



THE SCOTTISH SLEUTHS

..... and

THE CASE OF THE EVANGELICAL ENCOUNTERS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM
DIRECTOR'S MANUAL



DIRECTOR
VBS10DM

INTRODUCTION

Curriculum Overview

Welcome to the Scottish Sleuths Vacation Bible School curriculum! This VBS series has been designed to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to children through a week-long, intensive study of God's Word.

The Scottish Sleuths characters—Super Bible Sleuth Angus McTavish and Professor Dabney Thornwell symbolically portray the fact that we want our children to become “investigators” of God's Word. These two detectives lead the children on a “Bible case” each year, alternating between stories in the Old and New Testaments. So instead of changing themes each year, this VBS curriculum series keeps the Scottish Sleuths theme and simply changes the “case”—much like new episodes of your favorite television show.

This year, the *Case of the Evangelical Encounters* brings us to a study of the life of Christ. Specifically, we will learn what happens when people meet Jesus! Mary and Joseph, Nicodemus and John the Baptist, and the Pharisees and Sadducees all had “evangelical” encounters with Jesus. They were impacted with the GOOD NEWS in the person of Christ, whether they knew it or not. We will also learn from Christ's encounters with the Canaanite woman, the woman at the well, doubting Thomas, and the men on the road to Emmaus.

Curriculum Distinctives

The Scottish Sleuths VBS series is first and foremost dedicated to teaching God's Word to

children. The central core elements of each day are: the Bible Lesson, Bible Application, and Bible Memory. While most of today's VBS programs tend to emphasize fun and entertainment while being “light” on Bible content, The Scottish Sleuths curriculum engages children with God's Word—passionately communicated by teachers who love Jesus Christ.

Our other core distinctives:

- Christ-centered, Gospel-driven, and theologically Reformed.
- Focuses on the verbal transmission of Bible stories (The art of storytelling).
- Emphasizes class discussion in an open question and answer format.
- Age-appropriate.
- Maximizes the time with profound truths without trying to be too theologically elaborate.
- Reduces the amount of “busy work” by not using a “worksheet” approach.
- Does not overload with too much content or too many activities.

The last element that sets The Scottish Sleuths series apart is that it is easy to teach! It allows your teachers to prepare their hearts and minds to be with their students instead of spending an inordinate amount of time working on lesson plans.

Enjoy *The Scottish Sleuths and the Case of the Evangelical Encounters!*

RECRUITING WORKERS

Vacation Bible School demands plenty of volunteer workers! To best use the Scottish Sleuths material, you will need to recruit to following positions:

Recreation Team

- ___ Recreation Team Leader
- ___ Recreation Team Members

Administrative Team

- ___ VBS Director
- ___ VBS Assistant Director

Crafts Team

- ___ Crafts Team Leader
- ___ Crafts Team Members

Registration Team

- ___ Registration Team Leader
- ___ Registration Team Members

Skits Team

- ___ Skits Director
- ___ Actors
- ___ Set/Props/Costumes Designer

Classroom Teams

- ___ Classroom Teacher(s)
- ___ Classroom Helpers

Other Workers (suggested)

- ___ Traffic/Parking Coordinator
- ___ Refreshment Coordinator
(for VBS workers)
- ___ Missions Focus Coordinator
- ___ Prayer Team Coordinator
- ___ Advertising Coordinator
- ___ Set-up/Take-down Team
- ___ Nursery workers
(children of VBS workers)
- ___ Floaters

Music Team

- ___ Music Team Leader
- ___ Music Team Members
- ___ Sound Technician

Snacks Team

- ___ Snacks Team Leader
- ___ Snacks Team Members

GROUPINGS + SCHEDULES

Age Groupings

The *Scottish Sleuths* VBS series has been designed for 4 year olds through children who have just completed 5th grade. If you choose to include other age groups (such as 3 year olds or 6th graders), this material may need to be adapted for them.

There are four available versions of teacher's manuals, reflecting four distinct age groupings:

- **Pre-School**
(4 and 5 year olds)
- **Primary**
(Kindergarten and 1st Grade)
- **Secondary**
(2nd and 3rd Grades)
- **Junior**
(4th and 5th Grades)

The **Pre-School** grouping is designed for children who are currently four or five years old, but have not yet been to Kindergarten. The **Primary** grouping includes children who have *completed* either Kindergarten or 1st Grade. The **Secondary** grouping includes children who have *completed* either the 2nd or 3rd Grades. Finally, the **Junior** grouping includes those children who have *completed* either the 4th or 5th Grades.

Depending on the size groups you desire for each class, you may keep these groups combined for each VBS component or separate them into individual grade levels for their classroom times. The teaching material is written in such a way to be age-appropriate for the designated age group.

Schedules

All of the children begin their VBS day in an opening assembly. The **Opening Program** may include announcements, singing, a missions focus, and the opening skit. After the opening program, all the children go to their classrooms with their classroom teachers and helpers. Then, each class has a **Welcome** and **Icebreaker** time, followed by the **Bible Lesson**.

