



# THE SCOTTISH SLEUTHS

..... and .....

## THE CASE OF THE DISCIPLES' DISTINCTIVES

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM  
TEACHER'S MANUAL: 4TH - 5TH GRADES

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**JUNIOR**  
VBS06JTM



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JUNIOR TEACHER'S MANUAL

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# INTRODUCTION

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Welcome to the *Scottish Sleuths* Vacation Bible School curriculum series. Each year, our Scottish Super Sleuths, Angus McTavish and Professor Dabney Thornwell, are called in to solve a Biblical “case” with the help of the VBS children. The detective characters symbolically portray the message that we want the students to learn to become thoughtful investigators of Biblical truth.

This New Testament case asks the important question: “What is a disciple of Jesus Christ?” From a study of key passages from the Gospels and Acts, our children should come away with a better understanding of what it means to be one of Jesus’ disciples. We want all of our children to be followers of King Jesus!

## **Curriculum Distinctives**

1. Focuses on the verbal transmission of Bible stories (The art of storytelling).
2. Emphasizes class discussion in an open question and answer format.
3. Age-appropriate.
4. Maximizes the small amount of time with profound truths without trying to be too theologically elaborate.
5. Reduces the amount of “busy work.”
6. Does not overload with too much content or too many activities.

Vacation Bible School is a ministry of the local church that is intended to be primarily evangelistic in nature. The curriculum presents the gospel message from God’s Word in the context of loving relationships between

teachers and their students. Therefore, it is vital for each teacher to remember that VBS is all about:

- a) Showing the love of Christ to each one of your students;
- b) Faithfully and clearly presenting the gospel of Jesus Christ from God’s Word; and,
- c) Praying for God’s Spirit to do His sovereign work in the lives of the VBS children.

Please feel free to use your creative energy to mold this curriculum to your own personality and the learning styles of your particular students. Remember that the end goal of all our teaching is to bring students face-to-face with the gospel of Jesus Christ with full dependence on His Spirit to change hearts and minds.

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## **On Classroom Setup**

The most important thing to remember about your classroom setup is that it should be conducive to learning. Arrange the room in such a way that the students can effectively hear and see the teacher(s) and have classroom discussion. Also, post the Scripture Memory, Application Points and other visual aids that will focus the minds of the children on God’s truths.

Don’t worry about decorating according to the theme—but you are welcome to be as creative as possible. The priority is making the room a place that helps the children learn.

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# OVERVIEW OF DAILY LESSONS

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## CALLED DAY ONE

**Theme:** Disciples are **called** to follow

**Bible Text:** Matthew 4:18-22; 9:9-13; John 1:43-50; Luke 5:1-11; Matthew 10:2-4

**Scripture Memory:** Luke 5:31-32

## CONFRONTED DAY TWO

**Theme:** Disciples are **confronted** with their sin

**Bible Text:** Mark 4:35-41; Luke 9:46-48; Matthew 14:25-32; Mark 14:32-41

**Scripture Memory:** John 13:34-35

## COMMITTED DAY THREE

**Theme:** Disciples are **committed** to Jesus Christ

**Bible Text:** Matthew 16:13-17, 24-26; Mark 3:31-35; Luke 19:18-27; John 6:61-69

**Scripture Memory:** Mark 8:34-35

## CHANGED DAY FOUR

**Theme:** Disciples are **changed** by the Holy Spirit

**Bible Text:** John 14:15-31; 16:5-16; Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-4

**Scripture Memory:** Matthew 28:19-20

## COMMISSIONED DAY FIVE

**Theme:** Disciples are **commissioned** to make disciples

**Bible Text:** Matthew 9:35-38; 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-16,20; Luke 10:1-20

**Scripture Memory:** Review all memory verses



# SCRIPTURE MEMORY

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## **DAY ONE: LUKE 5:31-32**

And Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

## **DAY TWO: JOHN 13:34-35**

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

## **DAY THREE: MARK 8:34-35**

And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it."

