



# THE SCOTTISH SLEUTHS

..... and .....

## THE CASE OF THE MYSTIFYING MIRACLES

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM  
TEACHER'S MANUAL: KINDERGARTEN - 1ST GRADES

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**PRIMARY**  
VBS04PTM



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PRIMARY 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 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.

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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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## 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 2:1b-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

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## **DAY ONE: JOHN 6:35**

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."

## **DAY TWO: JOHN 16:33**

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

## **DAY THREE: JOHN 8:12**

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "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 2:1B-2**

But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He 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.*

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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>SNACK TIME</b>
<b>10:05 - 10:25</b>	_____	<b>MUSIC</b>
<b>10:25 - 10:45</b>	_____	<b>CRAFTS</b>
<b>10:45 - 11:05</b>	_____	<b>BIBLE APPLICATION</b>
<b>11:05 - 11:25</b>	_____	<b>RECREATION</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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# JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE

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## 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: 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.]*

**Have the students sit down and get their attention.**

**Write on the board: "Our favorite foods"**

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.

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

**Note:** 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. **Today's lesson should be taught using visual items that depict the miracle of Jesus feeding the five thousand.**

**Introduction:** *This week, we will be studying some of the miracles that Jesus Christ did while He was here on earth. Who can tell me what a MIRACLE is? Allow answers. 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 it 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.**

<sup>1</sup> After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias.

<sup>2</sup> And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. <sup>3</sup> Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. <sup>4</sup> Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand.

<sup>5</sup> 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?" <sup>6</sup> He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do.

<sup>7</sup> Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little."

**Discussion [Get short, quick answers; save further elaboration for Application Time. You may have to help them]:** *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 8-14.*

<sup>8</sup> One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, <sup>9</sup> "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." <sup>13</sup> So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with

fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. <sup>14</sup> 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 many people were in this huge crowd?* [5,000 men; we don't know how many more women and children!] *How much food did the boy have?* [Five loaves of bread, two small fish.] *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.]

*Let's now go forward a few verses and read what Jesus has to say about this miracle.*

**Read verses 25-29.**

<sup>25</sup> When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" <sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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." <sup>28</sup> Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" <sup>29</sup> 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.**

<sup>30</sup> So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform?" <sup>31</sup> Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' " <sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." <sup>34</sup> They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." <sup>35</sup> 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.

**Discussion:** *What did the crowd ask for?* [Another sign, like the manna that came from heaven.] *How did Jesus respond?* [He rebuked them, telling them that God sent the manna, and now God has sent Him.] *What did Jesus call Himself and what did He come to earth to do?* [The bread of life. He came to do the will of the Father.]

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

<sup>41</sup> So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." <sup>42</sup> 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'?" <sup>43</sup> Jesus answered them, "Do not grumble among yourselves. <sup>44</sup> No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. <sup>48</sup> I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup> Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup> This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup> 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:** *How did the Jews react to what Jesus was saying?* [They grumbled and did not believe it.] *How did Jesus respond?* [Jesus again told them that He was the only way to life and heaven.]

*We will apply this "Bread of life" miracle to our own lives during our Bible Application time.*

**Close this time with prayer.**



## 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 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.]*

*Show the pictures from the Bible Lesson to help visualize these points.*

### Application Point 1:

**Our true problem is spiritual hunger**

**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.*

*The crowd that was following Jesus was hungry and needed to eat. But, they were suffering from much more than just physical hunger—they were spiritually hungry as well. What does it mean to be “spiritually hungry?” **Allow students to brainstorm some answers. [Help them see that all people, whether they know it or not, are spiritually empty without Jesus—empty of true life.]***

*In our story, the people could not feed themselves—they had nothing to eat, and there was no McDonald’s in the area. This problem is also the same for our spiritual hunger—we cannot take care of our own spiritual needs.*

*Why do you think this is? **Allow answers. [Help the students see that it is because we are dead in our sins and we lack the ability to have a relationship with God on our own.]***

*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? **Allow the students to answer. [Lead them to understand that we have to be in touch with our own weakness in order to desire to be fed spiritually! Only when we know we are starving will we be ready to be fed.]***

### Application Point 2:

**Jesus satisfies our spiritual hunger**

*In our Bible Lesson today, Jesus asked Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to 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. What is it? [That Jesus is the only one that can satisfy our hunger.]*

*That is why Jesus called Himself “The Bread of Life.” Only He satisfies our spiritual hunger. Why can only Jesus give us life? **Allow students to answer. [Help them to articulate that it is because Jesus lived a perfect life and died a perfect death as our atoning sacrifice.]***

*So, how can people think that there are other ways to enjoy life WITHOUT Jesus? Remember, even the Jews in our story thought that it was Moses that brought manna from heaven when it was actually God! **Allow students to answer. [Help them understand that it is our sinful human nature that tries to find “life” in other***

**people, things and idols.]** Yes, we often look to many other things to give us an enjoyable life.

Boys and girls, we deceive ourselves if we think that real 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?**

Do you 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. Have you ever had a problem that seemed too difficult to solve, but then God solved it for you? **Encourage the students to share a story.**

**Be prepared to give your own testimony 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 into 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.**



## 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.**



## 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.

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**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, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”

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

**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.

**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 Stand-up.** Divide the class into three groups. Have each group recite one part of the verse, standing when it is their turn (and then sitting down).

- ALL: John 6:35
- Group 1: Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life;
- Group 2: whoever comes to me shall not hunger,
- Group 3: and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."
- ALL: John 6:35

**Switch groups a few times. Continue until you think the class has memorized the verse or until 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**