

Junior Department

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Our Old Friend

There's a pleasant-looking fellow living miles and miles away,
Yet he manages to come and see us nearly every day.
He'll peep in at the keyhole or through the smallest crack,
And say, "Good morning, children! Aren't you glad to see me back!"

Then he glances through the door and he laughs along the floor,
And chases to the cellar all the shadows big and black.
No matter where he shows his face he is a welcome guest,
He always wears a golden coat and lovely yellow vest.

His smile is broad and generous—bright as a field of corn.
And he makes you feel so frolicsome and glad that you were born,
Now, when you have guessed his name you will know him just the same,
And give him smile for smile when he appears to-morrow morn.

—Youth's Companion.

Essentials

The question has been asked, "What are we to consider 'essentials' to a successful Epworth League?" In reply we would suggest the following: "Some things may be taken for granted, of course, e.g., members, place of meeting, etc.; but even what may be considered simple may not be passed over lightly. Not only are members needed, but interested members. Not only is a place of meeting required, but a suitable place. So that nothing is unimportant in considering the essentials to a successful League. But above and beyond all other things of importance we value most highly the qualities of the superintendent. There may be the best equipment possible: the members may be numerous and promising; but if the leader lack wisdom, tact, and, above all, loving devotion to the work, it cannot but fail. The most important essential in the leader we deem a live interest in children for their own sakes. If one is not in loving sympathy with the Juniors the work will soon show the lack. Knowledge of books may be much more easily gained than interest in the young. This latter quality must be native to the worker. It may be increased, but we doubt if it can be altogether acquired. Having a natural affection for children and work among them, the superintendent must ever keep alert to the best plans for making the work efficient. Much routine is gone through that lacks force and fails of the most desirable effect. A leader who is ever planning new work will not fall because of lack of interest. Plans of work should be appropriate to the conditions under which they are to be worked out. Things can be done in the city that are not in place at all in the country. An essential to success is adaptation of methods. Keep the girls interested in enterprises that are best suited for girls. Give the boys something to do that will keep them interested. In lines of study, of course, they meet on common ground. To maintain the interest in the weekly meetings is not an easy thing. Many have failed because of lack of originality. This may have resulted because of fear to attempt what has not first been tried elsewhere. Remember every plan must be tried somewhere for the first time. Yours may

be as good as any. Be interested yourself as if you would interest others. If interested, and you will keep others interested also. This cannot be done without study and a large measure of forethought. Prepare your work ahead. This is essential. Following the topics a week by week, study them first as a month. Then elaborate for yourself. Don't follow any one's rule every time. Make your League stand for something high; aim at that yourself. Keep the Juniors reaching on to something better; don't be discouraged; do your best every time; persevere; and little by little you will learn that you have complied with some of the main essentials of a successful Junior League.

Weekly Topics

THOUGHT FOR MARCH—"GOOD NEWS."

March 4.—"For us." Luke 2. 11.

There was never another such message as we read of here. ". . . a Saviour." When in danger how we welcome deliverance. When in need how we crave help. To deliver the needy Jesus came. To save the lost was his mission. "Jesus saves." Print it on your blackboard. Talk of it. Then expand:

Just as I am.

Everybody may come.

SAVES

Unto the uttermost.

Simply by trusting Him.

Such points may be enlarged and applied with gracious results to the meeting. This should be pre-eminently an evangelistic meeting, in which every one of the Juniors is lovingly persuaded to personal trust in the Saviour.

March 11.—"Fod God and our parents."
—Luke 2. 49.

