



2026

Youth Bible Drill

(Grades 7-9)

Leader's Guide



Tennessee Baptist Churches giving through the Cooperative Program make this ministry possible.

Youth Bible Drill is a strategic part of the youth discipleship ministry experience for youth in grades 7-9. **Youth Bible Drill** offers youth and leaders an exciting way to learn God's Word. Youth who participate in **Youth Bible Drill** will develop skills in using their Bibles. They will learn to locate books and verses and memorize and locate passages dealing with doctrinal and ethical concerns. Learning to use their Bibles will prepare them to prepare them to face the challenges of today's world. While preparing for **Youth Bible Drill**, students increase their love for the Bible; its words and phrases become a part of them. May God bless you as you lead out in this wonderful journey called **Youth Bible Drill 2026**.

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Administering Youth Bible Drill Leaders- Here is what you will need!

Leader's Guide

The **2026 Youth Bible Drill Leader's Guide** is available **FREE** online.

- Download as many copies of the Leader's Guide that you will need at <https://www.tnbaptist.org/youth-high-school-bible-drills/>
- A leader might want to 3-hole punch the Leader's Guide and place it in a notebook for easy accessibility.

Drill Cards

2026 Youth Bible Drill Cards- Green Cycle are available **FREE** online.

- Download the drill cards at <https://www.tnbaptist.org/youth-high-school-bible-drills> and select the drill card version you desire to use—2026 Youth Bible Drill cards are available in **King James (KJV)** and **Christian Standard Bible (CSB)**.
- You can easily print these out on regular paper, or they can be printed on card stock. Note: be sure to print both the front and the back page
- It is suggested that you cut the drill cards down to size so that it will fit in a student's Bible.

NOTE: You will need **one** drill card (front and back) for each Youth Bible Drill driller.

Approved Drill Bibles

Each driller is **required** to use an **approved** Drill Bible in church, association and regional and drills. It is up to the church leader which version of the Bible drillers will use.

Order the King James Version and Christian Standard Bible by calling the LifeWay Christian Bookstore Customer Service Center at (800) 458-2772, by ordering online at www.lifeway.com.

King James Version - Blue Hardcover -

(<https://www.lifeway.com/en/product/kjv-drill-bible-blue-hardcover-P005670783>)

Christian Standard Bible – Grey Leathertouch Cover -

(<https://www.lifeway.com/en/product/csb-drill-bible-gray-leathertouch-over-board-P005787337>)

Practice Drill(s) & Score Sheets

There is a practice drill available online (***2026 Youth Bible Drill Green Cycle Practice Drill*** for King James Version and Christian Standard Bible.) A sample score sheet is also available. Download these resources at <https://www.tnbaptist.org/youth-high-school-bible-drills/>

Suggested Leader's Checklist to prepare for 2026 Youth Bible Drills

- ❑ Secure your Youth Bible Drill cards, Drill Bibles, Bible Drill Score Sheets and Practice Drill from the TBMB website <https://www.tnbaptist.org/youth-high-school-bible-drills/>
- ❑ Secure date of your 2026 Associational drill from your local association office.
- ❑ Secure date of your 2026 regional drill from the TBMB Bible Drill Coordinator.
- ❑ Schedule a date for your 2026 Church drill on your church calendar.
- ❑ Put all of the 2026 Youth Bible Drill dates on your church calendar.
- ❑ Be completely familiar with the **2026 Youth Bible Drill Leader's Guide** (rules, judging, awards, etc.)
- ❑ Set a time and place for drillers to meet weekly.
- ❑ If this is your first time to lead **Youth Bible Drill**, you might want to contact the TBMB Bible Drill Coordinator for training on how to conduct **Youth Bible Drill**.
- ❑ Consider calling your association secretary to get the names of local churches who have participated in **Youth Bible Drill** in your area. Invite their youth to come to your church to do a demonstration drill for your group.
- ❑ As you lead the weekly group session, work on developing skills in this order:
 - Handling the Bible with respect
 - Accuracy in locating books and verses
 - Knowledge of the Bible
 - Speed
- ❑ Enlist your caller, 5 judges, and timekeeper for your church drill.

Participation

- No more than 14 youth should participate in any single competition drill.
- Drillers using King James Version or Christian Standard Bible **can** participate in the same drill.
- Participation in Youth Bible Drill is open to **any** student who regularly attends and participates in a Youth Bible Drill group in a Tennessee Baptist church.

