: **What** proofs?

A: Convincing proofs

(Acts 1:3)

- At the end of a question:

Q: Convincing **what**?

A: Proofs

(Acts 1:3)

# INT/MA Requirements

## 2. Must have a single answer (INT) or multiple answers (MA)

- Single answer (INT):

Q: What period?

A: A period of forty days

(Acts 1:3)

- Multiple answers (MA):

Q: Those present were who?

A: Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James

(Acts 1:13)

Q: As Peter entered the house, Cornelius what?

A: Met him and fell at his feet in reverence

(Acts 10:25)



# INT/MA Requirements

## 2. Must have a single answer (INT) or multiple answers (MA)

- The clarification of a single **answer** is not a multiple answer

Q: Who performed great wonders?

A: **Stephen**, a man full of God's grace and power (Acts 6:8)

- The identification of a single **pronoun** is not a multiple answer

Q: Who addressed the Sanhedrin?

A: **He** [A Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law] (Acts 5:35)

- The identification of a plural **pronoun** with more than 1 clarification to the pronoun is not a multiple answer

Q: They presented who?

A: These **men** [Stephen, Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas] (Acts 6:6)

# INT/MA Requirements

3. Must include a unique **word** or 2- or 3-word unique **phrase** within the first 5 words of the question

- Unique word:

Q: What **teacher**?

A: A **teacher** of the law

(Acts 5:34)

- Unique 2-word phrase:

Q: For **about forty** years he endured what?

A: Their conduct in the wilderness

(Acts 13:18)

- Unique 3-word phrase:

Q: I will give you what?

A: The holy and sure blessings promised to David

(Acts 13:34)

# INT/MA Requirements

- Ensure the question and answer follow clearly from each other
- Avoid vague/misleading phrasing
- Ensure that the question has either a single answer (INT) or multiple answers (MA)
- Ensure that the question itself is answered
  - Avoid answers that are the negative of the question
    - Q: But if it is from God, you will what?
    - A: Not be able to stop these men (Acts 5:39)
- A question that does not meet these 4 standards can be declared invalid

# INT/MA Suggestions

- Shorter question prompt length is usually better
  - Write a question prompt that is just long enough to be:
    - Clear, needing no interpretation
    - Unique within the first 5 words
- Avoid writing questions with pronoun answers such as “us” or “you” that have no clarification
  - The only exception to this is if you are a quizzer making a list
- Avoid writing questions that are like situation questions
  - These types of questions are already covered in the SIT type

# INT/MA Examples

Q: Who stood there speechless?

A: The men traveling with Saul

(Acts 9:7)

**GOOD**

Q: God has shown me that I should what?

A: Not call anyone impure or unclean

(Acts 10:28)

**INVALID** – Question has a negative answer (misleading)

# INT/MA Examples

Q: Who went into the synagogue?

A: Paul

(Acts 17:2)

**INVALID** – Phrase appears twice in the material

Q: Sent me why?

(Acts 9:17)

A: So that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit

**WORSE** – Vague, could be written better

# INT/MA Examples

Q: Who regained his strength?

A: He [Saul]

(Acts 9:19)

GOOD

Q: Those who heard who?

A: Him [Saul]

(Acts 9:21)

WORSE – Difficult phrasing of the question, could be better

# INT/MA Examples

Q: Had come to what?

A: Believe in God

(Acts 16:34)

**WORSE** – Vague and could be written better

Q: In him we what?

A: Live and move and have our being

(Acts 17:28)

**INVALID** – More than one answer

**GOOD** (If asked as MA)



# INT/MA Examples

Q: Who heals you?

A: Jesus Christ

(Acts 9:34)

GOOD

Q: Who will dream dreams?

A: Your old men

(Acts 2:17)

GOOD

# F/Q Requirements

Quote (Q):

- Must be 1 verse
- The entire reference is part of the question
- The question text should be in the form:  
    "Quote [book], chapter [number], verse [number]."

e.g. "Quote Acts, chapter 1, verse 1."

# F/Q Requirements

## Quote 2 Verses (Q2V):

- Must be 2 consecutive verses
- The entire 2-verse reference range is part of the question
- The question text should be in the form:  
    “Quote [book], chapter [number], verses [numbers].”

e.g. “Quote Acts, chapter 1, verses 1 and 2.”

