



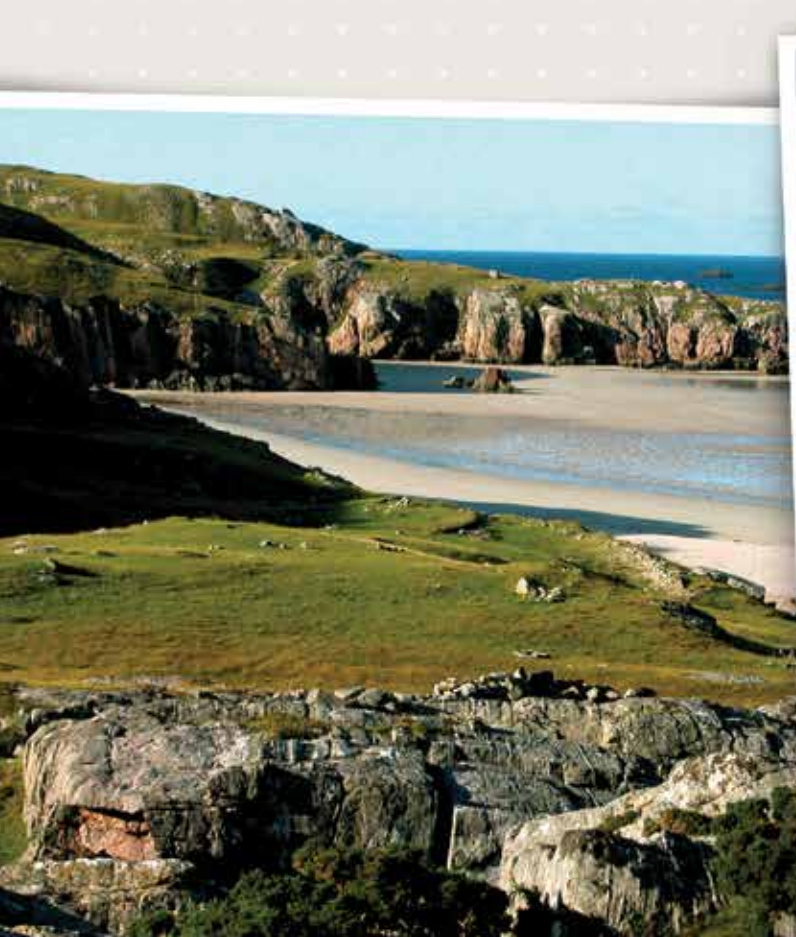
THE SCOTTISH SLEUTHS

..... and

THE CASE OF THE EVANGELICAL ENCOUNTERS

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

.....



PRE-SCHOOL
VBS10PSTM



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 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

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. 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

REVEALED

DAY ONE

Theme: Jesus is REVEALED as Savior.

Bible Text: Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:22-52

Scripture Memory: I John 4:14

REVERSES

DAY TWO

Theme: Jesus REVERSES the Curse.

Bible Text: John 3

Scripture Memory: John 3:36a

REJECTED

DAY THREE

Theme: Jesus is REJECTED by Prideful Hearts.

Bible Text: Matthew 12:1-7, 15:1-9; Mark 7:1-13, 8:11-13, 12:18-27

Scripture Memory: Acts 4:11

REDEEMS

DAY FOUR

Theme: Jesus REDEEMS Lost Sinners.

Bible Text: Matthew 15:21-28; John 4

Scripture Memory: Galatians 4:4b-5

RELIEF

DAY FIVE

Theme: Jesus brings RELIEF of Fear and Doubt.

Bible Text: John 20:19-28; Luke 24:13-34

Scripture Memory: Review all memory verses



SCRIPTURE MEMORY

DAY ONE: I JOHN 4:14

And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world.

DAY TWO: JOHN 3:36

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life...

DAY THREE: ACTS 4:11

This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.

DAY FOUR: GALATIANS 4:4B-5

God sent forth his Son...to redeem those who were under the law...