After the Bible Lesson, each age group begins a different schedule which includes the following activities:

- Recreation
- Snack Time
- Music
- Crafts
- Bible Application

All age groups then return to their classroom for a time of **Bible Memory**. After the Bible Memory time, all children come together for a closing program. The **Closing Program** may include singing, a missions focus, Bible memory recitation, and closing announcements.

Friday's schedule is unique. Instead of having the Bible Memory time, all children come together for a **Closing Celebration**. This extended closing program includes a closing skit, singing, and any other closing activities to end the week. Parents can be invited to this time.

The next page details a suggested five-day schedule with a **9:00 a.m. until Noon** format.

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

	Pre-School (4's & 5's)	Primary (K & 1st)	Secondary (2nd & 3rd)	Junior (4th & 5th)
9:00-9:15	Opening Program	Opening Program	Opening Program	Opening Program
9:15-9:45	Welcome Icebreaker Bible Lesson	Welcome Icebreaker Bible Lesson	Welcome Icebreaker Bible Lesson	Welcome Icebreaker Bible Lesson
9:45-10:05	Recreation	Snack Time	Crafts	Music
10:05-10:25	Snack Time	Music	Bible Application	Crafts
10:25-10:45	Music	Crafts	Recreation	Bible Application
10:45-11:05	Bible Application	Bible Application	Music	Recreation
11:05-11:25	Crafts	Recreation	Snack Time	Snack Time
11:25-11:45	Bible Memory	Bible Memory	Bible Memory	Bible Memory
11:45-Noon	Closing Program	Closing Program	Closing Program	Closing Program

VBS COMPONENTS

The VBS children spend half of their day in the classroom and half in other activities. The following is an overview of all the VBS components:

Classroom Components

** These are led by the classroom teachers.

- **Welcome/Icebreaker**
The children are welcomed and involved in an icebreaker activity that will get them talking and thinking about the Bible lesson.
- **Bible Lesson**
The Bible lesson is taught using an interactive style of questions and answers. Older children read along in their Bibles. Younger children listen and look at visual aids.
- **Snack Time**
Children have snacks in their classrooms. This time is also for teachers to get to know their students or for more Bible lesson and application.
- **Bible Application**
The Bible lesson is applied to the lives of the children through three application points each day.
- **Bible Memory**
The children work on memorizing the assigned Scripture passage using a different activity method each day.

When the children are not in the classroom, the classroom teachers have a break for refreshment and/or further preparation.

Activity Components

** *These are led by the activity teams. Children go to various assigned locations to engage in these activities.*

- **Opening and Closing Programs**
The opening program includes the Scottish Sleuths skit, opening prayer, singing, announcements and anything else necessary for the whole group to experience together. The closing program can be used for all of the same activities, except that there is no closing skit (until the last day).
- **Recreation**
The recreation team will lead the children in either outdoor or indoor games for recreation and fellowship.
- **Crafts**
The crafts team will lead the children in craft activities that will tie in to the themes and daily lessons.
- **Music**
The music team will teach the children songs and lead them in the praise and worship of God.

The next several pages of this manual will detail these components to help you in your recruiting and training of your leaders...

CLASSROOM TIME

Each one of your classroom teachers will need a *Teacher's Manual*. The Teacher's Manuals come in four different versions according to age groupings:

- **Pre-School Teacher's Manual**
For 4 and 5 year olds
- **Primary Teacher's Manual**
For Kindergarten and 1st Grade
- **Secondary Teacher's Manual**
For 2nd and 3rd Grade
- **Junior Teacher's Manual**
For 4th and 5th Grade

Each Teacher's Manual also has a different daily schedule, since each age grouping has a unique routine.

The classroom teachers are responsible for the following components of the VBS day:

- **Welcome/Icebreaker**
- **Bible Lesson**
- **Snack Time**
- **Bible Application**
- **Bible Memory**

Each of these components are explained in the Teacher's Manual. The Teacher's Manual guides the teachers through their teaching times step-by-step. It includes all the Bible texts as well as answers to all questions. There are some additional materials required for classroom time that the teachers will need to obtain. **Originals of the Bible Memory cards to hand out to the children are included in this manual.**

The Scottish Sleuths curriculum is designed to alleviate the typical overworking of VBS classroom teachers. With the addition of activity teams, your teachers will have plenty of break opportunities to be refreshed and rejuvenated. They will not be required to be with their group of children the entire day.

Encourage your classroom teachers to start and end each classroom component on time. It will be essential for them to get their children to the other VBS activities on time as well.

Your classroom teachers should be volunteers who are gifted in communicating God's Word to children.

Classroom Setup

The most important thing to communicate to your teachers about their classroom setup is that the space should be conducive for learning. Have them arrange the room in such a way that the students can effectively hear and see the teacher, as well as have effective classroom discussion. The Application Points and the Bible Memory verses should be posted in the room for help in learning.

As far as decorating goes, your teachers can be as creative as they desire to be! Any décor that communicates a "sleuthing" theme is appropriate: magnifying glasses, pictures of detectives, mystery question marks or footsteps, etc. The benefit of the *Scottish Sleuths* series is that you can use the decorations year after year if desired.
