Pre-School

The Scottish Sleuths and The Case of The Disciples' Distinctives

Vacation Bible School Curriculum

Teacher’s Manual
4 and 5 year olds

One Story Ministries  VBS06PSTM
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and
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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 New Testament case asks the important question: “What is a disciple of Jesus Christ?” From a study of key passages from the Gospels and Acts, our children should come away with a better understanding of what it means to be one of Jesus’ disciples. We want all of our children to be followers of King Jesus!

This curriculum presents the clear gospel message from God’s Word in the context of loving relationships between teachers and their students. Accordingly, it is vital for each teacher to recognize 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 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 make-up of your particular class!

**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 that is intended to be primarily evangelistic in nature. Yet since many of your children may in fact be regularly “churched,” it is essential that VBS also be used as an opportunity to teach God’s Word more intensively. Thus, *The Scottish Sleuth* series works hard to be both evangelistic in method as well as discipleship-focused.

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**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. Simply make the room a place which helps the children learn.*
Overview of Daily Lessons

Day One
Theme: Disciples are CALLED to follow.
Scripture Memory: Luke 5:32

Day Two
Theme: Disciples are CONFRONTED with their sin.
Scripture Memory: John 13:34

Day Three
Theme: Disciples are COMMITTED to Jesus Christ.
Scripture Memory: Mark 8:34b

Day Four
Theme: Disciples are CHANGED by the Holy Spirit.
Bible Texts: John 14:15-31; 16:5-16; Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-4
Scripture Memory: Matthew 28:19

Day Five
Theme: Disciples are COMMISSIONED to make disciples.
Scripture Memory: Review all memory verses
Scripture Memory

Day One: Luke 5:32
“I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

Day Two: John 13:34
“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

Day Three: Mark 8:34b
“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”

Day Four: Matthew 28:19
“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit…”

Day Five: Review all Memory Work
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
Disciples are CALLED to Follow

DAY ONE

**Bible Text**

**Memory Verse**
Luke 5:32

**Scripture Truth**
Jesus called sinners to follow Him and be His disciples.

**Lesson Aim**
For the students to know that God calls them out of their sin and into a new life of following Jesus Christ.
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.

Have some of the students tell one of their favorite television shows or movies to the class. Begin by telling them one of yours. You may want to ask them reasons for why they are their favorites.

Transition: Isn’t it amazing how God has gifted certain people in our world to be write stories that become TV shows or movies! But the only reason human beings can tell such great stories is because we were created by the greatest story-teller of all time. And, He has written the greatest story of all time! Do you know which story I’m talking about? It’s the story of salvation found in the BIBLE. Show the students a Bible. What a great gift to be able to read the greatest story of all time!

Bible Lesson

[Note: The “Bible Lesson” time is intended to: 1) Allow the students to 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.

[All stories included in the Bible Lesson are from the NIV.]

Introduction: This week, we will be investigating in the New Testament, mainly in the Gospels. Can anyone tell me what a Gospel is? [A book of the Bible devoted to the good news of Jesus Christ’s birth, life, death, and resurrection.] And can you name any of the four Gospels for me? [Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.] We will begin our reading in the Gospel of Matthew.

Read Matthew 4:18-20.

18 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 19 “Come, follow me,” Jesus said,
“and I will make you fishers of men.” 20 At once they left their nets and followed him.

**Discussion [Get short, quick answers]:**

*Who did Jesus speak to?* [Simon Peter and Andrew.]

*What did these men do for a living?* [They were fishermen.]

*What did Jesus say to them?* [Come, follow me.]

*How did they respond?* [They immediately left their nets and followed Jesus.]

Read verses 21-22.

21 Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, 22 and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

**Discussion:**

*Who did Jesus speak to now?* [James and John.]

*What did these men do for a living?* [They were fishermen.]

*How did they respond to Jesus’ call?* [They immediately left their nets and followed Jesus.]

Let’s go to the Gospel of Luke.


1 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, 2 he saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. 3 He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. 4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.” 5 Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.” 6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. 7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

**Discussion:**

This passage tells us a bit more of the story of Jesus’ interaction with the four fishermen. What miracle did Jesus do? [He provided the men with a huge catch of fish.] And this came after the men fished all night and caught nothing!

Listen to more. Read verses 8-11

8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” 9 For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, 10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will catch men.” 11 So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

**Discussion:**

*What did Jesus tell Peter and James and John?* [From now on you will catch men.] *What does that mean?* We’ll talk more about that in our Application Time.

Now, let’s return to Matthew 9.


9 As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector’s booth. “Follow me,” he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. 10 While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and “sinners” came and ate with him and his disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and ‘sinners’?” 12 On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’
For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

**Discussion:** Who did Jesus speak to next? [Matthew.] What did Matthew do for a living? [He was a tax collector.] What did Jesus say to him? [Follow me.] How did Matthew respond? [He followed him.] What did the Pharisees (the religious leaders of the day) think about Jesus? [They thought it was wrong for Jesus to eat with sinners.] What did Jesus say about that? [That he came to call sinners, like a doctor comes for the sick.]