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 REVEALED AS SAVIOR

DAY ONE

BIBLE TEXT

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:22-52

MEMORY VERSE

I John 4:14

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Jesus is revealed as the light to His people and Savior of the world at His birth and first years on this earth.

LESSON AIM

For the students to know that only when Jesus reveals Himself to us and our sins to us can we be saved. Christ alone shows us the Father!



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. Get their attention.

Say: *If you could meet one person in the whole world (other than Jesus), real or imaginary, who would it be? And why?*

Start with your own answers. Comment on who the children want to meet.

Transition: *How awesome would it be if we could meet some of those people in heaven*

one day (the real ones of course)! But, more importantly, we all need to meet Jesus. Encountering Jesus is all that really matters!



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: 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.

Introduction: *This week, our Bible lessons will all come from the Gospels of the New Testament. The names of the Gospels are: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. We will focus on what happens when people ENCOUNTER or MEET Jesus. Do you think they will be changed? We'll see!*

Listen. Read Matthew 1:18-21.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Discussion: *Did you hear that? Joseph didn't want to stay married to Mary because she was pregnant with a baby. What stopped Joseph from divorcing Mary? [An angel appeared and told him not to be afraid to marry Mary.] And that angel told him that Jesus was sent to save His people from their sins! Isn't that great?*

Let's read more. Read verses 22-25.

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Discussion: *What other name was Jesus to be called? [Immanuel.] What does that name mean? [God with us.]*

Now, we'll read from the Gospel of Luke.

Read Luke 2:22-26.

²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

Discussion: *Why did Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to Jerusalem? [He was the firstborn son,*

so He had to be redeemed and purified.] What was a man named Simeon promised? [That he wouldn't die until he met Christ!] That's a great promise!

Listen to what happens. Read verses 27-35.

²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ²⁹ "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." ³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

Discussion: *Wow! Simeon had lots to say when he met Jesus! What was the response of Mary and Joseph? [They marveled.] Simeon's main point about Jesus was that He is the SAVIOR!*

Let's read more. Read verses 36-38.

³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Discussion: *Why did Anna the prophetess begin to give thanks for the redemption of God's people?*

[Because she met Jesus.] *She waited a long time to meet the Savior!*

Listen to more. Read verses 41-47.

⁴¹ Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³ And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴ but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵ and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

Discussion: *Jesus was just twelve years old on this trip to Jerusalem. What shocking thing happened? [He stayed behind; His parent's lost Him.] When the teachers of the law met Jesus, how did they respond? [They were amazed!]*

Let's finish reading. Read verses 48-52.

⁴⁸ And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹ And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹ And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

Conclusion: *Why did Jesus stay behind in Jerusalem? [To be in His Father's house.] How*

did Joseph and Mary respond to what Jesus said? [They didn't understand.] Did you hear how Jesus behaved as a child? He was perfectly obedient to His parents! He was always in favor with God!

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. **Use this time to as your break.**



SNACK

Snacks will be delivered to your classroom or to a snack area. 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 to prepare for Bible Application.**



BIBLE APPLICATION

[Note: For pre-schoolers, the Bible Application time is intended to reinforce the truths that were presented during the Bible Lesson time. This is done by teaching one and two word simple concepts. The “Application Point” titles are for the teacher’s use only.]

Application Point 1: Jesus Christ is “God with us”

Materials: Boy baby doll.

We read today that God’s angel told Joseph to marry Mary and give their firstborn son a name. What was it? [Immanuel.] And we learned that Immanuel means “God with us.” Jesus is the Son of God who lives among His people!

Hold up the baby doll. *Isn’t it amazing that Jesus, the Son of God, was born as a BABY? As a BABY, then a child, and then an adult, he was WITH US on this earth! Mary and Joseph got to hold the Son of God like this, as Jesus was fully God and fully human. He really is IMMANUEL, God with us!*

Back in Bible times, most people believed in “gods” that lived far, far away. Even today, many people think that God is distant or that He just created the world and has left us to our own. We need God to be WITH US, don’t we!

