



THE SCOTTISH SLEUTHS

..... and

THE CASE OF THE TITANIC TRANSFORMATION

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM
TEACHER'S MANUAL: 4TH - 5TH GRADES

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JUNIOR
VBS08JTM



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, the Case of the Titanic Transformation takes us through the beginning chapters of the Book of Acts. The focus is on investigating the beginnings of the early church and its application to our lives today. Christians are baptized in the Spirit and the Church is built by the Spirit. We also learn how the Church is given the boldness of the Spirit, does battle in the strength of the Spirit and adds believers by the work of the Spirit!

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

BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT **DAY ONE**

Theme: The Church receives the **BAPTISM** of the Spirit.

Bible Text: Acts 1:1-2:13

Scripture Memory: I Corinthians 12:12-13

BUILT BY THE SPIRIT **DAY TWO**

Theme: The Church is **BUILT** by the Spirit.

Bible Text: Acts 2:14-3:26

Scripture Memory: Ephesians 2:19,22

BOLDNESS OF THE SPIRIT **DAY THREE**

Theme: The Church is given the **BOLDNESS** of the Spirit.

Bible Text: Acts 4:1-31; 5:17-42

Scripture Memory: Acts 4:13

BATTLE IN THE STRENGTH OF THE SPIRIT **DAY FOUR**

Theme: The Church does **BATTLE** in the strength of the Spirit.

Bible Text: Acts 6:1-8:3

Scripture Memory: Ephesians 6:12

BELIEVERS BY THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT **DAY FIVE**

Theme: The Church adds **BELIEVERS** by the work of the Spirit.

Bible Text: Acts 8:4-40

Scripture Memory: Review all memory verses



SCRIPTURE MEMORY

DAY ONE: I CORINTHIANS 12:12-13

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews and Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

DAY TWO: EPHESIANS 2:19,22

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God...In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

DAY THREE: ACTS 4:13

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

DAY FOUR: EPHESIANS 6:12

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

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	_____	MUSIC
10:05 - 10:25	_____	CRAFTS
10:25 - 10:45	_____	BIBLE APPLICATION
10:45 - 11:05	_____	RECREATION
11:05 - 11:25	_____	SNACK TIME
11:25 - 11:45*	_____	BIBLE MEMORY
11:45 - NOON	_____	CLOSING PROGRAM

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

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THE CHURCH RECEIVES THE BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT

DAY ONE

BIBLE TEXT

Acts 1:1-2:13

MEMORY VERSE

I Corinthians 12:12-13

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

The Christian is baptized with the Holy Spirit in order to have power to live the Christian life and spread the gospel.

LESSON AIM

For the students to know that the Holy Spirit is the promised gift of God given to His Church.



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.]

Today's question: "What do you want to be when you grow up?"

Have all students share what they want to be when they grow up. Encourage the students to listen closely to each answer. Then, give a couple of students the opportunity to say all of their classmates' future occupations from memory.

Transition: *It will be interesting to see how many of you end up doing the things you think you will be doing in the future. A lot will CHANGE for you over the next ten to fifteen years, that's for sure. In our studies this week, we will see how life TOTALLY changes for the early disciples of Jesus!*



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.]

Introduction: *This week, we will be investigating the New Testament, in the Book of Acts. Does anyone know the "longer" title of that Bible book? [The Acts of the Apostles.] As we study this week, you will see that a better name for this exciting book is: "The Acts of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the Apostles." We'll begin our study in Acts 1.*

Have all of the students turn in their Bibles to Acts 1.

Read Acts 1:1-5.

¹ In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty

days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Discussion: *When do the opening stories of the Book of Acts take place? [After Jesus' resurrection, right before His ascension.] What did Jesus order the apostles to do? [To stay in Jerusalem.] What did Jesus PROMISE the apostles? [The baptism of the Holy Spirit.]*

Let's continue. Read verses 6-11.

