

inner change in the meal. There are two possible ways of changing society. "You may either pull down all the old forms of government or you may fill them with men of a different spirit." Which method does Christianity seek to use? The other lesson is in regard to the method by which the king-

dom grows. It grows by the "contagion of personality." Help the class to recognize the responsibility placed upon every Christian of influencing other persons for Christ. Show how Christ lived himself into the lives of his first disciples in order that they might become leaven for other lives.

FOR TEACHERS IN THE SENIOR DEPARTMENT

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Teachers in the Senior Department should study carefully the scholars' materials in the HOME STUDY QUARTERLY OF LEAFLET.

Since to-day's lesson and the lesson for next Sunday, contain six of our Lord's parables, it may be well to open with some discussion of what a parable is. The Lesson Setting will furnish the needed guidance. Call attention to the thirteenth chapter of Matthew as the "Parable Chapter" of the Gospel.

The Topic of the lesson is HOW THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN GROWS. Question the scholars as to their idea of the "kingdom of heaven." It is God's "reign" or "rule" (see again Lesson Setting). Now the Lesson parables present three pictures to describe the manner of the kingdom's growth.

1. *The kingdom grows in the midst of wickedness in the world.* This is the teaching of the parable of The Tares, vs. 24-30.

In bringing out the details of this parable, call attention first, to the phrase "another parable," with its reference to the earlier parable of The Sower, or The Four Kinds of Soil. In The Tares, the soil is all good, not partly good and partly bad, as in The Sower. But for the malice of the enemy, the crop would have been wholly good. Bring out the close resemblance of the tares, at the beginning of their growth, to the wheat. "Evil in its beginning is often insidious and subtle and secret" (HOME STUDY QUARTERLY and LEAFLET).

Contrast the proposition of the servants with the decision of the owner. Discuss the statement in the QUARTERLY: "The conditions that would make evil an impossibility, would make goodness an unreality." Help the scholars to see that the presence of temptation in the world is a means to the development and strengthening of character. God

means that we should overcome temptation and thereby become stronger. In Rev. chs. 2 and 3 all the great spiritual blessings are promised to "him that overcometh."

Those who belong to the kingdom of God, striving to make the world better; the evil one and his servants striving to undo the work of God's children,—this is the picture which the parable of The Tares sets before us. In this conflict, each one must take sides. On which side are we?

The closing part of the parable leaves no doubt as to what the end of this conflict will be. "The tares are burned, the grain is stored. God's waiting is not weakness. It is wisdom" (HOME STUDY QUARTERLY and LEAFLET).

2. *The kingdom grows from small beginnings to great proportions.* This is what the parable of The Mustard Seed teaches about the growth of the kingdom.

The scholars will be interested in the facts regarding the mustard plant of Palestine given in The Lesson Explained. After this basis of the parable has been discussed, illustrations may be given of the way in which the kingdom has grown from its small beginnings in the life time of Jesus, to its present position of power in the world.

3. *The kingdom grows by contact.* This is what we learn from the parable of The Leaven, v. 33 (see Lesson Explained). The thought to bring out and press home is that it is by the lives of Christians touching and influencing the lives of others, that the kingdom grows from small to great.

The question to get each scholar to consider is what he is doing to help on the growth of the kingdom of God in the world.