# F/Q Requirements

## Finish Type Overall Requirements:

- Question text must be the first 5 words of the material starting based on the question type (FTV, FT, etc.)
- These first 5 words must be unique to all questions of that exact type

## Finish the Verse (FTV):

- Begins at the beginning of a single verse and finishes at the end of that same verse

# F/Q Requirements

## Finish This (FT):

- Begins in the middle of a verse and finishes at the end of that same verse
- Must start at the beginning of a sentence or quotation

## Finish 2 Verses (F2V):

- Begins at the beginning of a verse and continues to the end of the next verse

# F/Q Requirements

Finish This and the Next (FTN):

- Begins in the middle of a verse and finishes at the end of the next verse
- Must start at the beginning of a sentence or quotation

(Suggestion) For all F/Q Types:

- Avoid writing questions on verse(s) that sound incomplete when read by themselves
  - Of course all verses are of spiritual significance, but some verses make better sense in the context of the chapter than by themselves

# F/Q Examples

Q: You know the message God (FTV, Acts 15:12)

A: You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all

**GOOD**

Q: There was a plot afoot (FTV, Acts 14:5)

A: There was a plot afoot among both Gentiles and Jews, together with their leaders, to mistreat them and stone them

**WORSE** – Arguably it does not make sense on its own

# F/Q Examples

Q: Seven sons of Sceva, a (FTV, Acts 19:14)

A: Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this

**INVALID** – Not a complete thought

Q: I saw the Lord always (FT Acts 2:25)

A: I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.



# F/Q Examples

Q: Therefore, in the present case

(F2V Acts 5:38-39)

A: Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God

Q: Suddenly, a man in shining

(FTN Acts 10:30-31)

A: Suddenly, a man in shining clothes stood before me and said, "Cornelius, God has heard your prayer and remembered your gifts to the poor."

# SIT Requirements

Question is made of 2 parts:

1. Up to 3 questions regarding the "situation" of the quotation from the following interrogatives:

- Who said it
- About whom
- To whom
- How
- Why
- Where
- When

# SIT Requirements

## 2. Quotation

- Must be direct from the material, from a person or entity
- Must not exceed 2 verses in length
- First 5 words must be unique to all possible quotations
- Must start at the beginning of a quotation or at the beginning of a sentence within a quotation
- The beginning of a SIT question must occur within the first 2 verses of a quotation
- A quotation that is broken up by non-quotation words can be read without those words if the quote is not interrupted (Acts 10:26)

# SIT Examples

Q: (WHO/TO WHOM) “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.”

A: Jesus, to the apostles

(Acts 1:4)

GOOD

Q: (WHO) “For it is written in the book of Psalms: ‘May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,’ and, ‘May another take his place of leadership.’”

A: Peter

(Acts 1:20)

GOOD

# SIT Examples

Q: (WHO/HOW) “So he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. After the death of his father, God sent him to the land where you are now living.”

A: Stephen replied (Acts 7:4)

**INVALID** – Starts after the second verse in the quotation

Q: (WHO/HOW/TO WHOM) “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.”

A: The voice spoke to him [Peter] a second time (Acts 10:15)