Dress Code for Competitions

- At the church & association drill, youth should exhibit good taste in clothing. It shows respect and discipline for the Bible Drill. Neat casual clothing is acceptable.
- During the Regional Drill shorts, t-shirts and short tops are inappropriate.
- At **all** drills, special church Youth Bible Drill t-shirts or other church logo shirts are acceptable and encouraged!

Before your Church Drill you will need:

- Typewritten copy of the drill for the caller- (if KJV and CSB versions will be used in the same drill, be sure to include these translations as a part of the drill provided to the caller.)
A drill can be obtained by emailing the TBMB Coordinator at rkeaton@tnbaptist.org and requesting a copy of a Church drill. If you desire, you can write a drill using ALL sections from the Verse Cards provided for you.
- Numbered labels for driller identification. 3x5 adhesive labels or index cards can be used.
- Pencils
- Caller Frequency Card (available online at <https://www.tnbaptist.org/youth-high-school-bible-drills>) lets the caller know who he has called on, etc.
- Score Sheets — one score sheet per judge for each drill (available online at <https://www.tnbaptist.org/youth-high-school-bible-drills/>)
- Calculators for tallying
- Stopwatch for timekeeper. Stopwatch on smartphone may be used.
- Masking tape to place on floor. Make a straight line. Youth will stand behind the masking tape line facing the caller and judges.
- Any certificates, ribbons, or awards for recognition that the church will provide to students.

Youth Bible Drill Verses and Cycles

The verses for **Youth Bible Drill** are grouped into three cycles Red, Blue, Green. Youth who participate in the drill for all 3 years (grades 7-9) in which they are eligible will be learning different verses each year.

Note: If a driller is using the Christian Standard Bible, verses may or may not exactly match the King James verses. Be sure to use the verses and scripture references found on the CSB drill card.

Verses for the Doctrinal Drill cycles are selected from the basic doctrines outlined in *The Baptist Faith and Message*. Youth are challenged to learn verses which are foundational to understanding Baptist distinctives.

Verses for the Identifying and Bible Answers Drills are selected from verses which are considered to be life promises.

<u>2026 Youth Bible Drill- Green Cycle</u>		
<u>Identifying Verse Drill</u>	<u>Doctrinal Drill</u>	<u>Bible Answers Drill</u>
Joshua 24:15 Psalm 37:4-5 Isaiah 14:24 Hosea 6:6 Matthew 7:21 John 16:33 Galatians 4:4-5 Philippians 1:6 Colossians 3:17 Hebrews 12:28	Jeremiah 1:7 Matthew 16:27 John 1:12 John 14:26 Acts 2:42 Romans 6:4 1 Corinthians 15:21-22 Hebrews 4:12 James 2:5 1 John 1:5	Psalm 139:23-24 Proverbs 3:13 Matthew 6:33 Luke 10:27 John 14:6 Romans 3:23 Ephesians 4:29 1 Thessalonians 1:5 Hebrews 13:15 2 Peter 3:18

Youth Bible Drill Commands

Drillers using King James Version or Christian Standard Bible can participate in the same drill. (Note: In an associational or regional drill, if there are enough drillers, group drillers according to their version preference- KJV, CSB.)

In conducting a **Youth Bible Drill**, callers will use the following commands:

“Attention”

Stand straight; one foot not extended in front of the other; eyes focused on the caller until the command “Start;” Bible held at side with Bible spine down, palm under the Bible. (Only approved drill Bibles may be used.) Bibles must be in good condition and unmarked.

“Present Bible”

Bring Bible to waistline. A driller who searches with his right hand should hold the Bible on his left hand with Genesis down and his right hand resting flat on top of the Bible. A driller who searches with his left hand should hold the Bible on his right hand, Genesis up, with left hand resting flat on the front cover of the Bible. The driller’s thumb and fingers cannot extend around the sides of the Bible. Following “Present Bible,” the caller announces the call. **The call is stated only once.** At the caller’s discretion, a call may be repeated once if room noise or distractions warrant a repeat of the call.

“Start”

This command is the signal for participants to begin searching. In searching, proper handling of the Bible is required. Proper handling includes no rustling, slapping, or wrinkling of pages.

In the Book Drill, the index finger may be placed upon any verse in that book before stepping forward.

In all other drill categories, the driller finds the verse, places his index finger on the verse **BEFORE** stepping forward.

Drillers must locate the verse and step across the masking tape line within **8 seconds** or it is counted as a mistake.

If a driller crosses the masking tape and then realizes he or she has made a mistake in locating the scripture, he/she cannot step back. The driller should then raise his/her hand indicating that he/she has made a mistake. The caller must acknowledge a student who raises his/her hand for the mistake so that the judges are aware. The judge chairman can let the caller know there is a mistake if the caller does not acknowledge the mistake. The caller must acknowledge the mistake by saying “Thank you, number ____”.

