



# THE SCOTTISH SLEUTHS

..... and .....

## THE CASE OF THE CARDIAC CRUSADER

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM  
SKIT MANUAL

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**SKITS**  
VBS07SK



# 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 Old Testament case involves a search for the “Cardiac Crusader.” Investigating the Book of I Samuel, your children will learn that David was a man after God’s own heart. He had a heart for God, a heart of faith, a heart in covenant, a heart of hope, and a heart gripped by the grace of God. Yet, David is just a foreshadow of the true Cardiac Crusader—Jesus Christ. Jesus is God’s only Son whose pure heart led him to the cross to “crusade” for His people!

## THE PLAYERS

### **Narrator**

*Introduces and concludes the skit. Also moves props when necessary.*

### **Penelope, the English Maid**

*Dressed in a white lab coat. She is a part-time lab assistant at St. Andrews U.*

### **Super Sleuth Angus McTavish**

*Scottish accent required. Dressed in a long trenchcoat. Often holding an old-fashioned pipe.*

### **Professor Dabney Thornwell**

*Also Scottish. Wears a tweed jacket and holds a large magnifying glass.*

## THE PROPS

Sleuth outfits  
 Lab coat for the maid  
 Old wooden box  
 Life-size replica of a human heart  
 Large heart-sized rock  
 Microscope  
 Lab journals, pens  
 Magnifying glasses  
 Rubber gloves (three pairs)  
 Stethoscope  
 Cell phone (used as portable sonogram)  
 Kleenex tissue  
 Poster board for daily themes

## THE SET

This year’s set is Professor Thornwell’s laboratory at the University of St. Andrews.

The backdrop should include books, lab equipment, a blackboard with scientific formulas, etc.

A lab table should be in the foreground for the sleuths to work around.



# DAY ONE

## TODAY'S THEME: Developing a Heart for God

### Day One Props

Old wooden box with replica heart in it

### Day One Setup

Standard lab table setup (journals, lab equipment, microscope)

### **Narrator**

Good morning, junior sleuths! I hope you're ready to help our Highland Heroes with another amazing Bible case. This week, we find ourselves at the University of St. Andrews. I wonder why? Well...the one thing I never wonder about is if McTavish and Thornwell are up to the challenge of another mystery! Remember, they solve 99.8% of all their cases. So pay close attention, and let's watch and learn...

*Professor Thornwell and Penelope enter the laboratory. They stand behind the lab table, looking through the microscope and writing in their lab journals.*

### **Thornwell**

This is really quite amazing. I don't believe I've ever seen anything like it, Penelope.

### **Penelope**

That's saying something, professor! After all, you've been here at the University for almost 30 years. Umm, not that I'm saying you're old or anything...

### **Thornwell**

No offense taken, my dear. We professors of ancient history and archaeology can be mistaken as being just as old as the archaic things we study!

*McTavish enters. He walks up to Thornwell and Penelope.*

### **McTavish**

I came as quickly as I could—the traffic in downtown St. Andrews was just maddening. So, what seems to be the problem, my persistent professor? *Looking at Penelope.* And...what are you doing here, my meticulous maid?

### **Penelope**

Uhh...well...I decided to take a part-time job, sir. I hope you don't mind. It's actually quite exhilarating to be a lab assistant at night after just being an ordinary maid during the day...

### **Thornwell**

Sounds sort of like a superhero...Penelope the Powerful...cleans up dirt and grime by day, and solves archaeological riddles by night! *Penelope smiles and poses as a superhero.*

### **McTavish**

Yes, yes. Quite witty my dynamic duo. Now what was so urgent for you to call me to your lab?

### **Thornwell**

Just take a look at this! *Thornwell directs McTavish to the old wooden box. He carefully opens the antique.*





# DAY ONE (CONTINUED)

## McTavish

*Gazing into the box and gasping.* Is that what I think it is? Where in the world did you find it?

## Penelope

Some of our students found it while on an archeological dig in the Middle East!

## Thornwell

And, when they dug it up, they thought this box held ancient artifacts. So, they had it sent directly to me.

## McTavish

Amazing! So have you deduced the age of this landmark find, my archeological aficionado?

