



# THE SCOTTISH SLEUTHS

..... and .....

## THE CASE OF THE PUZZLING PARABLES

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM  
SKIT MANUAL

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**SKITS**  
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**THE SCOTTISH**  
**SLEUTHS**

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The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®)

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ESV Text Edition: 2007

Printed in the United States of America



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# INTRODUCTION

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

The case leads the students on an in-depth study of Jesus’ “Kingdom” parables. Each day’s set of parables is arranged in such a way to relate a particular aspect of the Kingdom of God. The daily themes include: God’s Kingdom comes by the gospel ministry, God’s Kingdom goes after the missing, God’s Kingdom demonstrates His grace and mercy, God’s Kingdom demands giving all of myself, and God’s Kingdom is growing and multiplying.

The series of skits involves McTavish and Thornwell discovering clues concerning the Kingdom of God by solving the problems of McTavish’s household staff.

## THE PLAYERS

### Narrator

*Introduces and concludes the skit. Also moves props when necessary.*

### Hero “Suspects”

*Different personalities each day: The Gardener, The Chauffeur, The Butler, The Maid, and The Chef. Need at least two actors to play all five roles.*

### Super Sleuth Angus McTavish

*Scottish accent required. Dressed in a long trenchcoat. Often holding an old-fashioned pipe.*

### Professor Dabney Thornwell

*Also Scottish. Wears a tweed jacket and holds a large magnifying glass.*

## THE PROPS

Detective outfits, including pipe and magnifying glass

Dining room table and two chairs

— With a lunch meal

Gardener outfit

Tray of planters, including some full-grown plants, some shriveled-up plants, some empty planters

Chauffeur outfit

Coin collection book, with one coin missing

Butler outfit

Maid outfit

Small treasure chest

Garage sale fliers

Chef outfit

Two large loaves of bread

## THE SET

The set is McTavish’s formal Dining Room. A dining table with at least two chairs should be in the center of the stage. The sleuths will spend all of their time at the table, eating lunch and solving problems.



# DAY ONE

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## TODAY'S THEME: God's Kingdom comes by the Gospel Ministry

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### Day One Props

A tray of planters with some full-grown plants, some shriveled-up plants, and some empty planters.

### Day One Setup

Dining Room table in the center of the stage.

*McTavish and Thornwell are sitting at the dining room table, enjoying the first course of their lunch.*

### **Narrator**

Well, boys and girls, it seems we have come upon our highland heroes in the middle of a much needed break from their sleuthing. Even legendary detectives deserve a hearty lunch, don't they? (*McTavish and Thornwell look up from their meals and nod their heads.*) But, Junior Sleuths, you must always be vigilant. Important cases can come at almost any time...

### **Thornwell**

I say, McTavish, it certainly is nice to have a quiet meal without any confusing conundrums to solve.

### **McTavish**

You are quite right, my Perceptive Professor. And, this corn and brie soup is outstanding!

*Chance, McTavish's gardener, enters panic-stricken, breathing heavily, holding a tray of planters. The Sleuths continue eating, ignoring the gardener.*

### **The Gardener**

*Clearing his throat.* Umm, excuse me sirs...

*McTavish looks up. Thornwell continues to eat.*

### **McTavish**

Well hello, Chance. Care for a bit of lunch?

### **The Gardener**

No. No thank you, sir...I am much too distressed to eat.

### **McTavish**

What seems to be the trouble, my good man?

### **The Gardener**

*Setting the tray of plants on the table and pointing at them.* Just look at these plants! Look at them! I used the same seeds and I planted them all at the same time, yet only some are healthy, while others are withered, and still others haven't even sprouted! I don't understand it!

### **Thornwell**

*Finally looking up from his meal, reluctantly.* Seems to me like this is a case for Farmer Brown, not for the Super Bible Sleuth, Angus McTavish!

### **McTavish**

*Speaking to Thornwell.* Not so fast, my irritable investigator...this mystery actually appears to be right up our alley.



# DAY ONE (CONTINUED)

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**The Gardener**

I knew you would be able to help! I just want to know what this all means.

**Thornwell**

But...can't we finish our lunch first?

**McTavish**

Oh, professor, you know that nothing goes better with a good meal than a perplexing puzzle to solve! We can easily eat and investigate at the same time.

*McTavish and Thornwell begin inspecting the plants with the gardener looking on.*

**Thornwell**

Hmmm...all your soils don't seem to be the same, Chance...

**The Gardener**

Excuse me? That's impossible!

**McTavish**

Interesting...

**Narrator**

What in the world makes this horticulture mystery a Bible case? I certainly haven't a clue...but maybe you can figure it out, Junior Sleuths. Then, come back tomorrow for more of the *Case of the Puzzling Parables!*

**End Day One**