Note: Under no circumstances can a driller step forward, step back and step forward again even if he/she is within the 8 seconds.

Drillers need to be accurate in locating the call **BEFORE** they step across the masking tape line.

If called upon to respond, if a verse is on two pages in the Bible, the driller should ask the caller if he/she has permission to turn the page.

“Time”

The timekeeper calls out the word “Time” at the end of eight seconds. All drillers stop searching. Bibles should not be slammed shut.

The caller will call upon one driller to respond. For each call, a driller is **given only one opportunity** to give a correct response unless the caller asks the driller to repeat the answer. In order to give all drillers opportunities to recite calls, the caller should use the Caller Frequency Card (provided online at <https://www.tnbaptist.org/youth-high-school-bible-drills>) to keep track of which drillers have been called.

After the response, the caller has the drillers return to “**Attention**”.

Drills

Book Drill

(5 Calls - 3 Points per Call)

The caller announces the name of **any** book in the Bible. It is suggested that the drill include books from both the Old and New Testament.

At the command “Start,” participants begin searching for the book that was called.

A driller locates the correct book and places his index finger on any verse in that book **BEFORE** he steps forward.

If called upon, the driller must be able to (1) name the book which immediately precedes the book called, (2) name the book called, and (3) name the book which immediately follows the book called. He/she must do this in the order of 1, 2, and 3.

Scripture Searching Drill

(5 Calls - 3 Points per Call)

The caller announces a Scripture reference to be found. Scripture-searching drills are taken from **any** verse in the Bible. It is suggested that the drill include both Old and New Testament verses that have special meaning or implications to students.

A driller must locate the correct Scripture reference and place his index finger on the verse **BEFORE** he steps forward.

If called upon, the driller must be able to read the entire verse and state the scripture reference. Reading ability is not judged.

Identifying Verses Drill

(5 Calls - 4 Points per Call)

The caller quotes the underlined portion of the verse found on the drill card. If a caller is calling more than one Bible version, the caller states each version before saying the underlined portion.

A driller must correctly locate the verse and place his index finger on the verse **BEFORE** he steps forward.

If called upon, the student must be able to read the entire verse and state the correct reference. Reading ability is not judged.

Doctrinal Drill

(5 Calls - 5 Points per Call)

The caller announces a doctrinal subject taken from the doctrinal drill list found on the drill card.

A driller must correctly locate the verse listed with that doctrinal subject and place his index finger on the verse(s) **BEFORE** he steps forward.

If called upon, the driller must be able to (1) state the doctrine, (2) read the verse, and (3) state the Scripture reference. The driller may do this in any order comfortable to him/her.

Bible Answers Drill

(5 Calls - 5 Points per Call)

The caller announces a question taken from the Bible Answers Drill list found on the drill card.

A driller must correctly locate the verse listed that answers the question and place his index finger on the verse **BEFORE** he steps forward.

When time is called, the caller will instruct the drillers to close their Bibles.

If called upon, the driller must be able to (1) quote the question, (2) quote the verse word for word and (3) quote the reference. The driller may do this in any order comfortable to them.

Judging Youth Bible Drills

Each **Youth Bible Drill** needs 5 adult judges (ages 18 or older).

Three (3) judges will serve as Regular judges who only mark mistakes and **two (2) judges who** will serve as Bonus Judges only marking bonus points (driller(s) who steps out first).

One of the experienced judges needs to serve as judge chairman and be ready to share results and mistakes with the drill participants.

Leaders will need to provide training for the adults enlisted to judge the drill(s).

The TBMB Bible Drill Coordinator can assist you in the training of your judges. Try to enlist adults who are interested & have an understanding about youth and try to avoid enlisting parents of drillers. The training session should include instructions on how to use the score sheet, the criteria for judging, and specific duties of the caller, judges, and timekeeper.

In judging **Youth Bible Drills**, if at any time there is any discrepancy in judging, judges will always give the benefit to the student!

TIE- If there is a tie for first place in the regional drill, the judges in consultation with the caller **MUST** do a run-off to determine the winner. It is suggested that the optional call and one additional call from each section be used as the Tie-Breaker. There can only be one winner (first place).

For Church and Associational Drill(s), use the official score sheet available at <https://www.tnbaptist.org/youth-high-school-bible-drills>. Score sheets are reproducible and should be used for all drills.