**INVALID** – First 5 words are not unique to all quotations

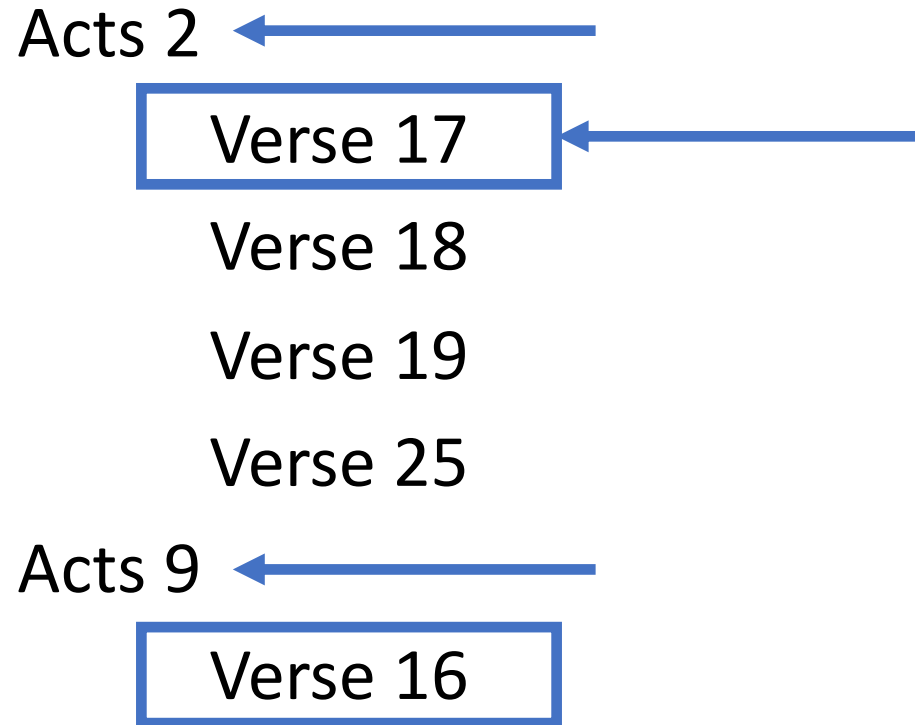
# REF Understanding

- Reference questions are perhaps the hardest question type to grasp
- Think of a reference question as an INT question that is not unique
- For example, the question "I will what?" is not unique because the phrase "I will" appears more than once in the material
- We can use the non-unique phrase "I will" to form reference questions

# REF Understanding

- To make a reference question, take any non-unique phrase and add the required reference
- Add a chapter reference if the phrase appears only once in the chapter
- Add both a chapter and verse reference if the phrase appears more than once in the chapter
- The phrase “I will” appears multiple times in chapter 2, but only once in chapter 9

# REF Understanding





# REF Understanding

Using the phrase "I will" in Acts 2:17:

Q: According to Acts **2:17**, I will what?

A: I will pour out my Spirit on all people

Using the phrase "I will" in Acts 9:16:

Q: According to Acts **9**, I will what?

A: I will show him how much he must suffer for my name

# REF Requirements

## Chapter Verse Reference (CVR):

- Must have a single answer
- The question must contain a word or phrase that exists more than once in the chapter
- Context is a single verse
- The question text should be in the form:  
    “According to [book], chapter [number], verse [number],  
    [interrogative + non-unique phrase]”

# REF Requirements

## Chapter Reference (CR):

- Must have a single answer
- Must contain a word or phrase that exists more than once in the material **but only once** in the chapter
- The question text should be in the form:  
    “According to [book], chapter [number], [interrogative + non-unique phrase]”

# REF Requirements

Multiple Answer Chapter Verse Reference (MACVR):

- Must meet all the requirements of a CVR, replacing the single answer requirement with the multiple answer requirement

Multiple Answer Chapter Reference (MACR):

- Must meet all the requirements of a CR, replacing the single answer requirement with the multiple answer requirement

# REF Requirements

- Ensure the question and answer follow clearly from each other
- Avoid vague/misleading phrasing
- Ensure that the question has either a single answer (CR/CVR) or multiple answers (MA CR/CVR)
- Ensure that the question itself is answered

# REF Suggestions

- Attempt to find long non-unique phrases that could be used for reference questions
  - This rewards quizzers who know their references well and/or have studied a list
- Avoid short non-unique words/phrases that are vague, such as: I, we, has, this, etc.
  - A good general rule is to check if the phrase appears ~10 times in a single chapter
  - Reference questions with these words/phrases are not necessarily invalid, but they can be unnecessarily tricky for quizzers to answer

# REF Examples

Q: According to Acts chapter 2, verse 17, what days?

A: The last days

**GOOD**

Q: According to Acts chapter 20, verse 25, I have what?

A: Gone about preaching the kingdom

**WORSE** – On its own it seems fine, however in the context of the verse it becomes a tricky question

# REF Examples

Q: According to Acts chapter 20, verse 21, I have what?

A: Declared to both Jews and Gentiles that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus

**GOOD**

Q: According to Acts chapter 6, verse 1, what days?

A: Those days

**INVALID** – Appears only once in the chapter



# REF Examples

Q: According to Acts chapter 20, verse 27, I have what?

A: Not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God

**INVALID** – Negative

Q: According to Acts chapter 11, verse 21, a great number of people what?

A: Believed and turned to the Lord

**INVALID** – If written as a CVR

**GOOD** – If written as a MACVR

# REF Examples

Q: According to Acts chapter 1, do not what?

A: Leave Jerusalem

(Acts 1:4)

GOOD

Q: According to Acts chapter 19, they have what?