## **DAY FOUR: MATTHEW 28:19-20**

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

## **DAY FIVE: REVIEW ALL MEMORY WORK**

*Note: All Scripture Memory passages are from the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise noted.*

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# DAILY SCHEDULE

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<b>9:00 - 9:15</b>	_____	<b>OPENING PROGRAM</b>
<b>9:15 - 9:45</b>	_____	<b>WELCOME/ICEBREAKER BIBLE LESSON</b>
<b>9:45 - 10:05</b>	_____	<b>MUSIC</b>
<b>10:05 - 10:25</b>	_____	<b>CRAFTS</b>
<b>10:25 - 10:45</b>	_____	<b>BIBLE APPLICATION</b>
<b>10:45 - 11:05</b>	_____	<b>RECREATION</b>
<b>11:05 - 11:25</b>	_____	<b>SNACK TIME</b>
<b>11:25 - 11:45*</b>	_____	<b>BIBLE MEMORY</b>
<b>11:45 - NOON</b>	_____	<b>CLOSING PROGRAM</b>

*\*Day Five Only: 11:30 - Noon  
Closing Celebration*

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# DISCIPLES ARE CALLED TO FOLLOW

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## DAY ONE

### BIBLE TEXT

Matthew 4:18-22; 9:9-13; John 1:43-50;  
Luke 5:1-11; Matthew 10:2-4

### MEMORY VERSE

Luke 5:31-32

### SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Jesus called sinners to follow Him and be His disciples.

### LESSON AIM

For the students to know that God calls them out of their sin and into a new life of following Jesus Christ.



## OPENING PROGRAM

The opening program includes a skit to introduce the day's theme, a time of singing, and announcements. After the opening program, go with your students back to your classroom.



## WELCOME

Introduce yourself, your co-teacher(s), and your classroom helpers. Greet the boys and girls warmly, working diligently to memorize their names. Make sure each student has a name tag.



## ICEBREAKER

**[Note: Each day's icebreaker is intended to: 1) help build relationships between leaders and students, and between students themselves; and, 2) help "warm up" the students so that they will engage in conversation about the Bible Lesson.]**

**Today's Icebreaker:** Have all students share the title of the best book they have read this year. Begin by telling them one of yours. Encourage the students to listen closely to each answer. Then, give a couple of students the opportunity to say all of their classmates' favorite books from memory.

**Transition:** *Isn't it amazing how God has gifted certain people in our world to be writers? They*

*can tell some wonderful stories, that's for sure. But the only reason human beings can tell such great stories is because we were created by the greatest Storyteller of all time. And, He has written the greatest book of all time! Do you know which book I'm talking about? Of course, it's the Bible. What a great gift to be able to read the greatest book of all time!*



## BIBLE LESSON

**[Note: The "Bible Lesson" time is intended to: 1) Allow the students to read and hear God's Word and gain understanding of what it says; 2) Raise questions in their minds that will be discussed during the "Bible Application" time.]**

**Materials:** Bibles, one per student. [All in-text references are from the ESV.]

**Introduction:** *This week, we will be investigating in the New Testament, mainly in the Gospels. Who can tell me what a Gospel is? [A book of the Bible devoted to the good news of Jesus Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection.] And who can name the four Gospels for me? [Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.] We will begin our reading in the Gospel of Matthew.*

**Have all of the students turn in their Bibles to Matthew 4.**

**Read Matthew 4:18-22.**

<sup>18</sup> While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> And going on from there

he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

**Discussion:** *Who did Jesus speak to?* [Simon Peter and Andrew, then James and John.] *What did these four men do for a living?* [They were fishermen.] *What did Jesus say to them?* [Follow me.] *How did they respond?* [They immediately left their nets and followed Jesus.]

