

other. The one was accustomed to sing hymns, while the other was addicted to swearing. The owner of the latter obtained permission for it to associate with the former in the hope that its bad habit would be corrected, but there followed the very opposite result. Both fell to swearing and the hymns were forgotten. *Therefore beware of the Canaanite.*

"And there builded he an altar," v. 7. There was family worship in the home of Abram, and that priceless institution he took with him. Happy is that boy or girl who, when they grow up, can go back into the land of memory and hear once more the sound of their father's voice "taking the books." At the time that devotional exercise may have seemed something of a drudgery, but in the after years those hours will be looked upon as windows through which there streamed into

our poor life the stainless radiance of eternity. How necessary in these days when our boys are leaving for the front that they should go forth from households of faith. *Let us rekindle the fire on the family altar.*

"Be thou a blessing" (Golden Text, Gen. 12:2). This is the highest of all ambitions. "Seekest thou great things for thyself? seek them not." Seek them for God and seek them for the good of all mankind. The unselfish life is the flower and fruit of existence. A strong, athletic body and a high trained intellect dedicated only to self aggrandizement is the devil's triumph. The goal of all improvement has not been so much as sighted unless with some measure of response we have heard God's voice saying, "Be thou a blessing." *Let us consecrate ourselves to God for the sake of others.*

FOR TEACHERS IN THE SENIOR AND ADULT DEPARTMENTS

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Teachers in the Senior and Adult Departments should study carefully the scholars' materials in the HOME STUDY QUARTERLY and the PATHFINDER, respectively.

Tell the class that we are beginning a new course of study to extend over six months, dealing with the patriarchs and the early leaders of Israel. The class may have some suggestions to make as to the advantages of studying biography. Say something about the place of biography in the scriptures. "Our Bible is a book of *lives*. It is a book of men praying, rather than a book of prayer; of men believing, rather than a book of beliefs; of men sinning and repenting and righting themselves, rather than a book of ethics." How can we make our study of Bible biography a truly practical study? Now discuss:

1. *The command*, vs. 1-3. Call attention to the details of the command in v. 1. Try to have the class picture something of what it meant to Abram to cut himself off so completely from all his former associations. Was there any great reason why he should do this? Have some person read Josh. 24:2. Remind the class of how throughout the Bible the commands and the promises of God go together, and ask for illustrations of this fact. What promises are made to Abram here? Was Abram to be blessed simply for his own sake? Point out that the Jewish nation was

chosen for service. Encourage the class to think for a moment of their blessings, and then to ask themselves whether in their turn they are being a blessing to others.

2. *Abram's obedience*, vs. 4, 5. Have some one read James 2:23. What is the title bestowed on Abram here? Can we see that in our lesson to-day which would justify the giving of such a title to the patriarch? Can there be any such thing as friendship with God apart from obedience to his will? What place did our Saviour give to obedience in his teaching? Call attention especially to his solemn words as he closes the Sermon on the Mount. Point out the place of faith in the obedience of Abram. "If I know whom I follow, does it matter if I do not know whither I am going?" What does the class think of that question?

3. *Acknowledging God*, vs. 6-9. Use a map to point out the places mentioned in this passage, as well as Haran, mentioned in the previous paragraph. Are we right in assuming that it was Abram's habit to build an altar to God wherever he remained for any time? According to v. 8, the pitching of his tent and the erection of an altar seem to have gone hand in hand. What does that suggest as