Let the thought to-day be that God was well pleased with the boy Jesus when he saw him worshipping and studying in the Temple. And it was to be a great joy to Joseph and Mary that the young boy was so devotionally inclined. So it is God welcomed us if our parents are seen with our boys. God is pleased to see them in his house, and their parents will rejoice to have them serve God. Perhaps the best news sent up to heaven is that of repenting sinners. There is "joy in heaven" over their return. And there is no news so welcome on earth as the enlistment of the young in the service of God. How many of your members have Christian parents? Most of them, undoubtedly. Have they made their hearts glad by letting them know of their children's repentance and faith? Nothing makes them so happy, nothing makes heaven so rejoice as the news of conversions by repentance and faith in Christ. If God welcomes us, if our parents are made glad, if we are blessed above measure, how quickly we should accept the tidings of a personal Saviour and make him our Lord.

March 18.—"For all."—Matt. 24. 14.

1. The "Gospel." Gospel means good tidings. The tidings here are that the kingdom of God has been set up in and through Jesus Christ, that he came to bring salvation, to reign in the hearts of men, to establish a universal kingdom on the earth, and one that should last for ever.
2. What is said of the "Gospel of the kingdom"? (1) It is to be "preached." (2) "In all the world." (3) "For a witness." (4) before "the end" comes. This is a plain analysis of the verse. Explain that the purpose of God is to make the kingdom of Christ world-wide. Jesus did not come just to or for the Jews. "Unto all people" we saw was the angel's message. All people need him. His

Word will do for all what it has done for some. Without the Gospel the earth can never be what it ought to be. By sending the tidings to other lands we help prepare the world for the return in glory of the King. Every time the Gospel is preached it helps to bear testimony for Jesus Christ. We may preach it. Every time we hold up Christ we do so. Every dollar spent in spreading the Gospel is put to the best possible use that money can be put to. Every prayer truly offered for the power of the Holy Spirit on the nations, helps to bring about the happy time the Saviour speaks of in this verse when all the nations shall have had the Gospel preached to them.

March 25.—"Spreading the news."—Mark 16. 15.

This is distinctively a missionary meeting, and should be as practical as last week's was doctrinal. The topic this week deals with the best methods possible by which the command "Go" can be obeyed most quickly. 1. There can be no mistake about the Lord's plan. We saw that last week. The Gospel had been preached to all nations. Neither can there be any doubt as to our responsibility. It is "Go." The command has never been recalled. It will never be fulfilled until we have had really gone to all with the message. 2. How can we help carry out his plan? We must fully believe him. We must have full faith in his Word. We must see that without it there can be no spiritual life. There must be no hesitation for the real need of the world is not met till the Gospel is preached everywhere. If we cannot personally "go" we must help to "send." Most of the present Junior Leagues will doubtless become foreign missionaries, but many will be glad to do his work upon them with this idea, and it may be that even in youth the purpose will be definitely formed to actually personally "go." But if this cannot be done with all, it is given to all to share in the work by sympathy. 3. How can we "send." Most of the present Junior League should be a recruiting ground for the mission field. Every Junior should be intelligently instructed in the claims of missions, and, whatever his or her ability, should be as soon as possible enlisted in financial gifts to the cause. Children may pray, work, give, as really, if not as extensively, as their parents. It is with the Junior League to teach them how best to do April.

THOUGHT FOR APRIL—"A LIVING SAVIOUR."

This general topic should be so presented through the month that the children shall see clearly their place in the heart of the Lord, and be led to consider him as personally and distinctly interested in and concerned for their welfare. The first weekly topic is:

April 1.—"Let the children come."
—Mark 10. 13-16.

These verses contain what has been called "the children's gospel." All the Word of God is for them, but these verses are particularly precious because they give so clear an insight into the purpose of the Saviour as relating to the young. There is no age limit here. The words used speak of infants, very small children in mothers' arms. Clearly the Master did not teach the pernicious doctrine of some of his disciples even to this age, that children must first become very bad before they can become good. He would shepherd them from the first. And why not? The "lamb" are precious for their own sakes and also because by their careful and proper culture the flock will always be kept large in numbers and sound in health. What is the children's privilege? To know Christ as their personal Saviour, from an sin creating within them clean hearts and teach-