*Let's go to the Gospel of Luke. Have the children turn to Luke 5:1.*

**Read Luke 5:1-11.**

<sup>1</sup> On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, <sup>2</sup> and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. <sup>4</sup> And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." <sup>5</sup> And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." <sup>6</sup> And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. <sup>7</sup> They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup> But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." <sup>9</sup> For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, <sup>10</sup> and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men."

<sup>11</sup> And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

**Discussion:** *This passage tells us a bit more of the story. What miracle did Jesus do?* [He provided the men with a huge catch of fish.] *Then, what did he tell Peter and James and John?* [From now on you will catch men.] *We'll talk more about that in our application time.*

*Now, let's return to Matthew 9. Have the children turn to Matthew 9:9.*

**Read Matthew 9:9-13.**

<sup>9</sup> As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. <sup>10</sup> And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. <sup>11</sup> And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>12</sup> But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup> Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

**Discussion:** *Who did Jesus speak to next?* [Matthew.] *What did Matthew do for a living?* [He was a tax collector.] *What did Jesus say to him?* [Follow me.] *How did Matthew respond?* [He followed him.] *What did the Pharisees (the religious leaders of the day) think about Jesus?* [They thought it was wrong for Jesus to eat with sinners.] *What did Jesus say about that?* [That he came call to sinners, like a doctor comes for the sick.]

*Now let's read from another Gospel—the Gospel of John. Have the children turn to the Gospel of John.*

**Read John 1:43-50.**

<sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."

<sup>44</sup> Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

<sup>46</sup> Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." <sup>47</sup> Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!"

<sup>48</sup> Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." <sup>49</sup> Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

<sup>50</sup> Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these."

**Discussion:** *Which men did Jesus call next to be his disciples?* [Philip and Nathanael.] *Did Philip find Jesus or did Jesus find Philip?* [Jesus found Philip.] *How did Jesus know Nathanael?* [Before Philip called him, Jesus saw him under the fig tree.] *What did Jesus say about Nathanael?* [He is a true Israelite, with no deceit in him.]

*To end our "sleuthing" today, let's list the disciples whom Jesus called to follow Him. **Have the children call out as many as they can from the Bible Lesson, and from their memory as well. Write them on the board.***

*Now, we will match that list with one from Matthew 10.*

**Read Matthew 10:2-4.**

<sup>2</sup> The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; <sup>3</sup> Philip and Bartholomew;

Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup> Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

**Conclusion:** *We will come back during Application Time and talk more in-depth about these disciples, as well as the stories of their calling.*

**Close this time with prayer, thanking God for His Word.**



**MUSIC**

Escort your children to the Music Area. The Music Team will lead the class in a time of singing and learning the various VBS songs. **Use this time for a break.**



**CRAFTS**

Go with your students to the Crafts Area. The VBS Crafts Team will lead your students in a crafts project. You may also use this time to prepare for Bible Application time.



## BIBLE APPLICATION

***[Note: The Bible Application time is intended to help the students think about how the Bible Lesson applies to their own lives, here and now. The focus is on providing a practical emphasis using the key concepts of the lesson. For visual reminders, post these points in the classroom as you present them.]***

### **Application Point 1:**

**The call to be a disciple of Jesus is a sovereign act of God**

*As we think back to the stories we read earlier from the Gospels, how were the disciples CHOSEN? Did Jesus just put up a sign that read, "Disciples Wanted" and people signed up for the job? [No, Jesus CALLED His disciples.]*

*Boys and girls, the CALL to be a disciple is a sovereign act of God. What do I mean by that? **Allow answers. [Explain that God is in full control of who He chooses to be a follower of Jesus Christ.]** It is not up to us to decide to be CALLED by God, it is God who chooses to CALL disciples of Jesus.*

*So, how did the disciples respond to the CALL to be a disciple? [They left their former lives immediately and followed Jesus.] Did any of them say, "No, thank you"? [No.] What does this mean? **Allow answers. [Help them see that when God truly CALLS disciples, they respond to His CALL.]***

