



THE SCOTTISH SLEUTHS

..... and

THE CASE OF THE MYSTIFYING MIRACLES

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

.....



PRE-SCHOOL
VBS04PSTM

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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 year’s case takes us into the Gospels with a study of some of the miracles of our Lord Jesus Christ. While we are amazed at the miracles themselves, they are most important because of what they show us about Jesus. The children will learn that Jesus is the bread of life, the light of the world, the Lord over nature, the victor over sin and Satan, and the resurrection and the life. **These miracles truly show us 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

BREAD OF LIFE

DAY ONE

Theme: Jesus is the **Bread of Life**

Bible Text: John 6:1-14, 25-51

Scripture Memory: John 6:35

LORD OVER NATURE

DAY TWO

Theme: Jesus is the **Lord over Nature**

Bible Text: Mark 4:35-41; Matthew 14:22-33; John 6:15-21

Scripture Memory: John 16:33

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

DAY THREE

Theme: Jesus is the **Light of the World**

Bible Text: John 9:1-41

Scripture Memory: John 8:12

VICTOR OVER SIN AND SATAN

DAY FOUR

Theme: Jesus is the **Victor over Sin and Satan**

Bible Text: Mark 2:1-12; Mark 5:1-20

Scripture Memory: 1 John 2:2

RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

DAY FIVE

Theme: Jesus is the **Resurrection and the Life**

Bible Text: John 11:1-44

Scripture Memory: Review all memory verses



SCRIPTURE MEMORY

DAY ONE: JOHN 6:35

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger..."

DAY TWO: JOHN 16:33

"In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

DAY THREE: JOHN 8:12

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

DAY FOUR: 1 JOHN 2:2

(Jesus) is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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*



JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE

DAY ONE

BIBLE TEXT

John 6:1-14, 25-51

MEMORY VERSE

John 6:35

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Jesus is the Bread of Life that satisfies all of our spiritual needs.

LESSON AIM

For the students to understand that (1) Jesus feeds our spiritual hunger, (2) we will starve without Him, and (3) we can either live by faith or act from our own calculations.



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 and get their attention.

Have the students tell **one of their favorite foods** to the class. Begin by telling them your favorite food. Have a helper write the items on the board for review.

You may want to have pictures of various foods on hand to stimulate their memories and discussion.

Transition: *God has given us so many tasty things to eat, hasn't He? He has also given us food so that we may grow and thrive. Without adequate food to eat, we all know that a person cannot live for long. Today's Bible Lesson will be on this very subject. Pay close attention to what kind of food is most important for us.*



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: Young children need this storytelling time to be dramatic as well as visual. Feel free to bring in pictures, drawings, flannel-graphs, puppets, etc., as visual aids. **Today's lesson should be taught using visual items that depict the miracle of Jesus feeding the five thousand.**

[All stories included in the Bible Lesson are from the English Standard Version.]

Introduction: *This week, we will be studying some of the miracles that our Lord Jesus Christ did while He was here on earth. Does anyone know what a MIRACLE is? **A miracle is a mighty act of God that is done in our world, visible to our senses, to confirm His Word.** Miracles done by Jesus not only helped people in dramatic fashion, but they taught them more about who He was. So, our lessons this week will help teach us more about Jesus Christ and how we should respond to Him.*

In today's lesson, Jesus has just finished healing

some people and teaching about His purposes for coming to earth...

Read John 6:1-7.

¹ After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. ² And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. ³ Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. ⁴ Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. ⁵ Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" ⁶ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. ⁷ Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little."

Ask these questions to promote listening and comprehension. You may have to help them answer some of these questions. [Get short answers; save further elaboration for **Application Time]:** *Why were large crowds following Jesus?* [They were amazed by the great miracles He did, especially healing the sick.] *Why did Jesus ask Philip about feeding the great crowds?* [To test him; to see what he would do.]

Let's continue. Read verses 8-10.

⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹ "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" ¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number.

Say: *Wow! How do you think 5,000 men, not to mention women and children, are going to share five loaves of bread and two small fish? Let's see.*

Read verses 11-14.

¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹² And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." ¹³ So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. ¹⁴ When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"

Discussion: *How did Jesus feed all those people with so little? [He performed a miracle.] They even had more than enough, didn't they? Leftovers to boot! What did the people think about Jesus now? [They thought He was a prophet from heaven.] Now let's read what Jesus has to say about this amazing miracle.*

Read verses 25-29.

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal." ²⁸ Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."

Discussion: *Why did the crowds come looking for Jesus? [Because they had their fill of food.] What did Jesus tell them to do? [Work for food that is eternal, not just for food that spoils.] What is the work that God requires? [To believe in Jesus!]*

Keep listening closely to what Jesus is teaching about Himself with this miracle.

Read verses 30-35 (emphasize verse 35).

³⁰ So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform?” ³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’ ” ³² Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴ They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” ³⁵ Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

Say: *Did you hear that? Jesus said that He is the bread of life—which is much better than the bread that came from heaven back in Moses’ day and much, much better than the bread we eat every day.*

Finally, read verses 41-44, 48-51.

