

= The American Bible Challenge =

The American Bible Challenge is a Biblical @-@ themed American television game show created by Game Show Network . The series is hosted by Jeff Foxworthy , with Kirk Franklin joining Foxworthy as co @-@ host and announcer in the second season . The series debuted on August 23 , 2012 .

The game involves three teams consisting of three contestants each answering questions to display their knowledge of the Bible . At the end of the main game , the teams utilize only their strongest contestants to answer questions by themselves without any assistance from their teammates . Once the main game is completed , the two highest @-@ scoring teams compete in a final round with the scores being reset to zero . The remaining teams answer as many questions correctly as possible within one minute ; the highest @-@ scoring team from this round wins a \$ 20 @, @ 000 prize .

The show became GSN 's highest rated original program in the history of the network . In 2014 , The American Bible Challenge received two nominations at the 41st Daytime Emmy Awards , with the series receiving one for Outstanding Game Show , and Foxworthy receiving the other for Outstanding Game Show Host ; however , both the show and Foxworthy lost to Jeopardy ! and Steve Harvey (host of Family Feud) respectively .

= = Gameplay = =

= = = Main game = = =

To begin the game , a category is revealed , and the three teams of three contestants are asked multiple choice questions under that category , with each question having four possible answers . The contestant that buzzes in with the correct answer earns the respective team 100 points ; an incorrect answer loses 100 points , and opens up the question to the other teams . Contestants must wait until after the host reads the entire question (including the choices) to buzz in .

Each team then participates in a physical stunt . These stunts involve teams answering questions about Bible characters , with the same set of choices given for each character . For example , in the game " Stick a Fork In It , " the teams must use a spoon to catapult a fork into a glass to select their answer . Where teams compete individually , each team is given 60 seconds ; occasional games where teams compete at the same time are either untimed (with the first team to complete the game winning) or played in 90 seconds . In all cases , the team that wins the stunt receives 200 points ; in case of a tie , each of the teams involved in the tie receives the points . The next round , entitled " Kirk 's Righteous Remix " , features Grammy Award @-@ winner Kirk Franklin and the choir singing songs relating to various books of the Bible . Each team is then given one question based on an announced subject worth 300 points ; no penalty is assessed for an incorrect answer .

The teams then set their strongest respective contestants aside for the final round of main gameplay , entitled " The Chosen Three " . These contestants move to an area behind the teams , and cannot participate in this round . The host then asks each team , in turn , a question based on an announced category . Each question in this round is worth 500 points , with no penalty assessed for an incorrect answer . Only the two contestants standing at the podium may confer and answer the question . Two questions are asked to each team in this round . In the " Chosen Three " round , the contestants who were set aside from the previous round stand alone at their podiums , with their teammates standing in the area behind them . The host asks each contestant , in turn , a question with six possible answers , three of which are correct . The contestants then make three selections without conferring with the rest of their respective teams . Each individual correct answer is worth 1 @, @ 000 points , thus , a total of 3 @, @ 000 points are available to each team in this round . The two teams with the highest total scores advance to the final round , while the third @-@ place team is eliminated and leaves with \$ 2 @, @ 500 for their charity .

= = = The Final Revelation = = =

Before this game , entitled " The Final Revelation " , scores from the previous rounds are discarded . The host announces the category for the final round , and gives each team a copy of the Bible . The teams then move to a backstage area , and are permitted 10 minutes to study the Bible for information based on that category . In Season 2 , while backstage , the teams also have the option to use the YouVersion App of the Bible on an electronic tablet along with the copy of the Bible .

After the 10 minutes are up , the first team comes on @-@ stage , while the second team is placed in a sound @-@ proof booth . The host then asks the team questions from the announced category . Each question is given , in rotation , to one player , who cannot confer with teammates . Both teams play the same set of questions . Each team has a total of 60 seconds to answer as many questions as possible , and the team that answers more questions correctly wins \$ 20 @,@ 000 for their charity ; the runners @-@ up win \$ 5 @,@ 000 for their charity . Teams that win this round advance to a semi @-@ final game ; the winners of that episode advance to the season finale , where team that wins this round wins \$ 100 @,@ 000 for their charity in addition to all winnings from previous episodes .

= = = Previous rules = = =

Immediately following the first round in season 2 , each team had a chance to earn 25 additional points . Before the show , a question was asked to 100 You @-@ Version App users (e.g. " Would you rather fast for 40 days or eat manna for 40 years ? ") . A question with 3 possible choices was then asked about the percentage of people who answered (e.g. " What percentage said they would rather fast for 40 days than eat manna for 40 years ? ") . During the break , each team wrote their answer on a tablet computer , and each team that submitted the correct answer earned 25 points . This round was removed from the game in the third season and replaced with another opening round @-@ style game played for ± 100 points a question .

