

Seekers in Sneakers

Reviewed by Molly Herman-Gallow

Seekers in Sneakers: Snapshot



[Seekers in Sneakers](#) is one of Building Faith's top picks for VBS for 2024. This curriculum's theme centers on discovering Jesus, and it draws upon geocaching to encourage children to seek and learn about Jesus. It presents a well-rounded VBS with engaging stories, activities, content, and well thought-out processes for executing VBS smoothly and efficiently. Participants and facilitators will very much enjoy and benefit from all that this curriculum has to offer, and they will, indeed, grow one step closer to seeking Jesus out in their daily lives.

Seekers in Sneakers: The Basics

- **Theme:** “Discover Jesus”
- **Publisher:** [Shine](#) by [Brethren Press](#) & [MennoMedia](#), 2024 ([Church of the Brethren](#), [Mennonite Church USA](#), & [Mennonite Church Canada](#))
- **Intended ages/grades:** grades pre-K – 5
- **Format:** onsite
- **Number of sessions:** 5
- **Types of activities:** worship, drama, Bible study, geocaching, art and science experiments, games
- **Starter kit cost:** \$229.99

Seekers in Sneakers: Scope & Sequence

- **Day 1: Jesus the Learner**
Luke 2:41–52, Jesus in the temple talking with leaders
- **Day 2: Jesus Our Companion**
Matthew 4:17–22, Jesus at the Sea of Galilee calling disciples
- **Day 3: Jesus Our Teacher**
Matthew 5:14–16, John 8:12, Jesus on a mountain preaching to a crowd
- **Day 4: Jesus Our Example**
John 13:1–17, Jesus at a home in Jerusalem sharing a meal with his disciples
- **Day 5: Jesus Our Helper**
John 21:1–14, Jesus by the Sea of Galilee helping his disciples catch fish

Seekers in Sneakers: Where It Shines

Engaging learning that encourages children's creativity and discovery

This curriculum does a wonderful job of highlighting the importance of curiosity and wondering for children as they make their way through the Bible stories, activities, and lessons presented. Open-ended questions are encouraged so children don't feel pressured to answer or see things a certain way; their freedom of creativity and autonomy is at the forefront of the curriculum's teaching model. Children are free to be their entire selves and, most importantly, have fun.

Resources provided for easy execution

This curriculum provides all the resources needed to make it easy and flawless to execute. Various guides for the different stations and the director include each day's overall theme, needed materials, takeaways and big ideas, prompting questions, and more. There's very little room for error because everything is outlined thoroughly.

Seekers in Sneakers: Where It Shines

Meaningful images of Jesus as leader, mentor, guide, and friend

The way Jesus is presented as leader, mentor, guide, comforter, and friend is sound theology and comfortable for anyone from a Protestant background. This curriculum's theme is very relevant to the overall Christian experience of always searching for God and trying to discern where we can locate God and Jesus in our everyday lives, and children can easily connect with this. The curriculum takes a creative approach to the messaging around Jesus and allows the campers to embrace curiosity, to wonder, and to be on the hunt for how Jesus may be present and teaching them in their own lives.

Conducive to week-long VBS as well as other formats

This curriculum has the potential to serve as not only a Vacation Bible School curriculum but also as a weekend retreat or mid-week program. It includes all essential components to allow for fellowship, conversation, fun, and learning to be had by all.

Seekers in Sneakers: What We Miss

More attention to social justice and creation care

There isn't much in this curriculum by way of attention to social justice and creation care. There is a service opportunity, however. The large group component includes an offering that enables participants to support a selected local nonprofit organization throughout the week.

More opportunities for female voices and perspectives

In the short Bible story “teasers” that introduce each day’s scripture, there are many roles, but most are for males. Not many female roles are included, and the curriculum suggests that females who wish to participate should play “friends” or any other role that isn’t specifically male-specified. This curriculum could use more flexibility and inclusivity surrounding who plays which roles, and with the right amount of creativity, the roles could potentially be rewritten to be gender-neutral.

Seekers in Sneakers: Overall Assessment

**Curriculum
Recommended
for 2024**

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