

Skit Manual

The Scottish Sleuths

and

The Case of The Puzzling Parables

Vacation Bible School
Curriculum

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Printed in the United States of America

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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 leads the students on an in-depth study of Jesus’ “Kingdom” parables. Each day’s set of parables is arranged in such a way to relate a particular aspect of the Kingdom of God. The daily themes include: God’s Kingdom comes by the gospel ministry, God’s Kingdom goes after the missing, God’s Kingdom demonstrates His grace and mercy, God’s Kingdom demands giving all of myself, and God’s Kingdom is growing and multiplying.

The series of skits involves McTavish and Thornwell discovering clues concerning the Kingdom of God by solving the problems of McTavish’s household staff.

The Players

Narrator

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

Household Staff

Different personalities each day: The Gardener, The Chauffeur, The Butler, The Maid, and The Chef. Need at least two actors to play all five roles.

Super Sleuth Angus McTavish

Scottish accent required. Wears a trenchcoat and detective hat. Often has an old fashioned pipe in his hand.

Professor Dabney Thornwell

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

The Props

Detective outfits, including pipe and magnifying glass

Dining room table and two chairs
— With a lunch meal

Gardener outfit

Tray of planters, including some full-grown plants, some shriveled-up plants, some empty planters

Chauffeur outfit

Coin collection book, with one coin missing

Butler outfit

Maid outfit

Small treasure chest

Garage sale fliers

Chef outfit

Two large loaves of bread

The Set

This year’s set is McTavish’s formal Dining Room. A dining table with at least two chairs should be in the center of the stage. The sleuths will spend all of their time at the table, eating lunch and solving problems.

Day One

Today's Theme:
*God's Kingdom comes by the
Gospel Ministry*

Day One Props

A tray of planters with some full-grown plants, some shriveled-up plants, and some empty planters.

Day One Setup

Dining Room table in the center of the stage.

McTavish and Thornwell are sitting at the dining room table, enjoying the first course of their lunch.

Narrator

Well, boys and girls, it seems we have come upon our highland heroes in the middle of a much needed break from their sleuthing. Even legendary detectives deserve a hearty lunch, don't they? (*McTavish and Thornwell look up from their meals and nod their heads*). But. Junior Sleuths, you must always be vigilant. Important cases can come at almost any time...

Thornwell

I say, McTavish, it certainly is nice to have a quiet meal without any confusing conundrums to solve.

McTavish

You are quite right, my perceptive professor. And, this corn and brie soup is outstanding!

Chance, McTavish's gardener enters, panic-stricken, breathing heavily, holding a tray of planters. The Sleuths continue eating, ignoring the gardener.

The Gardener

Clearing his throat. Umm, excuse me sirs...

McTavish looks up. Thornwell continues to eat.

McTavish

Well hello, Chance. Care for a bit of lunch?

The Gardener

No. No thank you, sir...I am much too distressed to eat.

McTavish

What seems to be the trouble, my good man?

The Gardener

Setting the tray of plants on the table and pointing at them. Just look at these plants! Look at them! I used the same seeds and I planted them all at the same time, yet only some are healthy, while others are withered, and still others haven't even sprouted! I don't understand it!

Thornwell

Finally looking up from his meal, reluctantly. Seems to me like this is a case for Farmer Brown, not for the Super Bible Sleuth, Angus McTavish!

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Day One (continued)

McTavish

Speaking to Thornwell. Not so fast, my irritable investigator...this mystery actually appears to be right up our alley.

The Gardener

I *knew* you would be able to help! I just want to know what this all means.

Thornwell

But...can't we finish our lunch first?

McTavish

Oh, professor, you know that nothing goes better with a good meal than a perplexing puzzle to solve! We can easily eat and investigate at the same time.

McTavish and Thornwell begin inspecting the plants with the gardener looking on.

Thornwell

Hmmm...all your soils don't seem to be the same, Chance...

The Gardener

Excuse me?

McTavish

Interesting...

Narrator

What in the world makes this horticulture mystery a Bible case? *I* certainly haven't a clue...but maybe you can figure it out, Junior Sleuths. Then, come back tomorrow for more of the Case of the Puzzling Parables!

End Day One

NOTES

[illegible]

Day Two

Today's Theme:
God's Kingdom Goes After the Missing

Day Two Props

A coin collection book, with one coin missing.

Tray of plants (from Day One).

Day Two Setup

Dining Room table in the center of the stage, with tray of plants on one end.

McTavish and Thornwell are sitting at the dining room table, enjoying the second course of their lunch.

Thornwell

McTavish...I still fail to see why your gardener's lack of a "green thumb" is important to us.