(Acts 19:37)

A: Neither robbed temples nor blasphemed our goddess

INVALID – Negative

# REF Examples

Q: According to Acts chapter 5, fighting how?

A: Against God

(Acts 5:39)

**INVALID** – Misleading, doesn't answer the question

Q: According to Acts chapter 4, to stop what?

A: This thing

(Acts 4:17)

**WORSE** – Vague

# REF Examples

Q: According to Acts chapter 1, what gift?

A: The gift my Father promised

(Acts 1:4)

GOOD

Q: According to Acts chapter 1, Mary the mother of whom?

A: Jesus

(Acts 1:14)

GOOD

# REF Tools

- The CBQZ app is extremely useful for writing reference questions
- Has searchable concordance:

## CBQZ: Bible Reference Material

I will  Exact  Find Alt+F, F4 14

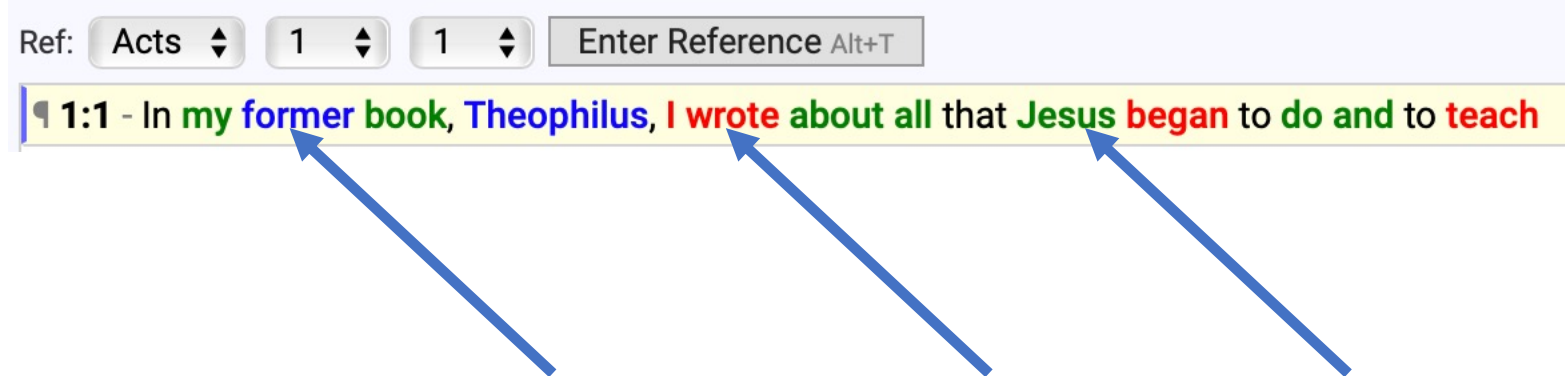
Acts 2:17 - "In the last days, God says, [I will] pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

Acts 2:18 - Even on my servants, both men and women, [I will] pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

Acts 2:19 - [I will] show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.

# REF Tools

- In CBQZ, unique words are **blue**
- Words that appear only once in a chapter appear **red**
- Words that are part of a 2-word phrase appear **green**



# Question List Writing

- Writing question lists is typically only useful for the following question types:
  - MA
  - FT/FTN
  - SIT
  - CR/MACR
  - CVR\*/MACVR

\*It should be noted that depending on how long the chapters are, a CVR list is typically not very useful

# Question List Writing

## MA List:

- Look for keywords such as “and” and “or”
- Write questions as short as possible

## FT/FTN List:

- Look for quotations/periods in the middle of verses



# Question List Writing

## SIT List:

- Scan quotation context to determine possible interrogatives
- Break up the list by these possible interrogatives

## CR List:

- Look for longer phrases that are repeated throughout the material
- Make note of verses that are highly dense in CR questions

# Question List Writing

## CVR List:

- Takes a lot of effort to write a complete list
- However, they can be useful for shorter chapters
- Most of the time, learning to quote backwards is a better option

## MACVR/MACR List:

- The easiest lists to make (least number of questions)
- Can sometimes write MA references from a MA list

# Question List Writing

What if a quizzer wants to make a Q list?

- Q lists are almost never helpful at district meets
- Better off to improve reference recall
- Knowing what verses are 150/300 is useful

What if a quizzer wants to make an INT list?

- Practicing unique words/phrases from the back of the book is a much more efficient way of improving

Questions?