Now let’s read from another Gospel—the Gospel of John.

**Read John 1:43-50.**
43 The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.” 44 Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. 45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” 46 “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. “Come and see,” said Philip. 47 When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false.” 48 “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.” 49 Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel.” 50 Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that.”

**Discussion:** Which men did Jesus call next to be his disciples? [Philip and Nathanael.] Did Philip find Jesus or did Jesus find Philip? [Jesus found Philip.] How did Jesus know Nathanael? [Before Philip called him, Jesus saw him under the fig tree.] What did Jesus say about Nathanael? [He is a true Israelite, with nothing false in him.]

Now, listen to the names of the disciples...

**Read Matthew 10:2-4.**
2 These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; 3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

**Conclusion:** We will come back during Application Time and talk more about these disciples. Close with prayer.

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**Recreation**

Go with your children to the Recreation Area. The Recreation Team will be responsible for your students during this time. Use this time as your break.

**Snack**

Snacks will be delivered to your classroom. 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.
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 Time.

[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:
The call to be a disciple of Jesus is a sovereign act of God

Materials: A plastic phone or a cell phone, pictures from today’s lesson

Show the phone to the children. What is this? [A telephone.] What is it used for? [To call and talk to people.] This is how we talk to people who are not close by.

Use the pictures from today’s lesson. So how did Jesus CALL His disciples? Did he use a cell phone? Did He just put up a sign that read, “Disciples Wanted” and people signed up for the job? [No, CALLED them to follow Him.]

Boys and girls, the CALL to be a disciple is not like a telephone call. It is a sovereign act of God. The big word “sovereign” means that God is in total control of the world. So, it is not up to us to decide to be CALLED by God, it is God who chooses to CALL disciples of Jesus.

So, what did the disciples do when Jesus CALLED them? [They left their former lives immediately and followed Jesus.] Did any of them say, “No, thank you”? [No.] When God CALLS disciples of Jesus, they respond to His CALL and follow Jesus.

Do you understand how this is great news? When God sovereignly CALLS disciples, they respond. And, the response is that they turn from their old lives to new ones. God CALLS you and me to be disciples of Christ Jesus!

Application Point 2:
God sent Jesus to call sinners, just like you and me

Materials: A picture of someone sick, in a hospital; pictures from the lesson

According to our reading in Matthew 9, who did Jesus come to CALL? [He came for the sick and the sinners.]

Show picture of someone sick. What does the person need? [He needs a doctor.] He can’t heal himself, can he? No! Sick people need medicine and people to offer a cure.

Jesus said that He came to heal the sick. The “sick” people He was talking about are sinners like you and me. Jesus did NOT call the people who thought they were good enough already. Remember that the Pharisees (the religious leaders of the day) thought they were “righteous” enough without Jesus. They didn’t think they needed any help.
Maybe, like the Pharisees, you think that only people who do REALLY bad things need Jesus. But is that true? No!

Boys and girls, the truth is that YOU are sick, weak, and sinful. You don’t need a doctor; you need Jesus to heal your heart and soul. You need Jesus to deal with your sinful hearts. You are NOT good enough to be one of Jesus’ disciples on your own!

It is tempting to think that we can follow Jesus without anyone’s help. But then we forget that we are weak and helpless sinners!

Application Point 3:
Disciples are people who follow Jesus

Materials: Pictures from today’s lesson

I need someone to be a leader. Choose a volunteer. Now I need everyone else to do exactly what the leader does. Have the leader make hand and body motions that his followers must imitate.

Use pictures from the lesson to illustrate. Now who can tell me what TWO words Jesus used to CALL His disciples? [Follow me.] Did He tell the disciples to come along and walk next to Him? Or, in front of Him?

No, Jesus commanded His disciples to follow. What does it mean to follow someone? Just like when you followed our leader, it means to do whatever the leader does. So, to follow Jesus means to do everything He says, just as He says to do it!

Do you like the idea of having to do everything someone says, just as he says to do it? Why or why not? Allow discussion. If you are like me, it doesn’t sound very good. I would rather do things my way!

Show pictures. But, by definition, a DISCIPLE is one who follows and obeys the person who is leading. DISCIPLES don’t do their own things. DISCIPLES are trained to do exactly as their teacher says!

The great thing about this is that Jesus leads perfectly! And, later we will learn that the Holy Spirit changes us so that we are able to follow. So, if you have a perfect leader, does following sound better to you? It does to me!

Close in prayer, thanking God for His sovereign call on the lives of His people.

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. Then, use this time as a break, or prepare for Bible Memory.

Bible Memory

Begin by teaching 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.

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

Today’s Scripture Memory is found in Luke 5:32
“I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

Say:  Today’s memory verse reminds us that Jesus came to call the sick, not the healthy, as His disciples. We need the Great Physician to bring us to repentance!

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

Example:
I have not come (echo: I have not come)
To call (stomp, stomp)
The righteous (clap, clap)
But (echo: But)
Sinners (stomp, stomp)
To repentance! (clap, clap)

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 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