McTavish

Ahh, my forgetful friend...you are neglecting one of the first rules of Bible sleuthing: *(finger pointed in air)* The things we discover in God's world show us something important about God's Kingdom!

Thornwell

Slapping his forehead. Of course...that's right! So, this *isn't* a mystery about plants, then.

McTavish

Exactly.

Mercedes (McTavish's chauffeur) enters. He is holding a coin collection book and sobbing. Thornwell continues to eat.

McTavish

Why, Mercedes, my trusted transporter... what's wrong with you?

The Chauffeur

Still sobbing. I can't find it anywhere...

Thornwell

What...the car keys?

The Chauffeur

No, no. *(Holding up his coin book and pointing to it.)* One of my rare coins is missing! I haven't been able to eat or sleep for two days. I don't know where it could have gone!

McTavish

Hmm... Have you searched the entire house and our palatial grounds?

The Chauffeur

Yes sir...many times. It is nowhere to be found.

Thornwell

Uhh, excuse me, Mercedes...but don't you have hundreds of perfectly fine rare coins still in your possession? What does it matter if you have lost just *one*?

The Chauffeur

With a shocked expression. Why Professor Thornwell, you cannot be serious! Don't you know that every single coin *belongs* in my collection? Each one is unique and vastly important. The entire collection is incomplete when just *one* is missing!

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Day Two (continued)

Thornwell

Oh. Sorry. My bad.

McTavish

Continue your search, Mercedes...it will not be in vain. That precious coin cannot stay lost forever!

Mercedes nods his head, and walks off stage.

McTavish

Now, we have two puzzles to solve, my solemn solicitor! It makes lunch much more exhilarating, doesn't it?

Thornwell

Already eating. I suppose...

Narrator

Mishaps in the garden, a coin that goes missing. What do these problems tell us about the Kingdom of God? Study hard today, Junior Detectives, and join the Scottish Sleuths tomorrow, as they continue to CHEW over the Case of the Puzzling Parables!

End Day Two

NOTES

[illegible]

Day Three

Today's Theme:

*God's Kingdom shows forth
His **Grace and Mercy***

Day Three Props

Coin collection book
Tray of planters

Day Three Setup

Dining Room table in the center of the stage, with tray of plants and coin collection book on one end.

McTavish and Thornwell are sitting at the dining room table, enjoying the third course of their lunch.

Narrator

Good day, Junior Sleuths. Are you ready to discover more truths about the Kingdom of God this morning? Do you think our Highland Heroes are making some headway in their investigation? Let's watch and see...

McTavish and Thornwell are eating and thinking.

Thornwell

So both of these mysteries are telling us something about the Kingdom of God?

McTavish

Indeed, my prodigious professor. Just think about it: Plants growing differently depending on the soils...a missing coin that is absolutely essential to the owner. Both are pictures of how God seeks and saves His people, aren't they?

Thornwell

Yes, yes, I see it now! It must be this amazing brain food we're eating.

McTavish

Or, maybe something else...

Jeeves, McTavish's butler enters in a rage, stomping his feet, huffing and puffing.

McTavish

Why Jeeves, my faithful butler, you look as though you are about to blow a gasket!

The Butler

Sorry sirs...but I am just so mad at Mr. Belvedere! He owes me money and I want it now! But, he refuses to pay, begging me to give him more time. More time? His time is up!

Thornwell

Stops eating. He owes you quite a bit of moolah, hey Jeeves? A gigantic amount of green? A boatload of bucks? A large cache of cash?

The Butler

Why of *course* he does. Do you think I would be this angry for nothing? (*Points his finger in the air.*) Mark my words, I will never forgive Belvedere's tremendous debt against me!

McTavish

Hmmm...exactly how much money did you say that was, Jeeves?

The Butler

Indignantly. He owes me...**ten cents!**

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Day Three (continued)

A pause. McTavish and Thornwell stare at each other in stunned silence, mouths agape.

Thornwell

An entire...dime...hmmm...

McTavish

Interesting.

The Butler

I'll never forgive him...Never!

Jeeves turns and marches out.

Thornwell

Do you think there will be a full moon tonight, McTavish? Your entire staff seems a few cards short of a full deck.

McTavish

No, my cynical companion, something else is going on. I believe our man Jeeves is also telling us something about the Kingdom of God...

Narrator

So, a third member of the household staff gives our super Bible sleuths yet another puzzling parable to ponder. Use your incredible minds and think about what this angry, unforgiving butler tells us about God's Kingdom. Then, join McTavish and Thornwell for more of their lunch investigations tomorrow!

End Day Three