It’s truly remarkable that God would choose to live among His people. In the Old Testament, God dwelt among His people in the form of a glory cloud. But now, in the New Testament, the second person of the Trinity is born as a

baby boy! Our God is not far away—He is with us.

*But Jesus is no longer “physically” with us like this baby is with us. So, when you become a Christian, how does Jesus become “God with us?” **Help them with the answer. Jesus Christ lives in us and we live in Him!***

Knowing that Jesus is with you changes the way you live. His Spirit enables you to live for Him. We can obey and serve God because God is with us!

Application Point 2: Jesus is the light for revelation

Materials: A working flashlight and a hidden object.

When Simeon encountered Jesus, he said these words about Him: “...a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.” Revelation is the act of making something that is unknown KNOWN. It is taking something that is HIDDEN and allowing people to see it.

Have a helper turn out the lights. Get the room as dark as possible. *Why is it so hard to see? What do we need to see? We need light, right? **Turn on the flashlight.** This flashlight helps us see what is in this room. But there is something hidden here that is still in the dark. What is it? **Shine the flashlight on the hidden object.** The light has REVEALED what was once hidden! Now we can SEE it!*

So when we talk about Jesus being the “light for revelation,” it means that He makes God the Father known to us. So can people KNOW God without KNOWING Jesus? No way! Jesus reveals the GOOD NEWS of God.

People can't just come to know God on their own--because we are all sinners, and blind to the truth. We need Jesus as the Light of the World to REVEAL God to our hearts.

Simeon also said that Jesus would come "so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." Turn on the flashlight again. That's a second REVELATION from Jesus. He REVEALS God to us, and our hearts to us as well. Why do we need our hearts REVEALED? When we see the depth of sin in our hearts we will long for a Savior!

One more thing. How did Mary and Joseph usually respond to Jesus? [They marveled, and the didn't understand.] Even Jesus' own parents needed the truth REVEALED to them. All people will only come to the knowledge of the TRUTH when Jesus is their REVELATION!

Application Point 3:
Whoever confesses Jesus as Lord
will be saved

Materials: Sign with word "Jesus" on one side and "God saves" on the other.

When the angel appeared to Joseph in a dream, he said these words: "She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Hold up the sign. Did you know that the name "Jesus" means that "God saves?" He was given this name to proclaim salvation to His people.

Show the "God saves" side. *So, does Jesus save everyone from their sins? [No.] God chooses whom Jesus will save. It may seem unfair that Jesus only saves His people from their sin—until we remember that NONE of us deserve salvation. Why don't we deserve salvation? Allow answers. Our sin deserves hell!*

According to God's Word, how does one become saved from sin and death? Allow answers. Yes, you have to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. You have to receive Him as LORD of your life. You have to confess yourself to be a sinner and that He is the only one who can save you. We will talk more about this all week long.

Finally, we also read these words about Anna, the prophetess: "And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem." The people were waiting for redemption, or SALVATION. So, Anna was telling them all about Jesus! What about you? Use the sign again. Do you confess that Jesus is SALVATION to the world? Or do you keep it to yourself? Allow brief answers.

Close in prayer, thanking God that He reveals Jesus to us!

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



CRAFTS

Go with your students to the Crafts Area. The VBS Crafts Team will lead your students in a crafts project. You may use this time 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.

Say: So our first "evangelical encounter" REVEALED that Jesus is the Son of God and the Savior of the world. If Jesus had not been revealed, then we would be lost in our sins. Whoever confesses that Jesus is Lord will be saved! This is the testimony of the Word and the Spirit to our hearts.

**Today's Scripture Memory is found in
I John 4:14**

And we have seen and testify that the
Father has sent His Son to be the Savior
of the world.

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

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

Example:

And we have seen (echo: And we have seen)
And testify that (clap, clap)
The Father (echo: The Father)
Has sent His Son (stomp, stomp)
To be the Savior (stomp, stomp)
Of the World! (echo: of the world)
I John 4:14!

Have different groups echo each other.

Review the Scripture a number of times to reinforce it.

If extra time, have coloring sheets available.

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



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