



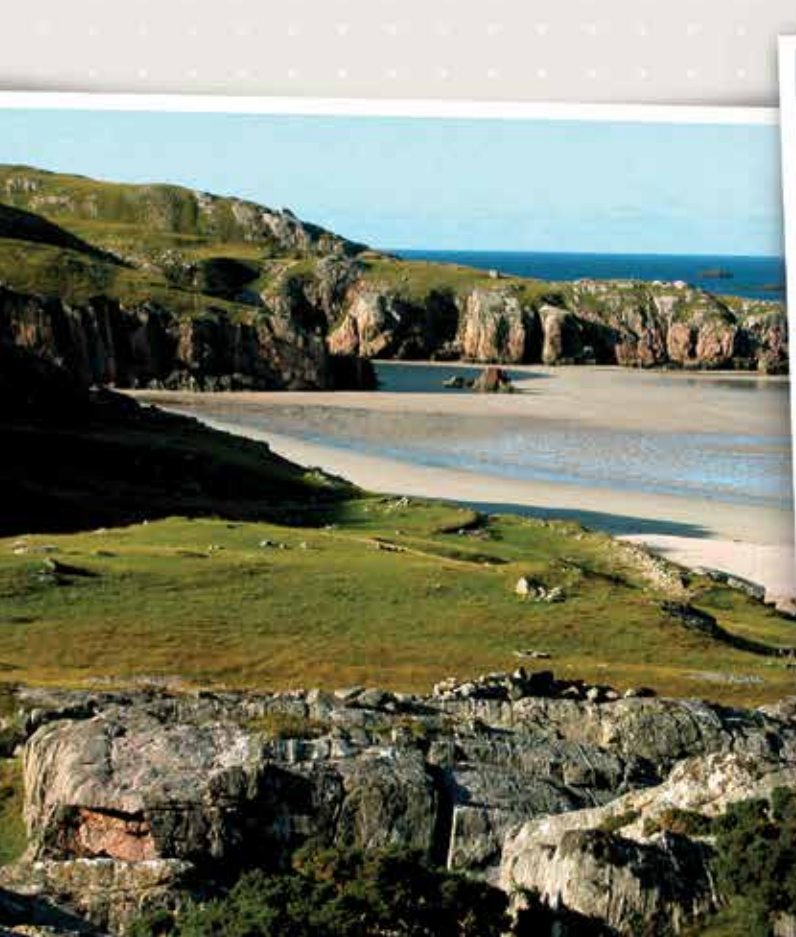
THE SCOTTISH SLEUTHS

..... and

THE CASE OF THE DISCIPLES' DISTINCTIVES

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM
TEACHER'S MANUAL: 4 AND 5 YEAR OLDS

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PRE-SCHOOL
VBS06PSTM

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PRE-SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL

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INTRODUCTION

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.

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.



OVERVIEW OF DAILY LESSONS

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 5:32

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

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 8:34b

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

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

DAY ONE: LUKE 5:32

“I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”

DAY TWO: JOHN 13:34

“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.”

DAY THREE: MARK 8:34B

“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”

DAY FOUR: MATTHEW 28:19

“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...”

DAY FIVE: REVIEW ALL MEMORY WORK

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



DAILY SCHEDULE

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

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



DISCIPLES ARE CALLED TO FOLLOW

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 5:32

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 prepare the students to learn God's Word and to encourage interaction between students and teachers.]

Have the students sit down. Get their attention.

Have some of the students tell **one of their favorite television shows or movies** to the class. Begin by telling them one of yours. You may want to ask them reasons for why they are their favorites.

Transition: *Isn't it amazing how God has gifted certain people in our world to write movies! 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 Story of all time! Do you know which story I'm talking about? It's the story of salvation found in the BIBLE. What a great gift to be able to read the greatest story 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: Our younger children need this storytelling time to be dramatic as well as visual. Feel free to bring in pictures, drawings, flannelgraphs, puppets, etc., as visual aids.

[All stories included in the Bible Lesson 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.*

Read Matthew 4:18-20.

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers

of men.”²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

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

Read verses 21-22.

²¹ 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. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Discussion: *Who did Jesus speak to now?* [James and John.] *What did these men do for a living?* [They were fishermen.] *How did they respond to Jesus' call?* [They immediately left their nets and followed Jesus.]