⁴¹ So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” ⁴² They said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’” ⁴³ Jesus answered them, “Do not grumble among yourselves. ⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

Discussion: *Did you hear that? Jesus again said that He is the bread that comes from heaven. He is the one that gives us life. His miracle of feeding all of those people with just a boy’s lunch was intended to teach them something about Jesus.*

We will apply this “Bread of Life” miracle to our own lives during our Bible Application time.

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. **This is your break.**



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. **This is also a good time for all of the children to take a restroom break.**



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 what was presented during Bible Lesson time. The “Application Points” are included here just for the teacher’s understanding, since they are too difficult for this age group to comprehend. One or two word simple concepts will be the focus of the activities during this segment.]

Arrange the children on the floor so they can see and hear the teacher.

Application Point 1:

Our true problem is spiritual hunger

Materials: Various pictures of food items

Have students raise their hands in response to these questions. *Who here has ever been hungry? Who has ever gone without eating for a whole day? Who has gone without eating for a whole week? Even though you and I know what it means to be hungry, we have no idea what it means to go hungry for days upon days upon days.*

Have a helper hold up pictures (one at a time) of a variety of different foods, while you talk

to the children. *Who enjoys this food? Does it make you hungry? Would eating this satisfy your hunger? Ask other questions, as desired.*

Show pictures from the lesson. *The crowd following Jesus was very hungry and needed to eat. But, they were suffering from much more than just physical hunger; they were spiritually hungry as well. Do you know what it mean to be “spiritually hungry?” **It means that they were in need of Jesus in their life!***

*In our story, the people could not feed themselves—they had nothing to eat, and there was no McDonald’s in the area either. This problem is also the same for our spiritual hunger—we cannot take care of our own spiritual needs. Why? Because we are dead in our sins and trespasses. Can a dead person feed himself? **[No!]***

*Now, how do you know when you are physically hungry and need to eat some food? [Stomach rumbles, feel weak, etc.] So, how do you think you would know when you are spiritually hungry and in need of the Lord? Will your stomach rumble? Will you feel weak? **[No.] We have to learn about how much we need Jesus. And we learn that lesson from God’s Word and His Spirit.***

Application Point 2:

Jesus satisfies our spiritual hunger

Materials: Loaf of bread

Show the visual aids. *In our Bible Lesson, Jesus asked Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?” But, He already knew the answer, didn’t He? Jesus knew that He was going to provide food for the crowd by His own miraculous power. By doing so, Jesus taught the people a big lesson about Himself:*

That only He can satisfy our spiritual hunger.

Show the class the loaf of bread. *Jesus called himself “The Bread of Life.” Isn’t that an interesting name for Jesus? Just as this loaf of bread would feed you and make you full of life, Jesus feeds us and gives us life as well.*

So, how can people think that there are other ways to enjoy life without Jesus? Remember, even people in our story thought that it was Moses that brought manna from heaven—when it was really God! Yes, we often look to many other things to give us an enjoyable life.

Boys and girls, we are wrong if we think that true life can be had without Jesus. He is the only one who can satisfy all our spiritual needs.

Application Point 3:
Who are you going to trust?

Show pictures again. *Remember what Philip said when Jesus asked him how they were going to feed all of the people? He said, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little.” Philip did what we are all tempted to do: **we try to figure things out for ourselves without trusting God.***

*Boys and girls, it is easy to look at our problems and think that they are impossible, just like Philip thought. One day you will find yourself in a situation that seems too hard for you or anyone else, even your parents. What will you do? **You may want to give your own testimony of faith here that would help the children understand how they need to trust the Lord in situations that seem impossible.***

Every time you are in a situation that is too difficult for you, you have a choice—Am I going to trust myself to figure this out or put my trust

in God to see me through? Who are you going to trust?

*And, as you get older, God will bring more and more difficult problems in to your life to teach you to rely on Him. **Remember, you will only find true “life” in Jesus!***

Close in prayer, thanking God for giving us Jesus, the Bread of Life.

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



CRAFTS

Have your helpers escort your students to the Crafts Area. The VBS crafts team will lead your students in a crafts project. **Use this time for a break or to prepare for Bible Memory time.**



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.



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

**Today's Scripture Memory is found in
John 6:35**

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life;
whoever comes to me shall not hunger..."

Say: *Today's memory verse reminds us that Jesus is the giver of life to this dead world of ours. Whoever comes to Jesus will never be spiritually hungry or thirsty anymore!*

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

Example:

Jesus said to them
(to them)
I am (clap, clap)
The bread of life
(The bread of life).
Whoever comes to me
(Only me)
Shall not (shall not)
Hunger! (clap, clap)
Shall not (shall not)
Hunger! (stomp, stomp)

Have different groups echo each other. Review the Scripture a number of times to reinforce it.

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