

# The Scottish Sleuths

and

## The Case of

## The Disciples' Distinctives

# SKIT MANUAL

Vacation Bible School  
Curriculum



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# **The Scottish Sleuths and the Case of the Disciples' Distinctives Skit Manual**

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# Introduction

Welcome to *The Scottish Sleuth* Vacation Bible School 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 our VBS children. The detective characters symbolically portray the message that we want the students to learn to be competent investigators of Biblical truth.

This year, our case answers the important question: “*What is a disciple of Jesus Christ?*” From a study of key passages from the Gospels and the Book of 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 become followers of King Jesus!

## The Players

### **Narrator**

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

### **Penelope the English Maid**

*Maid uniform. Serves the sleuths and delivers the clues.*

### **Super Sleuth Angus McTavish**

*Scottish accent required. Dressed in 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
- Maid outfit
- Telephone on a small table
- Fishing pole; small fishing net
- Money bag filled with coins
- Notepad for the Professor to write on
- Five large stuffed black garbage bags
- Short length of sturdy rope
- Two sets of small dumbbells
- Box of “Bold” laundry detergent
- World map
- Magnifying glass
- Large Bible

## The Set

This year’s setting is McTavish’s Super Sleuth Study (in his home). The backdrop should include bookcases full of books, a grandfather clock, various paintings or portraits, and anything else that makes the set look like an English study. On the stage, place two wing-backed chairs, a desk, an antique lamp, a small table, an easel for a large open Bible, the world map, etc.

There should also be a door to the “outside” and a closet door that can be opened.

The large, open Bible is a vital prop. From time to time, the sleuths will peer into it, searching for clues.

# Day One

**Today's Theme:**  
Disciples are CALLED to follow

## **Day One Props**

Telephone on a small table  
Fishing pole  
Small fishing net  
Money bags filled with coins

## **Day One Setup**

The telephone and small table should be set up on the stage. The other props are to be placed behind the "outside door."

*Enter McTavish and Thornwell. They walk around acting as if they are in deep thought. Penelope, the English Maid, is dusting.*

## **Narrator**

Look! If it isn't our intrepid investigators, those Highland Heroes who solve 99.7% of all their cases—Angus McTavish and Professor Dabney Thornwell! If they have been called in on this case, it must be a very important AND challenging one. McTavish and his faithful sidekick, Professor Thornwell, are THE experts in solving tough Bible questions.

*McTavish looks up from his investigating and addresses Thornwell.*

## **McTavish**

Thornwell, my good man, have we found any clues yet?

## **Thornwell**

Uhm...Hmmm...Ahhh...what exactly are we looking for?

## **McTavish**

*With finger pointed in the air.* We are trying to solve...my forgetful friend...the Case of the Disciples' Distinctives!

## **Thornwell**

Of course! We're searching for those...disciples' distinctives. *Pausing, looking around.* And what exactly is a distinctive?

## **McTavish**

A distinctive, my inquisitive inculcator, is something which sets a person apart, makes him or her different from everyone else. For instance, our distinctives are that we're Scottish, we're good looking, and most importantly, we are fantastic Bible Sleuths.

*There is a knock at the door. Penelope walks over and opens the door, as the sleuths watch. Penelope picks up the fishing pole, fishing net, and the money bag—and walks over to Thornwell.*

## **Penelope**

For you, professor.

## **Thornwell**

Our first clues! *He examines the clues.* It looks to me like disciples enjoy...fishing and...shopping!

## **McTavish**

Nice try, my perplexed professor. But I think these clues are telling us that a disciple is an ORDINARY person who has an ORDINARY life.

*(Continued on page 7)*

# Day One (continued)

**Penelope**

*Piping in while still dusting.* Like being a fisherman and tax collector?

**McTavish**

Exactly!

**Thornwell**

Interesting...

*Just then, the telephone begins to ring (the narrator may just say, "ring—ring, ring—ring.") Penelope walks over to answer the phone.*

**McTavish**

I think that may be another clue! But, be careful Penelope, it may be dangerous.

**Penelope**

*Answers the phone.* McTavish residence, Penelope speaking. Ok...alright...mmhm.. Say that again? Really? Okay. Goodbye.

**Thornwell**

Who was it? What was the message? Is it another clue?

