

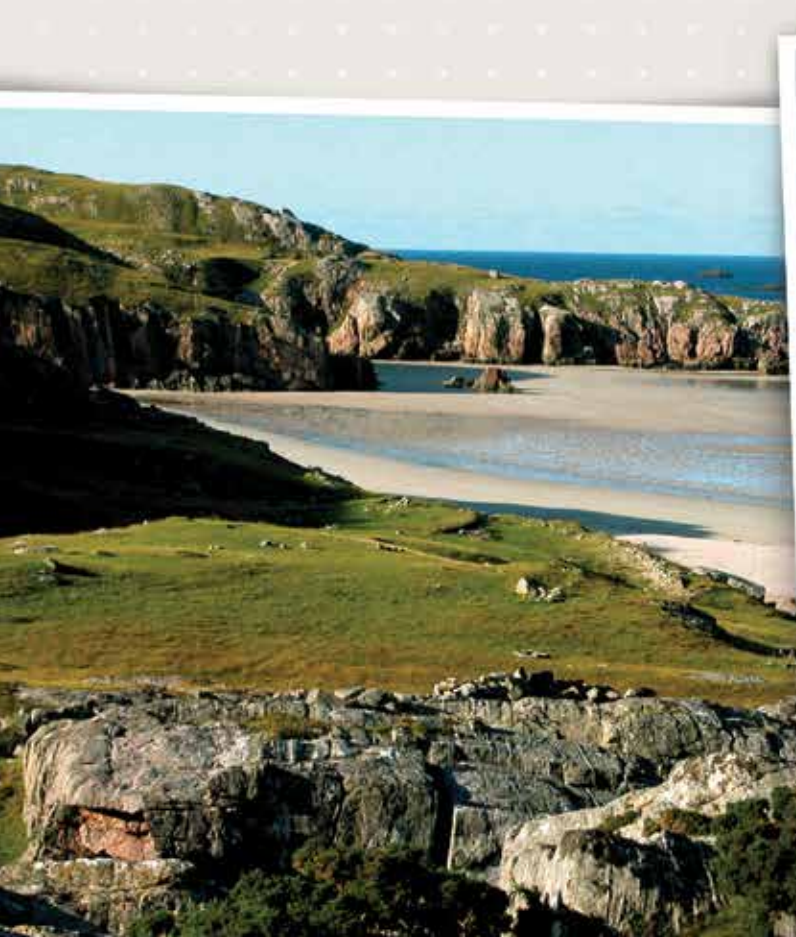


THE SCOTTISH SLEUTHS

and

THE CASE OF THE FAITHFUL FIGHTER

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



JUNIOR
VBS09JTM

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JUNIOR 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, the Case of the Faithful Fighter brings us to a study of the Old Testament Book of Joshua. As God’s people enter the Promised Land, we observe much about our great God. We learn that He is perfectly sovereign and His promises are sure and secure. God is our strong deliverer and He is also angry at sin. Finally, we see that God is always to be served by His people. Our faithful fighter is not Joshua; it is the LORD!

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

SOVEREIGN

DAY ONE

Theme: God is perfectly **SOVEREIGN**.

Bible Text: Joshua 1:1-9; 2:1-21

Scripture Memory: Psalm 145:13-14

SURE

DAY TWO

Theme: God's Promises are **SURE**.

Bible Text: Joshua 3-4

Scripture Memory: I John 2:24-25

STRONG

DAY THREE

Theme: God is our **STRONG** Deliverer.

Bible Text: Joshua 5:13-15; 6:1-27

Scripture Memory: Psalm 18:1-3

SIN

DAY FOUR

Theme: God is angry at **SIN**.

Bible Text: Joshua 7; 8:1-2,18-23

Scripture Memory: Romans 5:8-9

SERVED

DAY FIVE

Theme: God is always to be **SERVED**.

Bible Text: Joshua 23-24

Scripture Memory: Review all memory verses



SCRIPTURE MEMORY

DAY ONE: PSALM 145:13-14

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. [The Lord is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.] The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

DAY TWO: I JOHN 2:24-25

Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.

DAY THREE: PSALM 18:1-3

I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.