## Thornwell

I certainly have, McTavish. Penelope and I were just going over the results. This miraculous ancient relic is just over... 6,000 years old!

## Penelope

And, I might add, that's much, much older than the Professor himself!

## McTavish

That's an astute observation, Penelope. But you know what we REALLY have here, don't you? This is no mere ancient artifact!

## Thornwell

Yes, I was thinking the same thing...even with my old and archaic brain. *Glancing at Penelope.*

## Penelope

Do you really think so? Can this be yet another puzzling Bible case?

## McTavish

Definitely! There is no doubt in my mind that we have stumbled upon something that demands a look into God's Word.

## Thornwell

That's why I called in the Super Bible Sleuth!

*The trio look intently at the wooden box. McTavish and Thornwell use their magnifying glasses to investigate. Penelope dusts around the box.*

## Narrator

What in the world can be in that ancient treasure box, boys and girls? It must be something that is truly miraculous! Well, pay close attention to God's Word today, and come back tomorrow for more of the Case of the Cardiac Crusader!

## End Day One

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# DAY TWO

## TODAY'S THEME: Acting boldly from a Heart of Faith

### Day Two Props

Old wooden box with replica heart in it  
Rubber gloves  
Large heart-sized rock

### Day Two Setup

Standard lab table setup (journals, lab equipment, microscope)

*Enter McTavish, Thornwell, and Penelope. They continue to work around the lab table and write in journals, etc.*

### **McTavish**

Well, my fortuitous friends, I think it's time to take a closer look at this specimen.

### **Thornwell**

I agree. *Hands out rubber gloves.* Put on these, since we don't know how delicate it may be. After all, it's about 6,000 years old. And, it may be...diseased!

*The trio cringe in disgust, put on the gloves, and ready themselves to pull the heart out of the box. McTavish takes the lead and gently takes the heart out.*

### **Penelope**

How magnificent! I can't believe my eyes! It looks so...so...alive. But, that's impossible!

*McTavish holds the heart up for all to see.*

### **Thornwell**

There can be no doubt that we are correct with our assessment. It really IS human!

### **McTavish**

Correct, my Technical Teacher. It is truly a human HEART! And it appears to be in amazing condition.

### **Penelope**

But that's not what a heart that has been buried for 6,000 years should look like! It shouldn't look so strong and powerful, should it?

### **Thornwell**

No it shouldn't, my lovely lab assistant! It should look more like THIS...

*Thornwell holds up the heart-sized rock, and then sets it on the table with a thud.*

### **McTavish**

Indubitably, my Passionate Professor. Indubitably! That's exactly the expected appearance of this ancient organ.

*McTavish puts the heart next to the rock.*

### **Penelope**

So the question is, what makes THIS heart so different than THAT heart? Why is one a heart of FLESH, while the other one is more like a heart of STONE?

### **Thornwell**

I think God's Word can shed some light on that question, right McTavish? Don't we all begin life with hearts of STONE?

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## DAY TWO (CONTINUED)

### McTavish

Correct, my Bible Bloodhound. In the Old Testament book of Ezekiel, we read how it is only God who can take a heart of stone and change it to a heart of flesh.

### Penelope

*Holding up the rock.* So, you're saying that all of our hearts look like THIS at first? This specimen is so cold and hardened and dead!

### Thornwell

*Taking the rock.* Definitely lifeless...and with no strength in it.

### McTavish

Exactly! Every heart without the Spirit of God, no matter how old, would look exactly like THAT one. Which leads us to conclude what, my Laborious Learners?

### Penelope

Oh, oh, I know! The heart that our archeological students dug up must have been CHANGED by the Holy Spirit! It could only look so strong, so alive, because of God's work.

### Thornwell

That's what makes this find so remarkable! This heart could only have been made this way by God.

*The trio continue to examine the two hearts, writing in their journals.*

### McTavish

Professor, do you think there are more tests we can run on this amazing ancient organ?

### Thornwell

Certainly...what exactly do we need to look for next?

### McTavish

For starters, I think we need to investigate what happens to a heart that is changed by God.

### Penelope

Now that will be some sort of fascinating lab experiment!