**Penelope**

*Slowly.* The voice said: "I CALL those I choose to CALL. Those who CALL me were actually CALLED first.

**McTavish**

Interesting...

**Thornwell**

So, disciples enjoy talking on the telephone?

**McTavish**

Not even close, my postulating professor! But, I will need more time to properly ascertain what this clue means...

**Penelope**

And I'll put on the kettle for afternoon tea!

**Thornwell**

Don't forget my favorite biscuits. They are fabulous brain food!

*Penelope walks off stage. McTavish and Thornwell hold their positions.*

**Narrator**

Well, boys and girls, do you think you can help McTavish and Thornwell understand today's clues? How are ordinary people turned into disciples? And what does that strange phone message mean? Make sure to study hard, and join us tomorrow for more of the Case of the Disciples' Distinctives!

*End Day One*





# Day Two

**Today's Theme:**  
Disciples are CONFRONTED  
with their sin

## Day Two Props

Five large garbage bags filled with stuffing. One should be tied in a way to be easily opened.

A notepad and pen for Thornwell.

## Day Two Setup

Place one garbage bag in the closet. This one should be tied in a way to be opened. Prepare the other bags to be quickly moved onto the stage later.

*Enter McTavish and Thornwell. McTavish is dictating to Thornwell who is writing furiously on his notepad. Penelope is dusting in the background.*

### **McTavish**

And so, my scrupulous scribe...after many hours of studying the Bible and giving it careful thought, I have figured out the first clue.

### **Thornwell**

I never doubted you for a moment! So...what does the first clue mean?

### **McTavish**

*With a finger pointing in the air.* True disciples are ordinary people who are CALLED by God to follow. That's what the voice message on the other end of our telephone means!

### **Thornwell**

Interesting... But who are disciples CALLED to follow?

### **McTavish**

I'm not totally sure yet, professor. Hopefully, another clue will come our way soon.

*In her cleaning, Penelope opens the closet door. A large black garbage comes tumbling into the room. Penelope shrieks with horror.*

### **Thornwell**

Oh...my...what's that smell? Where is it coming from?

### **McTavish**

From that large black bag, my indignant inspector!

*Thornwell walks over and picks up the bag.*

### **Thornwell**

My dear Penelope...why didn't you take out the rubbish this morning?

### **Penelope**

But I did, I did! This entire house is totally rubbish-free! That isn't even one of our rubbish bags. Maybe, it's a CLUE!

### **Thornwell.**

*Opening the bag.* This CAN'T be a clue, can it? Oh my, that's disgusting!

*Penelope and McTavish slowly approach the bag, peering inside. All three hold their noses, making noises of disgust.*

*(Continued on page 10)*

# Day Two (continued)

**McTavish**

Yes, it CAN be a clue and it IS a clue! The question we must answer is: What can be so awfully smelly and putrid, and intensely horrible to look at?

**Penelope**

I know, I know! Jeeves the Butler's sock drawer.

**Thornwell**

No, no... I've got it. My Aunt Mable's mystery meat loaf.

**McTavish**

I don't think so, my dubious duo. I believe it's something even more hideous than Jeeves' laundry or Aunt Mabel's cooking.

*Unbeknownst to the trio, four other large stuffed garbage bags begin to surround them. The narrator moves them on stage quietly while the threesome continue to peer into the bag.*

**Thornwell**

*Noticing the bags first.* Umm...McTavish! I think we have a bigger problem. The black stinky bags of "whatever" are starting to multiply!

**Penelope**

Where are they all coming from? No one has this much rubbish in their home! Not even extreme hoarders!

**McTavish**

*Scratching his chin.* But, maybe they have this much rubbish in their lives.

**Thornwell**

The smell alone is about to knock me out! Let's not even try to open any more...

**Penelope**

I vote for that too, Mr. McTavish.

**McTavish**

Agreed. Let's hold our noses and think about the meaning of this clue!

*McTavish, Thornwell, and Penelope hold their noses and turn around nervously among the bags, as the narrator speaks.*

**Narrator**

So, junior detectives, what are our Super Sleuths being confronted with today? Will they figure out what is even more stinky than Aunt Mabel's mystery meatloaf? Will they be able to keep their wits about themselves amidst the rancid rubbish of life? Come back tomorrow as we search for more clues to the Case of the Disciples' Distinctives!

*End Day Two*