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." ⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Discussion: *What will the apostles receive when the Holy Spirit comes upon them? [Power.] And what will the Holy Spirit enable them to do? [To be Christ's witnesses.] What happened to Jesus after He said these words? [He ascended into heaven.]*

Let's read more.

Read verses 12-14.

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴ All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Discussion: *Where are the apostles now? [In an upper room in Jerusalem.] What were they doing in this upper room? [They were devoting themselves to prayer.]*

Summary: *Peter is now the main leader of the apostles. He stood up and reminded the 120 people in the upper room how Judas had betrayed Jesus, in fulfillment of the Scriptures. Since Judas was gone now, it was time to replace him with another apostle.*

Look at verse 23. Read verses 23-26.

²³ And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." ²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Discussion: *Who were the two nominees for apostle? [Justus and Matthias.] Who was chosen by the Holy Spirit? [Matthias.] Now we have twelve apostles again!*

Let's continue.

Read Acts 2:1-4.

¹ When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Discussion: *What annual feast day were the people celebrating?* [Pentecost.] *What sound filled the entire house?* [A mighty rushing wind.] *What came to rest on the heads of the apostles?* [Divided tongues as of fire.] *Then what started happening?* [They spoke in other languages as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance.]

Let's read more. Read verses 5-11.

⁵ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷ And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹ both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

Discussion: *Why were the residents of Jerusalem so astonished?* [They heard the apostles speaking in their own languages.] *What were the apostles talking about?* [The mighty works of God!]

Let's finish our reading for today.

Read verses 12-13.

¹² And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

Conclusion: *Were ALL the people amazed by the power of the Holy Spirit?* [No, some people mocked the apostles.] *We'll talk more about this amazing baptism of the Holy Spirit during Bible Application time!*

Close this time with prayer, thanking God for His Word.



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 lives. The focus is on providing a practical emphasis using the key concepts of the lesson. For visual reminders, post these points in the room as you present them.]

Application Point 1: God always keeps His promises

Jesus told His disciples, the first apostles of the Church, not to leave Jerusalem. What were they supposed to wait for? [The baptism of the Holy Spirit.] They were promised the Holy Spirit. Did they receive this promise from God? [Yes.]

All through the Scriptures, from Genesis to Revelation, we see God making promises to His people. And, we always learn that He keeps ALL of His promises as well. It's one thing to make promises; it's another thing to perfectly keep them!

*So what would life be like if God made promises but only kept SOME of them SOME of the time? **Allow answers.** In what specific ways would it change YOUR life if you couldn't count on God to keep His word? **Allow discussion.***

Our God is THE promise-keeper. He never lies. He is totally powerful to follow through on what He says He will do. Sending the Holy Spirit was a vital promise that was perfectly kept.

Since God keeps His promises, He also expects His people to reflect this character quality. So why do we so often FAIL to keep our promises

*to God and to other people? **Allow answers.** [Help the students see their own sinfulness and need for a covenant-keeping God!]*

Serving a God who always keeps His promises brings great comfort and stability into our lives. It also shows us that God loves His people. On to the next point...

Application Point 2: God's people are baptized with the Holy Spirit

As we have already said, Jesus promised that the apostles would be BAPTIZED with the Holy Spirit. This is a promise He made several times beforehand as well. Were they BAPTIZED with the Spirit? [Yes.]

We often think of baptism as something done by a minister, with water. This water baptism is very important to us, since Christ commanded that we be baptized with water. But water baptism is just a sign that POINTS to a greater baptism—baptism with the Spirit!

*So why do we need to be BAPTIZED with the Holy Spirit? **Allow discussion.** The Holy Spirit gives us POWER to live the Christian life. The Holy Spirit also gives us the ability to be WITNESSES for Jesus.*

*Being baptized in the Spirit also gives us Christ's ongoing presence in our lives. Why is this so important? **Allow discussion.** When Jesus said He would never leave us or forsake us, He was referring to the Holy Spirit always being with us.*

How did the Holy Spirit come upon the apostles? [With the sound of a mighty wind. Tongues of fire were on their heads.] Is this how we