Judges should sit facing the participants (preferably behind tables). It is best that the bonus judges sit on each end of the judging tables so that they have a better view of which driller(s) step out first. Drillers should be standing in front of the judges behind a straight masking-tape line. The caller should be in the center of the judges, facing the drillers.

All drillers should wear assigned numbers that are visible to the caller and the judges (3 X 5 adhesive labels or index cards work well). The caller should only refer to the drillers by the number they are wearing, not by name.

Judges score each driller as individuals and use the number they are wearing and not names on the score sheet and in any discussion of drillers.

No more than 14 youth should participate in a single drill. This aids the judges in being able to accurately score the drillers, as well as allows the Caller to call on all drillers at least once during the drill. (Note: The caller should use the Caller Frequency card which is available online at <https://www.tnbaptist.org/youth-high-school-bible-drills>.) If you have more than 14 youth participating, you will want to divide them into multiple groups.

The Caller (1 person)

The drill caller is responsible for conducting the drill and checking the accuracy of answers.

Be prepared to handle the unexpected.

If some distraction occurs when the call is being given causing a youth to make a mistake in responding, instruct the judges to disregard that call and give an alternate call or the caller can choose to repeat that call.

Callers should remind all audience participants to turn off their cell phones during the drill and to place everything in their laps on the floor and not to get up and leave during this drill as this is a distraction to the drillers.

Regular Judges (3 persons)

The three regular judges score regular points by only marking mistakes.

When a driller makes a mistake, write the letter **a-e (listed below)** in the corresponding box on the score sheet.

NOTE: If two mistakes in one call are made, points are deducted for only one mistake.

Mistakes

No Points are given if the driller:

- a. Fails to step out within eight seconds.
- b. Gives an incorrect response. This includes any driller who raises his hand indicating an incorrect reference and is acknowledged by the caller
- c. Fails to stand straight or keep his eyes on the caller or begins any movement before the command "Start" is given.
- d. Steps forward before the index finger is on the correct response.

- e. Fails to handle the Bible according to instructions, abuses the Bible, or steps back after stepping forward.

Bonus Judges (2 persons)

Two Bonus judges provide accuracy for the drillers as to which driller(s) step out first.

The Bonus judges only score bonus points by placing a check mark in the box under the participant's identifying number on the score sheet for the call in which a bonus point is earned.

Take Note:

- Bonus judges should sit apart from each other. It is suggested that they sit on the ends of the judging team with the regular judges in the middle. On each call, the driller who steps out first scores one bonus point.
- If two or more drillers step out at the same time, the Bonus judges score a bonus point for each driller.
- No bonus point is given on a call if the driller(s) who steps out first gives an incorrect response if called on by the Caller.

When the judges are dismissed to score, the Bonus judges confer with each other to award only one bonus point per driller(s) per call.

In the case of any discrepancy between Bonus judges as to who stepped out first, each of the involved drillers should receive a bonus point.

Computing a final score:

Regular scoring judges will score each driller as an individual. Judges scoring regular points will only mark mistakes. If two mistakes in one call are made, points for only one mistake will be deducted.

To determine regular points- on each score sheet deduct the driller's number of errors from 100.

- In the first two sections, the point value is **three (3)**.
- In the third section, the point value is **four (4)**.
- In the fourth and fifth sections, the point value is **five (5)**.

The regular points are totaled from each score sheet for each driller.

Each regular judge can potentially award 100 points per driller.

The judge chairman verifies the regular points awarded to drillers and then adds the bonus point(s) from the bonus judges to the drillers total regular point scores.

A driller with a perfect score would have 300 regular points plus a possible 25 bonus points for a total score of 325. A driller with a perfect score of 300 regular points is awarded a Perfect Score seal.

The Timekeeper (1 person)

The timekeeper will call “Time” eight seconds after the caller gives the command “Start”. Continue to allow the eight seconds even if all drillers have stepped forward.

The timekeeper needs a stopwatch to accurately call time. The stopwatch on a smartphone can be used.

The regular judges should mark a mistake (“a”) on any drillers who do not step out before the Timekeeper calls “TIME”.

Youth Bible Drill Advancement and Awards

Advancement Progression Summary:

Church Youth Bible Drill-- Participants: All youth drillers participate. Youth drillers must score at least **180 points** to advance to the Association Youth Bible Drill

Association Youth Bible Drill-- Participants: All youth drillers who scored at least 180 points in church drills. Drillers who score at least **200 points** in the Association Drill advance to the Regional Youth Bible Drill

Regional Youth Bible Drill-- Participants: All Youth drillers who scored at least 200 points in their Associational Youth Bible Drill. There is one (1) 2026 Regional Youth Bible Drill winner from each Region.

