

Alabaster Quarter Wars

One of our Alabaster offerings during the church year has to be “Quarter Wars.” Both teens and adults love the challenge and are disappointed when we do not do it.

Divide the group into two teams—one for the adults and the other for the teens. We have a smaller church (we average in the 40s for Sunday morning worship).* The teen group usually has about 10, plus their pick of 3 adults; and the remaining adults comprise the other team. The teens wanted to make it a competition between them and the adults, and the truth is that they usually win. (They are very good at picking adults who will help their cause!)

Purchase two buckets, identical except for the color, and allow the teams to determine which color they want.

Each Sunday during the Alabaster month we take an offering. Each team puts their quarters in the opposing team’s bucket. The quarters are then subtracted from each team’s total amount. So you really don’t want to have quarters in your bucket if you can help it. Each team’s money is totaled, and the amount of quarters is subtracted from that amount. The monies are kept separate until they are counted. Following is an example of how I keep track of the offerings:

WEEK #1

Adults		Teens	
Currency	\$2.00	Currency	\$2.00
Quarters	\$3.00	Quarters	\$4.50
Dimes	\$6.50	Dimes	\$.30
Nickels	\$2.50	Nickels	\$.30
Pennies	<u>\$1.11</u>	Pennies	<u>\$.07</u>
Subtotal	\$15.11	Subtotal	\$7.17
Minus Quarters**	<u>-\$3.00</u>	Minus Quarters**	<u>-\$4.50</u>
TOTAL	\$12.11	TOTAL	\$2.67



GRAND TOTAL **for Giving** for Week #1

(add the subtotals **before** subtracting the quarters)—\$22.28

The Competition uses the **Totals** for each team.

We have found that it is easier to take the coins to the bank and have them run through the coin machine, which breaks it down to keep track of the different coin amounts. This is also a great way to make contacts with the local bank tellers; and if you try to get the same teller, they often want to know how the contest is going.

I let the teams know what the totals are for each team weekly and then give the grand total. As time goes by, I inform them of the running totals as well. It sounds like a lot of work, but it isn’t really. Like I said the people love the competition and it involves everyone!

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* A larger church may want to have more teams and divide the numbers accordingly.

** The quarter total represents the quarters from the opposing teams and are thus subtracted at the end.