DAY FOUR: ROMANS 5:8-9

...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

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*



GOD IS PERFECTLY SOVEREIGN

DAY ONE

BIBLE TEXT

Joshua 1:1-9; 2:1-21

MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 145:13-14

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

God is sovereign and good, giving the believer strength and courage to live this life by faith in His Word.

LESSON AIM

For the students to know that God is with His people always and is in control of all things; so we can obey His Word and live without fear.



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's your favorite thing to do in the summer (other than VBS)?"

Have all students answer. Encourage the students to listen closely to each answer. Then, give a couple of students the opportunity to say all of their classmates' favorite activities from memory.

Transition: *I'm glad that we have VBS as one of our summer activities, aren't you? This week is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about God, His work in the lives of His people and what He requires from you and me! So let's be good investigators of God's Word this week.*



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: *Today, we begin our study of the Book of Joshua. Is that in the Old or New Testament of your Bible? [Old Testament.] The Book of Joshua is the first of the twelve historical books, picking up the story of God's people after the death of Moses. The LORD had delivered His people from slavery in Egypt and led them through the wilderness. Let's begin our study and see what God has to teach us in this book!*

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

Read Joshua 1:1-2.

¹ After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, ² "Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel.

Discussion: *Where are the Israelites now? [At the Promised Land, on the other side of the Jordan.] Who is giving the Israelites the land of Canaan? [God is!]*

Let's continue. Read verses 3-5.

³ Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. ⁴ From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. ⁵ No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.

Discussion: *How would Israel be able to take this land from the Canaanites? [Because the LORD is with them.] Let's put it another way: Why will no man be able to stand against Joshua and Israel? [Because the LORD is with them!]*

Let's read more. Read verses 6-9.

⁶ Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷ Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. ⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Discussion: *What commands did God give*

Joshua, as leader of Israel? [Be strong and courageous; obey God's Word.] Why shouldn't Joshua be afraid? [Because the LORD was with him.]

Turn to Joshua 2. Read Joshua 2:1-7.

¹ And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there. ² And it was told to the king of Jericho, "Behold, men of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land." ³ Then the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come to search out all the land." ⁴ But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. And she said, "True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. ⁵ And when the gate was about to be closed at dark, the men went out. I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them." ⁶ But she had brought them up to the roof and hid them with the stalks of flax that she had laid in order on the roof. ⁷ So the men pursued after them on the way to the Jordan as far as the fords. And the gate was shut as soon as the pursuers had gone out.

Discussion: *Why did Joshua send two men to Jericho? [To spy out the land.] At whose house did they stay? [Rahab's.] What did Rahab do for them? [She hid them and told the king that they were gone.] Why did she do such a risky thing?*

Let's find out. Read verses 8-14.

⁸ Before the men lay down, she came up to them on the roof ⁹ and said to the men, "I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. ¹⁰ For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you

when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. ¹¹ And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the Lord your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath. ¹² Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father's house, and give me a sure sign ¹³ that you will save alive my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death." ¹⁴ And the men said to her, "Our life for yours even to death! If you do not tell this business of ours, then when the Lord gives us the land we will deal kindly and faithfully with you."

Discussion: *So why did Rahab hide these spies?* [She believed God was giving them the land.] *What did she ask for?* [For her family to be saved.]

Let's finish for now. Read verses 15-21.

¹⁵ Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was built into the city wall, so that she lived in the wall. ¹⁶ And she said to them, "Go into the hills, or the pursuers will encounter you, and hide there three days until the pursuers have returned. Then afterward you may go your way." ¹⁷ The men said to her, "We will be guiltless with respect to this oath of yours that you have made us swear. ¹⁸ Behold, when we come into the land, you shall tie this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and you shall gather into your house your father and mother, your brothers, and all your father's household. ¹⁹ Then if anyone goes out of the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we shall be guiltless. But if a hand is laid on anyone who is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head. ²⁰ But if you tell this business of ours, then we shall be guiltless

with respect to your oath that you have made us swear." ²¹ And she said, "According to your words, so be it." Then she sent them away, and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window.

Conclusion: *What sign did Rahab have to give in order to be saved?* [Tie a scarlet cord in the window.] *Did she do it?* [Yes.]