*Do you understand how this is great news? When God sovereignly CALLS disciples, they respond. And, the response is that they turn from their old lives to new ones.*

*God CALLS you and me to be disciples of Christ Jesus!*

### **Application Point 2:**

**God sent Jesus to call sinners, just like you and me**

*According to our reading in Matthew 9, who did Jesus come to CALL? [He came for the sick and the sinners.]*

*Jesus did not call the people who thought they were good enough already. Remember that the Pharisees (the religious leaders of the day) thought they were "righteous" enough without Jesus. They didn't think they needed any help. They thought that they could stand before God by just leading good lives.*

*Do you ever think this way? Do you think you can live a good life without Jesus? Do you think of yourself as a pretty good person (especially compared to all of those bad people out there)? **Allow sharing.** Maybe you believe that only people who do REALLY bad things need Jesus. Then you are just like the Pharisees, relying on your own goodness rather than God's!*

*Boys and girls, the truth is that you are sick, weak, and sinful. You need Jesus to heal your heart and soul. You need Jesus to deal with your sinful hearts. You are not good enough to be one of Jesus' disciples on your own. Why do you think we are tempted to think we can live without Jesus? **Allow answers. Share your own thoughts too. [Help them think through the pride of their hearts and how we tend to think more highly of ourselves than we ought.]***

*Disciples who are CALLED are also just ordinary sinners, like you and me.*

**Application Point 3:**

**Disciples are people who follow Jesus**

*Do you remember what SPECIFIC words Jesus used to call His disciples? [Follow me.] Did He tell the disciples to come along and walk next to Him? Or, in front of Him?*

*Jesus commanded His disciples to follow. What does it mean to follow someone? **Make a list and write them on the board.** Ultimately, to follow Jesus means to do everything He says, just as He says to do it!*

*Do you like the idea of having to do everything someone says, just as he says to do it? Why or why not? **Allow discussion.** If you are like me, it doesn't sound very good. I would rather do things my way!*

*But, by definition, a DISCIPLE is one who follows and obeys the person who is leading. DISCIPLES don't do their own things. DISCIPLES are trained to do exactly as their teacher says!*

*The great thing about this is that Jesus leads perfectly! And, later we will learn that the Holy Spirit changes us so that we are able to follow. So, if you have a perfect leader, does following sound better to you? Why? **Allow brainstorming.***

**Close in prayer, thanking God for His sovereign call on the lives of His people, and for His love to send Jesus for sinners, that we may follow Him.**



**RECREATION**

Go with your children to the Recreation Area. The Recreation Team will be responsible for your students during this time.



**SNACK**

Have a volunteer lead the class in a prayer of thanks for the food and drink. Make sure the students respect each other while eating and clean up after themselves.



**BIBLE MEMORY**

**Begin by reminding the students the importance of memorizing God's Word:**

1. We "hide it in our hearts" so we will turn away from sin and obey God.
2. It changes the way we think—focusing on pleasing God instead of pleasing self.
3. It helps us to know Jesus more and love Jesus more.

**If time, relate to the students how Scripture memory has impacted your life.**

***Say:** Today's memory verse reminds us that Jesus came to call the sick, not the healthy, as His disciples. We need the Great Physician to bring us to repentance!*

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**Today's Scripture Memory is found in  
Luke 5:31-32**

And Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

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**Activity: Memory Toss.** Bring in a soft “sponge” ball or beanbag. Throw the ball to a student. Whoever you toss it to must say the first part of the memory verse. When the student cannot remember a part of the verse or misses a word, he or she must toss it to another student. Keep playing the game until all students have had a chance, or the time is up.

Hand out Scripture memory reminder cards and encourage the students to spend time in memorization.



## **CLOSING PROGRAM**

Go with your students back to the area designated for the Closing Program. Remind them to be respectful of others on their way to and during the Closing Program. Afterwards, escort the students to their pick-up location.

**END DAY ONE**