The Scottish Sleuths
and
The Case of The Wilderness Wanderers

Vacation Bible School Curriculum

Director's Manual

One Story Ministries   VBS05DM
The Scottish Sleuths
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The Wilderness Wanderers

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Director’s Manual
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’s case takes us back to the Old Testament—to the Book of Exodus. Your students will be learning how God delivered His people from slavery in order to make them dependent on Him, give them direction, discipline them, and dwell in their midst as their God. With this study, it is hoped that the children will come to understand more about who God is and the work He does in the Christian’s life.

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

**Administrative Team**
- VBS Director
- VBS Assistant Director

**Registration Team**
- Registration Team Leader
- Registration Team Members

**Classroom Teams**
- Classroom Teacher (s)
- Classroom Helpers

**Music Team**
- Music Team Leader
- Music Team Members
- Sound Technician

**Crafts Team**
- Crafts Team Leader
- Crafts Team Members

**Skits Team**
- Skits Director
- Actors
- Set/Props/Costumes Designer

**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 (for children of VBS workers)
- Floaters

**Snacks Team**
- Snacks Team Leader
- Snacks Team Members

**Recreation Team**
- Recreation Team Leader
Groupings and 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 will 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Pre-School (4's &amp; 5's)</th>
<th>Primary (K &amp; 1st Grade)</th>
<th>Secondary (2nd &amp; 3rd Grade)</th>
<th>Junior (4th &amp; 5th Grade)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00-9:15</td>
<td>Opening Program</td>
<td>Opening Program</td>
<td>Opening Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15-9:45</td>
<td>Welcome/Icebreaker</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45-10:05</td>
<td>Bible Lesson</td>
<td>Bible Lesson</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:05-10:25</td>
<td>Snack Time</td>
<td>Snack Time</td>
<td>Snack Time</td>
<td>Snack Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:25-10:45</td>
<td>Recreation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45-11:05</td>
<td>Bible Application</td>
<td>Bible Application</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:05-11:25</td>
<td>Crafts</td>
<td>Crafts</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:25-11:45</td>
<td>Snack Time</td>
<td>Snack Time</td>
<td>Snack Time</td>
<td>Snack Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45-Noon</td>
<td>Closing Program</td>
<td>Closing Program</td>
<td>Closing Program</td>
<td>Closing Program</td>
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</tbody>
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**Suggested VBS Schedule**
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.**

- **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 footprints, etc. The benefit of the *Scottish Sleuths* series is that you can use the decorations year after year if desired.
Opening and Closing Programs

The Opening Program

All of the VBS children begin their day together in an opening program. The central purpose of the opening program is to prepare the children for the VBS day.

The following is a suggested schedule for this fifteen-minute assembly:

- Welcome
- Song
- Opening prayer
- Announcements
- Skit
- Song

A missions moment can also be inserted, but there is probably more time for it in the closing program.

The Skits

Copies of the Skits Manual should be provided for all members of the Skits Team. Each skit lasts about 3-5 minutes, and is best scheduled during the opening program. Each day’s skit gives the students some clues which will help them when it comes to the Bible Lesson and Bible Application times.

The Skits Manual details what the set for The Case of the Wilderness Wanderers should look like, as well as the necessary props. The following actors are required for the skits:
- Two male lead actors to play the Scottish Sleuths.
- One female actor to play the “Sleuthette,” Jeanetta Calvinoux.

The Skits Team members can serve in other roles since they will only be needed in the opening program and the last day’s closing celebration.

Along with the five opening program skits, there is a closing skit for the last day’s extended closing celebration. The last skit wraps up the “case” with our VBS children.

The Closing Program

All of the VBS participants gather together at the end of the day for a closing Program. The central purpose of the closing Program is to end the day in praise and thanksgiving to God.

The following is a suggested schedule for the Closing Program:

- Song(s)
- Missions Moment
- Bible Memory Recitation
- Closing announcements
- Song

The Closing Program affords a time for individuals or groups to recite Bible memory verses to the large group. You may want to schedule two or three age groups a day.

On the last day, an extended Closing Celebration time is suggested as a time for parents to come and be a part of VBS.