Church Youth Bible Drill

Drillers who score at least **180 points** (total of all five judges) in their Church Youth Bible Drill may advance to the Association Drill.

If a church has **five (5)** or less drillers, the church can advance **all** drillers automatically to the Associational Youth Bible Drill.

If a church has five (5) or less drillers, the church may request an abbreviated Church Bible Drill from the TBMB Coordinator at rkeaton@tnbaptist.org. This drill reduces the number of calls per section.

The value of the church drill is to give the drillers a practice drill and the opportunity to demonstrate their Bible skills. Each church is encouraged to give special recognition to each participant in the Church Youth Bible Drill. Suggestions include a certificate, a Bible, a discount on or a free youth ministry event, etc. Be creative and reward the students who have worked hard in Youth Bible Drill. Be sure to recognize their leaders and parents.

The church Youth Bible Drill leader should immediately contact their Association Office and let them know the names of drillers who will be participating in the Association Youth Bible Drill.

2026 Association Youth Bible Drills

Take note:

For the date and location of your Association Youth Bible Drill contact your local Baptist Association office. If your Association is not hosting an Association Bible Drill, contact the TBMB Bible Drill Coordinator at rkeaton@tnbaptist.org for an association close to you.

Drillers at the Associational Youth Bible Drill must score at least **200 points** (total from all five score sheets) in order to advance to the Regional Youth Bible Drill.

Note: However, an association with **five (5)** or less drillers participating can hold an abbreviated drill and can send all 5 or less driller(s) to the Regional Youth Bible Drill. An Association with five (5) or less drillers may request an abbreviated Association Drill from the TBMB Coordinator at rkeaton@tnbaptist.org. This drill reduces the number of calls per section.

It is the responsibility of the Association to certify that all drillers coming to the Regional Youth Bible Drill have participated in a drill and have scored at least **200 points**.

Association Youth Bible Awards

ALL participants receive a special certificate recognizing their participation in the 2026 Youth Bible Drill. Certificates will be available for download at <https://www.tnbaptist.org/youth-high-school-bible-drills> in February 2026.

At the conclusion of the Association Drill, the Association leader should provide the necessary information to the drillers advancing to the Regional Youth Bible Drill as to the date, time, and location of their Regional Youth Bible Drill.

Association leaders must provide the TBMB Bible Drill Coordinator the completed Association Report as soon the Association Drill is complete so the TBMB Bible Drill

Coordinator can plan accordingly for the Regional Youth Bible Drill. The Association Report is available for download at <https://www.tnbaptist.org/youth-high-school-bible-drills>.)

2026 Regional Youth Bible Drill & Awards

At the regional drill, based on the number of participants, it may be necessary to conduct Preliminary Drills to determine the 12 highest scorers, who will then participate in the final Regional Drill.

At the Regional Youth Bible Drill-

- All regional participants will receive special seals for their certificate recognizing that the student was an Associational Winner and driller in the 2026 Regional Youth Bible Drill. The top 12 drillers for the Region will receive a seal for their certificate recognizing that the driller was a Regional Finalist. Any driller receiving a score of 300, not including bonus points, will receive a Perfect Score seal for their certificate recognizing this accomplishment.
- The first (1st) place Regional Youth Bible Drill winner (student with highest score) will be presented a special award for first place and declared the Regional Winner.

Additional Youth Bible Drill Awards awarded at Regional level

In addition to the 1st place award, the following awards and recognitions will be made at the Regional Youth Bible Drill to participants:

3-Year Award

A 3-Year Award is presented to Youth Bible Drillers who have **participated** in Regional Youth Bible Drill (7th, 8th, & 9th grade) for 3 years and did not receive a 3-Year Award in Children's Bible Drill.

6-Year Award

This award is presented to Youth Bible Drillers who have **participated** in Regional Children's Bible Drill for 3 years (4th, 5th & 6th grade) and have **participated** in Regional Youth Bible Drill (7th, 8th, & 9th grade) for 3 years.

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Former Regional Bible Drill Winners

Given there is no longer one State Bible Drill winner, previous Regional Youth Bible Drill winners are eligible to be a regional winner a second time.

In 2026, there will be 5 Regional Bible Drills. Youth may attend whichever Regional Drill is closest to him/her.

Youth participating in Youth Bible Drill have the possibility of competing in three (3) Youth Bible Drills. These drills include the church drill, the association drill, and the regional drill. As of 2021, neither the State nor the At-Large drills are held.

**For additional information or any questions about
Youth Bible Drill in Tennessee, contact**

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