= = Production = =

The series began development with production staff approaching Troy Schmidt , a pastor at First Baptist Church in Windermere , Florida , to work as both a writer and a consultant for the show . One of Schmidt 's initial roles was to be an " on @-@ camera Bible expert " for the series , one of many aspects of the pilot episode that was rejected by test audiences . GSN was then forced to bring in many new staff members during a six @-@ week period and made various changes to the show 's format .

After these changes were made , the test audience became more appreciative of the series , and GSN announced its development to the public at an upfront presentation in New York City on March 21 , 2012 for the network 's upcoming programming . By this time , a pilot episode had already been shot with American stand @-@ up comedian and television personality Jeff Foxworthy providing the hosting duties for the show . When first asked if he was interested in hosting the show , Foxworthy was hesitant ; however , he was " sold " on providing hosting duties when he learned contestants would be playing for charity rather than on their own behalf . Casting for the series was held in various cities from May to June 2012 . On July 7 , 2012 , GSN confirmed the premiere date of the show as August 23 , 2012 , alongside the premiere of Beat the Chefs .

= = = Season 1 = = =

The first season of The American Bible Challenge premiered its first of nine episodes August 23 , 2012 to an audience of 1 @.@ 730 million viewers , breaking all previous viewership records for GSN . On October 18 , 2012 , Team " Judson 's Legacy " , consisting of married couple Drake and Christina Levasheff of Irvine , California as well as their friend Dean Bobar , were crowned champions of the inaugural season 's tournament , winning a total of \$ 140 @,@ 000 for their charity in honor of the Levasheff 's son , Judson , who died of late @-@ onset Krabbe disease , a

leukodystrophy . The first season garnered over 13 million total viewers on GSN .

== Season 2 ==

A second nine @-@ episode season of the series was officially announced on October 9 , 2012 . It was advertised that auditions would be held nationwide in November and December , and that the season would also feature the addition of Franklin to the series . The second season premiered on GSN March 21 , debuting to 1 @.@ 152 million viewers . On May 23 , 2013 , Team " Wagner Warriors " , consisting of brothers Joshua , Jesse and Daniel Wagner from Owasso and Tulsa , Oklahoma , were crowned champions of the second season , winning a total of \$ 140 @,@ 000 for Wagner Ministries International . A portion of their winnings was used for the team 's involvement in the One Nation One Day nationwide Ministry Event in Honduras in July 2013 .

== Season 3 ==

On August 8 , 2013 , GSN officially announced plans to renew The American Bible Challenge for a third season , with both Foxworthy and Franklin returning as hosts . The third season once again consisted of nine episodes , which began airing May 22 , 2014 . On July 17 , 2014 , Team " Bible Belts " , consisting of Jonathan King , Matt Phipps and Brad Harris from Otway , Ohio were crowned as the third season 's champions , winning a total \$ 140 @,@ 000 for their charity , " Kicks For Jesus " .

== Reception ==

Despite breaking many ratings records for GSN , the series received mixed reviews from critics . David Hinckley of the New York Daily News gave the series a positive review , saying , " Anyone who knows even a little about the Bible will be unable to resist playing along and matching answers with the teams on the screen " . In addition , Rebecca Cusey of Patheos argued , " Those that take the Bible as the word of God will enjoy this show " . Conversely , Hank Stuever of The Washington Post was critical of the series . Stuever called the show " just as dull as it sounds " , and argued that " weariness " could be detected in Foxworthy 's hosting .

The American Bible Challenge was also honored with two Emmy Award nominations at the 41st Daytime Emmy Awards in 2014 . The series received a nomination for Outstanding Game Show , while Foxworthy received one for Outstanding Game Show Host . However , both the show and Foxworthy lost to Jeopardy ! and Steve Harvey of Family Feud respectively .

The premiere episode of The American Bible Challenge debuted on August 23 , 2012 , breaking all previous viewership records for GSN . The show brought in over 2 @.@ 3 million total viewers (1 @.@ 73 million at 8 : 00pm , 571 @,@ 000 at 11 : 00pm) for the night , which was by far the largest in the network 's history .

== Merchandise ==

In an effort to promote the show 's second season , Schmidt released a study book entitled The American Bible Challenge : A Daily Reader , Volume 1 in 2013 . The book features nine weeks worth of study and questions previously seen on the show . Each day introduces a different lesson and passage of Scripture , with five questions being asked at the end of the day 's lesson . In addition to the book , GSN released a mobile game for Facebook , iOS devices , and Android devices in 2012 . In 2014 , a board game based on the series was released by Talicor .