*McTavish, Thornwell, and Penelope remain in deep thought.*

### Narrator

Are you ready to learn more about the human heart that is changed by God? Your Bible lessons should be giving you some great examples of what happens to a man after God's own heart. Keep learning and thinking...then come back for more of the *Case of the Cardiac Crusader*! You won't want to miss what happens next in Thornwell's laboratory!

### End Day Two

## NOTES

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# DAY THREE

## TODAY'S THEME: Loving others from a Heart in Covenant

### Day Three Props

Old wooden box with replica heart in it  
Rubber gloves  
Large heart-sized rock  
Stethoscope

### Day Three Setup

Standard lab table setup (journals, lab equipment, microscope)

*Penelope enters the lab first. She picks up the stethoscope and examines it. She puts the instrument in her ears and hesitantly checks the heart for a heartbeat.*

### **Penelope**

*Laughing to herself.* This is so silly. Like this 6,000 year old heart would still have a heartbeat! What am I thinking? Maybe I've been hanging around the Professor too long...

*Penelope jumps back in horror, pulling the stethoscope out of her ears. She stands back with her mouth wide open. McTavish and Thornwell enter the lab. They ignore Penelope for the moment.*

### **Thornwell**

So, McTavish, I was thinking that we could start some chemical tests on the mysterious heart, to see what has kept it so strong and healthy all these years.

### **McTavish**

Good idea, my Exacting Experimenter! But there is one thing we can already deduce: For this heart to be this strong, it must be a heart of FAITH!

### **Thornwell**

That's a brilliant observation, sir! Yes, only those who have FAITH in Christ can have a powerfully BOLD heart like this one. *Now looking at Penelope.* Wouldn't you agree, super lab assistant Penelope?

*Penelope is still frozen in shock and horror.*

### **McTavish**

My dear Penelope, are you okay?

### **Thornwell**

*Shaking Penelope.* Penelope...Penelope! Snap out of it!

*Penelope comes out of her shock trance.*

### **Penelope**

*Hesitantly.* You're going to think I'm crazy, but I think...I think...I heard a heartbeat...

### **McTavish**

A heartbeat? From our 6,000 year old artifact? *Penelope nods her head slowly.*

### **Thornwell**

I knew it...working two jobs has finally caught up with you! McTavish, you must give YOUR maid some time off. She is clearly sleep deprived, and on the brink of some crazy madness!

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## DAY THREE (CONTINUED)

### Penelope

That may very well be, Professor, that may very well be. *Handing Thornwell the stethoscope.* So why don't you either confirm my insanity or prove that I am actually very clear-headed?

### Thornwell

Certainly. *He begins listening for a heartbeat.* Let's put an end to this silliness. It's one thing to find a healthy looking heart, but quite another to...

*Thornwell jumps back in shock, pulling the stethoscope out of his ears. He freezes.*

### McTavish

Professor! Professor! *Shakes Thornwell.* Get a hold of yourself, man. Are you telling me that our precious Penelope is truly sane?

*Thornwell slowly nods his head. McTavish takes the stethoscope from his hands and uses them to examine the heart.*

### McTavish

Hmmm... Uh, Huh... Fascinating...

### Penelope

Do you hear it? It's very faint, but it's there, isn't it, McTavish?

### McTavish

*Pulling the stethoscope out of his ears.* As impossible as it may be, I definitely hear a heartbeat. Miraculous!

### Thornwell

*Coming out of his stupor.* Maybe this instrument is defective.

*Thornwell grabs the stethoscope from McTavish.*

### Thornwell

Let's confirm that our stethoscope is working on this stony heart that we KNOW has no heartbeat...

*Thornwell checks the rock for a heartbeat.*

### Penelope

Well, professor, is there a heartbeat?

*Thornwell shakes his head.*

### McTavish

Then our mystery deepens...

*The trio freezes in place.*

### Narrator

How in the world can a 6,000 year old heart without a body have a heartbeat? What makes our hearts beat in the first place? And, do you think our tremulous trio can get through this case with their own tickers intact? Study God's Word with all your hearts today, and join us tomorrow for more of the *Case of the Cardiac Crusader!*

### End Day Three

## NOTES

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