
WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

Investigating the Mystery of Jesus



A Vacation Bible School Curriculum

This Little Light Ministries

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OVERVIEW

Description

Who Do You Say I Am? is a Vacation Bible School curriculum that examines 5 of Jesus's "I am" statements found in the Gospel of John. Using the theme of detective work and mystery-solving, children will embark on daily "missions" during which they will gather clues and attempt to decipher the phrases Jesus uses to describe himself in Scripture. Learning is combined with play in STREAM activities (Science, Technology, wRiting, Engineering, Art, and Math), mission projects, and movement.

This curriculum is divided into two age groups: Gumshoes (ages Pre-K to 2nd grade) and Detectives (3rd grade-5th grade). However, you are encouraged to form groups as you see fit, and can even create mixed age groups of both Gumshoes and Detectives as long as both groups are provided age-appropriate activities during each Mission.

Theme Details

During the program, your main group space will be known as the Agency Headquarters. This is where you will start and end each day (and could also function as the snack space). At the end of the day, the children will turn in their "evidence" to Detective T. Ruth's big box of "Evidence" (a file box with the word "Evidence" marked clearly on it). The whole group will then piece the evidence together to complete a sentence that interprets the Bible verse and have a brief discussion on what they have learned about it.

Upon arrival every day, children will "clock in" and receive their Top Secret file folders along with their I.D. badges. These can either be pre-made clip-on/lanyard name tags, or created with Polaroids that are taken on the first day upon arrival. They will read "Special Agent___." See below for a fun chart to determine kid's "Secret Agent Aliases."

Skits

Each day begins with a skit starring Detective T. Ruth. No acting experience is necessary for this role, but a sense of humor definitely is! Two of the skits (Days 2 and 4) also involve a second actor.

Decorations

Recommended decorations include giant magnifying glasses hanging from the ceiling or on the wall (formed by attaching spray-painted embroidery hoops to wooden dowels), briefcases made out of brown accordion filing folders or cardboard cut-outs, paper flashlights with “beams” shining out of them, and oversize fingerprints. (See Pinterest Board for inspirational images.)

Suggested Schedule for a 3-hour, 5 Day Program

- 9am-9:20am Welcome to Agency Headquarters, opening songs, opening skit
- 9:25am-9:50am Mission 1 (Discussion and STREAM Learning)
- 9:55am-10:15am Mission 2 (STREAM Learning)
- 10:20am-10:35am Snack
- 10:40am-11:00am Mission 3 (Compassion and Justice project)
- 11:00am-11:20am Field Work (Movement)
- 11:35am-11:40am Drop off clues in Evidence Box
- 11:40am-12pm Closing skit, group clue reveal, discussion/reflection, song, prayer

Snacks

Each day comes with thematic, unique snack ideas and recipes. All snacks are plant based unless noted, and multiple options are provided each day to accommodate various food allergies.

Instructions and alternatives

Make sure to check out the Pinterest Board where you’ll find all the coordinating tutorials, games, instructions, recipes, as well as alternative ideas for activities.

DAY 1



Scripture focus:

John 15:5 *I am a vine and you are my branches. Everyone who lives in me and I in them will bear much fruit.*

Skit:

See Day 1 Skit

Gumshoe Daily Missions (Pre-K-2nd grade):

1. REVEALING THE TEXT (Discussion).

Read the text out loud together. Ask the following wondering questions with time in between for the Gumshoes to share:

"I wonder what Jesus means?"

"Do you know what a vine is? where have you seen vines? I wonder what types of things grow on vines?"

"What is fruit like? Is it sweet or bitter? What does fruit need in order to grow and be healthy? I wonder what happens when berries or grapes fall off the vine?"

"If Jesus calls himself a vine and us fruit from his vine, I wonder what he means about our relationship to him?"

"Do you think he was trying to confuse his disciples or help them understand more about who he was? I wonder why Jesus said confusing things like this? "

Say, "Speaking of secret messages, I have one for you!" Pull out an envelope marked CLUE that contains this riddle:

CLUE #1: *Not the left, not the right, but right in the middle. What's another word for the middle? Hint: it rhymes with the word "renter."* (Clue #1 is the word CENTER)

2. WRITING OUR OWN SECRET MESSAGES.