Let's go to the Gospel of Luke.

Read Luke 5:1-7.

¹ 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, ² and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³ 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. ⁴ And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵ And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." ⁶ And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. ⁷ 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.

Discussion: *This passage tells us a bit more of the story of Jesus' interaction with the four fishermen. What miracle did Jesus do?* [He provided the men with a huge catch of fish.] *And this came after the men fished all night and caught nothing!*

Listen to more. Read verses 8-11.

⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." ⁹ For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, ¹⁰ 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." ¹¹ And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Discussion: *What did Jesus tell Peter and James and John?* [From now on you will catch men.] *What does that mean? We'll talk more about that in our Application Time.*

Now, let's return to Matthew 9.

Read Matthew 9:9-13.

⁹ 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. ¹⁰ And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹ And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹² But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ 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.

Read John 1:43-50.

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

⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ 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."

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

⁴⁸ 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." ⁴⁹ Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

⁵⁰ 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.]*

Now, listen to the names of the disciples...

Read Matthew 10:2-4.

² 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; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ 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.



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.



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 to prepare for Bible Application.**



BIBLE APPLICATION

[Note: For pre-schoolers, the Bible Application time is intended to reinforce the truths that were presented during the Bible Lesson time. This is done by teaching one and two word simple concepts. The "Application Point" titles are for the teacher's use only.]

Application Point 1:

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

Materials: A plastic phone or a cell phone, pictures from today's lesson

Show the phone to the children. *What is this? [A telephone.] What is it used for? [To call and talk to people, to communicate with people.] This is how we typically talk to people who are not close by.*

Use the pictures from today's lesson. *So how did Jesus CALL His disciples? Did he use a cell phone? Did He just put up a sign that read, "Disciples Wanted" and people signed up for the job? [No, He CALLED them to follow Him.]*

Boys and girls, the CALL to be a disciple is not like a telephone call. It is a sovereign act of God. The big word "sovereign" means that God is in total control of the world. So, it is not up to us to decide to be CALLED by God, it is God who chooses to CALL disciples of Jesus.

So, what did the disciples do when Jesus CALLED them? [They left their former lives immediately and followed Jesus.] Did any of them say, "No, thank you"? [No.] When God CALLS disciples of Jesus, they respond to His CALL and follow Jesus.

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

Materials: A picture of someone sick, in a hospital; pictures from the lesson

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

Show picture of someone sick. *What does the person need? [He needs a doctor.] He can't heal himself, can he? No! Sick people need medicine and people to offer a cure.*

Jesus said that He came to heal the sick. The "sick" people He was talking about are sinners like you and me. 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.

Maybe, like the Pharisees, you think that only people who do REALLY bad things need Jesus. But is that true? No!

Boys and girls, the truth is that YOU are sick, weak, and sinful. You don’t need a doctor; 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!

It is tempting to think that we can follow Jesus without anyone’s help. But then we forget that we are weak and helpless sinners!

Application Point 3:

Disciples are people who follow Jesus

Materials: Pictures from today’s lesson

Say: *I need someone to be a leader. Choose a volunteer. Now I need everyone else to do exactly what the leader does. Have the leader make hand and body motions that his followers must imitate.*

Use pictures from the lesson to illustrate. *Now who can tell me what TWO 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?*

No, Jesus commanded His disciples to follow. What does it mean to follow someone? Just like when you followed our leader, it means to do whatever the leader does. So, 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!

Show pictures. *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? It does to me!

Close in prayer, thanking God for His sovereign call on the lives of His people.

Note: If you need to fill some time before Crafts, have some coloring sheets available.



CRAFTS

Go with your students to the Crafts Area. The VBS Crafts Team will lead your students in a crafts project.



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.

Write the Scripture memory passage on the board or on poster board.

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

"I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

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!

Activity: Memory Rhythm. Help the students make up a "rhythm" or chant to make memorizing easier. Make it fun!

Example:

I have not come (echo: I have not come)
To call (stomp, stomp)
The righteous (clap, clap)
But (echo: But)
Sinners (stomp, stomp)
To repentance! (clap, clap)

Have different groups echo each other.

Review the Scripture a number of times to reinforce it.

If extra time, have coloring sheets available.

Hand out Scripture memory reminder cards and encourage the students to ask their parents to help them memorize.



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