

## Does Not Return Void

After graduating High School in 2019 I (Sabrina Boggs) stayed involved with Bible Quizzing, initially as a Rookie coach at New Brighton in 2020 and then predominantly as the Conference photographer and Facebook page admin. Now here in 2024 I am completing my first season as a Conference Director, alongside Michelle Boggs, who is my co-director. I never expected in high school that I would be standing in the place of my predecessors, helping run this ministry I love. It was not so long ago that I was just another student on one of the chairs, when the thought of speaking in front of people made me unbearably queasy.

Ever since graduating high school I've been trying to determine where God is calling me to work and in what capacity. In college I was undeclared for two years before choosing the thing that I was exploring and kept returning to – Biblical Studies and Arts Studies. My experience in Bible Quizzing opened me up early on to have an intense desire to understand Scripture, and to understand how it connected historically, spiritually, and culturally. Having studied the actual scriptures in high school, even memorizing large portions of what I studied, has influenced many decisions I've made in life, including my college major. And choosing that major resulted in me studying abroad for a semester in Israel. Even though it is still unclear what God has planned for me and what He will allow me to do with my life, it is clear looking back that my experiences in quizzing and the studying of Scripture have deeply shaped my life in a way that the after affects will never be deniable. Those experiences, memories, and memorized verses will not return to me void. For in each one, God was there.

Additionally, as I have returned to quizzing in a new capacity, I've already seen the positive effects of studying the Scriptures and of Bible Quizzing among the teens who are now involved. Many of these students would never have met if it were not for quizzing nor would they be taking the time to study and review the Scriptures. And although many may not have a deep background understanding yet or have even transferred that head knowledge into heart knowledge, what they learn combats biblical illiteracy and plants seeds in their souls. Both of which will enable the students to better recognize when it is God speaking to them, for God does not contradict Himself and His Word does not return void.

During the 2023-2024 Bible Quizzing season we had teams from Monacrest Free Methodist Church and New Brighton Free Methodist Church. We had 11 quizzers between the two churches and 8 adults committed to Quizzing throughout this season. Liza Lambert, Vera Covalt, Leah Covalt, Brenna Milligan from New Brighton and Jonah Bosch from Monacrest committed all 42 quotes to memory, which were comprised of 55 verses. Many of the students will be attending Nationals in June at Waynesburg University and will then have a few months off before preparing to study the books of Romans and James during the 2024-2025 quizzing season. These students are learning the scriptures in an engaging way, while building long-lasting friendships grounded on the foundation of their shared experience in quizzing. May we all remember that the Word of the Lord does not return void, and even though the students process and understand the scriptures at various rates depending on the teen, studying the scriptures is never a waste. May this ministry continue to be a conduit of the Spirit through which our teens can grow in knowledge and in relationship with their Heavenly Father.