We'll apply this section of Scripture to our lives 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 is the giver of all good things

Who gave Israel a land which flowed with milk and honey? [God did.] Who gave His presence to Joshua and Israel? [God did.] Who gave protection and safety to Joshua's spies? [God did.] God is truly the giver of all good things!

*Do you tend to look at the good things in your life as GIFTS from God? What keeps us from seeing things that way? **Allow answers.** Sometimes our own pride makes us think that WE are in control of our lives and we EARN the good things in our lives.*

*What are the GOOD things that God has given to you? **Make a list on the board.** I hope you recognize that God is truly the giver of these things. You did not earn any of them on your own. Even when you work hard to get something good in your life, it is God who gives you the strength and ability to do so!*

*So here's a deeper question: Do you ever feel like you really DESERVE the good things you have received in this life? Why is it tempting to think this way? **Allow answers.** Most of the time, we tend to think too highly of ourselves. And, we can believe that good people get good*

things and bad people get bad things. But that takes God right out of the loop!

The truth is that ALL good gifts come from above. God is in control of all things in our lives. And the good news is that He is a GOOD God and He loves to give GOOD gifts to His people!

Application Point 2:

God's Word must be central in our lives

*In our reading today, God told Joshua repeatedly to be "strong and courageous." He also said: "...being careful to do according to all the law that Moses commanded you." (Joshua 1:7). How is being "strong and courageous" connected to obeying God's Word? **Allow answers.***

*God goes on to tell Joshua: "Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go." How does obeying God's Word bring success in life? **Allow answers.***

*In verse 8, God also tells Joshua: "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night." What does it mean to MEDITATE on God's Word? **Allow answers. [Connect it to having it "not depart from your mouth."]** How can a person meditate on God's Word day and night? **Allow discussion.***

*Finally, God says these words: "...so that you may be careful to do all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success." What does it mean to be CAREFUL to do all that is written in God's Word? **Allow answers.***

What God was telling Joshua and what He tells all His children is that the Word of God must be CENTRAL in our lives. It is not just to be a book

we read on Sundays. We are to read it, study it, think about it, and live our lives by it. To put it another way, we are to LEARN God's Word, LOVE God's Word, and LIVE out God's Word!

Application Point 3:

We do not have to fear because God is in control

*In Joshua 1:9, God told His new leader: "Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD our God is with you wherever you go." What did Joshua have to fear? **Allow answers.***

*In Joshua 2, what did Rahab fear? **Allow answers.** She actually had a healthy fear that God was going to destroy the people of Jericho. She was afraid for her life!*

*Also in Joshua 2, what did the spies have to fear? **Allow answers.** The spies could have very easily been killed, that's for sure.*

*The antidote to FEAR is FAITH in God. As God told Joshua, there is nothing to fear when God is with you wherever you go. Why don't we have to fear if God is with us? **Allow answers.***

*Another way to say it is that Christians don't have anything to fear because we know by FAITH that God is totally in control of all things. Nothing in this world can happen outside of God's control. He is in perfect control, even with all the evil that happens in this world. How does it reduce your fear when you really believe God is in control? **Allow discussion. [Help them see that it relieves them from trying to be in control!]***

We'll read more this week to see if Joshua gave into fear, or if he trusted that God was with him. We really don't know if the spies put their faith in God, but it seems like they would have

*been very grateful for His protection. The most interesting response is that of Rahab's. Why is her faith in God so amazing? **Allow answers.** Rahab had been given eyes to see that God is sovereign over all things.*

Listen to her confession of faith one more time: "... for the LORD your God, HE is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath." (Joshua 2:11)

Close in prayer, thanking God that He is sovereign over us!



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

Snacks will be delivered to your classroom. 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.



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.

Say: Our first Scripture Memory of the week reminds us that God is perfectly SOVEREIGN over all things. He is the KING of the universe and His dominion is forever. Because He is perfectly in control of all things, only He can uphold and raise up His people!

Have the students open their Bibles and read this section of Scripture aloud several times.

**Today's Scripture Memory is found in
Psalm 145:13-14**

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. [The Lord is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.] The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

Activity: Memory Toss. Bring in a soft "sponge" ball or beanbag. Whoever you toss it to must say the first part of the memory verse. When the student cannot remember a part of the verse or misses a word, he or she must toss it to another student. Keep playing the game

until all students have had a chance, or 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