



THE SCOTTISH SLEUTHS

..... and

THE CASE OF THE PUZZLING PARABLES

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM
DIRECTOR'S MANUAL



DIRECTOR
VBS02DM

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INTRODUCTION

Curriculum Overview

Welcome to the Scottish Sleuths Vacation Bible School curriculum! This VBS series has been designed to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to children through a week-long, intensive study of God's Word.

The Scottish Sleuths--Super Bible Sleuth Angus McTavish and Professor Dabney Thornwell--symbolically portray the fact that we want our children to become "investigators" of God's Word. These two detectives lead the children on a "Bible case" each year, alternating between stories in the Old and New Testaments. So instead of changing themes each year, this VBS curriculum series keeps the *Scottish Sleuths* theme and simply changes the "case"—much like new episodes of your favorite television show.

This year, our case presents a study of twelve of Jesus' "Kingdom" parables. Each daily grouping of parables is arranged in such a way to teach the children a particular aspect of the Kingdom of God. The children will learn how God's Kingdom rules and operates in this world, and what the response of Kingdom-dwellers should be.

Curriculum Distinctives

The Scottish Sleuths VBS series is first and foremost dedicated to teaching God's Word to children. The central core elements of each day are: the Bible Lesson, Bible Application, and Bible Memory. While most of today's VBS programs

tend to emphasize fun and entertainment while being "light" on Bible content, *The Scottish Sleuths* curriculum engages children with God's Word—passionately communicated by teachers who love Jesus Christ.

Our other core distinctives:

- Christ-centered, Gospel-driven, and theologically Reformed.
- Focuses on the verbal transmission of Bible stories (The art of storytelling).
- Emphasizes class discussion in an open question and answer format.
- Age-appropriate.
- Maximizes the time with profound truths without trying to be too theologically elaborate.
- Reduces the amount of "busy work" by not using a "worksheet" approach.
- Does not overload with too much content or too many activities.

The last element that sets *The Scottish Sleuths* series apart is that it is easy to teach! It allows your teachers to prepare their hearts and minds to be with their students instead of spending an inordinate amount of time working on lesson plans.

Enjoy *The Scottish Sleuths and the Case of the Puzzling Parables!*

RECRUITING WORKERS

Vacation Bible School demands plenty of volunteer workers! To best use the Scottish Sleuths material, you will need to recruit to following positions:

Recreation Team

- ___ Recreation Team Leader
- ___ Recreation Team Members

Administrative Team

- ___ VBS Director
- ___ VBS Assistant Director

Crafts Team

- ___ Crafts Team Leader
- ___ Crafts Team Members

Registration Team

- ___ Registration Team Leader
- ___ Registration Team Members

Skits Team

- ___ Skits Director
- ___ Actors
- ___ Set/Props/Costumes Designer

Classroom Teams

- ___ Classroom Teacher(s)
- ___ Classroom Helpers

Other Workers (suggested)

- ___ Traffic/Parking Coordinator
- ___ Refreshment Coordinator
(for VBS workers)
- ___ Missions Focus Coordinator
- ___ Prayer Team Coordinator
- ___ Advertising Coordinator
- ___ Set-up/Take-down Team
- ___ Nursery workers
(children of VBS workers)
- ___ Floaters

Music Team

- ___ Music Team Leader
- ___ Music Team Members
- ___ Sound Technician

Snacks Team

- ___ Snacks Team Leader
- ___ Snacks Team Members

GROUPINGS + SCHEDULES

Age Groupings

The *Scottish Sleuths* VBS series has been designed for 4 year olds through children who have just completed 5th grade. If you choose to include other age groups (such as 3 year olds or 6th graders), this material may need to be adapted for them.

There are four available versions of teacher's manuals, reflecting four distinct age groupings:

- **Pre-School**
(4 and 5 year olds)
- **Primary**
(Kindergarten and 1st Grade)
- **Secondary**
(2nd and 3rd Grades)
- **Junior**
(4th and 5th Grades)

The **Pre-School** grouping is designed for children who are currently four or five years old, but have not yet been to Kindergarten. The **Primary** grouping includes children who have *completed* either Kindergarten or 1st Grade. The **Secondary** grouping includes children who have *completed* either the 2nd or 3rd Grades. Finally, the **Junior** grouping includes those children who have *completed* either the 4th or 5th Grades.

Depending on the size groups you desire for each class, you may keep these groups combined for each VBS component or separate them into individual grade levels for their classroom times. The teaching material is written in such a way to be age-appropriate for the designated age group.

Schedules

All of the children begin their VBS day in an opening assembly. The **Opening Program** may include announcements, singing, a missions focus, and the opening skit. After the opening program, all the children go to their classrooms with their classroom teachers and helpers. Then, each class has a **Welcome** and **Icebreaker** time, followed by the **Bible Lesson**.

After the Bible Lesson, each age group begins a different schedule which includes the following activities:

- Recreation
- Snack Time
- Music
- Crafts
- Bible Application

All age groups then return to their classroom for a time of **Bible Memory**. After the Bible Memory time, all children come together for a closing program. The **Closing Program** may include singing, a missions focus, Bible memory recitation, and closing announcements.

Friday's schedule is unique. Instead of having the Bible Memory time, all children come together for a **Closing Celebration**. This extended closing program includes a closing skit, singing, and any other closing activities to end the week. Parents can be invited to this time.

The next page details a suggested five-day schedule with a **9:00 a.m. until Noon** format.