

Junior Department.

All communications for this Department should be directed to REV. S. T. BARTLETT, Box 216, Napanee, Ontario. He invites the co-operation of all Junior workers in making these pages both bright and profitable.

Weekly Topics and Home Readings.

A COMMANDMENT WITH PROMISE.

Mon., July 15. Our parents love us. . . . Gen. 45: 25-28
 Tues., July 16. Remembering our parents' teaching. . . . Prov. 22, 6
 Wed., July 17. God has taught our parents. . . . Ps. 78: 4-6
 Thu., July 18. Obedience to our God. . . . Col. 3: 20
 Fri., July 19. Showing parents our love. . . . Ex. 6: 29, 31
 Sat., July 20. The "promise" commandment. . . . Eph. 6: 1-3
Sun., July 21. Topic—Honoring parents. . . . Prov. 4: 1-4; 10: 1

INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS.

How many "commandments" are there?
 What is the number of the one given in our topic?
 By whom were these commandments given?

Where were the Israelites at that time?
 Did Jesus ever refer to the fifth commandment?
 Did St. Paul ever quote it? Where?

What "promise" is attached to the commandment?

Memorize Exod. 20, 12, and Deut. 5, 16. To "honour" means to think well of, act kindly to, work diligently for, our parents—in short, to reverence and obey. The great duty enjoined on children by God is, "Obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right." Parental authority presupposes parental wisdom. The parent is to "bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Hence the government of the family is not arbitrary or despotic; but founded on and conforming to the divine law of love. The parent is to beget confidence and obedience by affectionate counsel, and wise, loving discipline, the child to respond with a ready and loyal conformity to parental authority and control. "In the Lord" is the secret of success in all family government. To "obey" is the first lesson for the child to learn. Teach the children why this is so, e. g.,

1. The child is not competent to make a reasoning choice in matters pertaining to his own well-being.

2. The harmony, peace, and prosperity of the family and community depend on subordination to proper authority. No one can be prosperous who does not observe law and order.

3. The love of a true parent for his child, and his superior knowledge of the child's needs, ensure the child's welfare in all that parent proposes for the little one. In short, because the child does not know and the parent does know what is best for the child, the authority of that parent should be unquestioningly obeyed.

It may be easily and forcibly illustrated, that disobedience to parents has been the cause of many a ruined life, and that the "promise" attached to the fifth commandment is actually verified. God promised long life and many blessing of old age to those who kept this commandment.

And to-day, as in the past, obedience to parents "in the Lord" is conducive to long life, because (1) Obedience saves children from the evil, vicious habits that shorten life. No parent will command his children to gambling, drunkenness, or murder. Even the most of bad parents want to see their children good. (2) Obedience helps in the formation of habits of industry, temperance, and purity, that all tend to lengthen life. Many

an old man has attributed his long life to good habits in early youth, and it is physically true that "the wicked shall not live out half their days." (3) And it is not unreasonable to believe that the great heavenly Father who cares for even the sparrow, will notice and reward the loving obedience of a dutiful boy or girl to an earthly parent. The promise has never been cancelled or withdrawn.

How do children disobey? Not often by out and out rebellion, and an emphatic "I don't," but generally by such sly, chievious words as "I don't want to," "I can't," "After a while," "Why can't we do it?" etc. These minor excuses that centre around procrastination and pre-variation are the main dangers against which our Juniors need to be advised. Make it plain to them that God requires of them a quick, willing, and daily obedience to parents, who in turn will endeavor to do all for the family's good and God's glory. Absalom in the Old Testament, and Timothy in the New Testament, are well-known examples of filial disobedience and of a true observance of the fifth commandment, respectively.

HOW HOME MISSIONS HELP.

Mon., July 22. Our gospel needed. . . . Cor. 1: 21-24
 Tues., July 23. What home missions do. . . . Jas. 5: 13, 16
 Wed., July 24. They save many. . . . Rom. 1: 16, 17
 Thu., July 25. They bring joy to citizens. . . . Acts 8: 37
 Fri., July 26. The advancing kingdom. . . . Luke 24: 46-48
 Sat., July 27. Begin at Jerusalem. . . . Luke 24: 46-48
Sun., July 28. Topic—Missions: what home missions are doing for our country. (One item to be read or told by each Junior.) **Josh. 13: 1; 1 John 3: 16, 17.**

Missions are generally divided into two classes—"home" and "foreign." "Home" missions are those in our own country, "foreign" include all that are without—in other lands. The Methodist Church in Canada has about 550 missions altogether, and all except about 30 of these are in Canada. About 450 of these "home missions" are among white people; the rest are to the Indians, the Chinese, and the Japanese of British Columbia. About 100 home missions are in Ontario, 60 in Quebec, 100 in the Maritime Provinces, 50 in Newfoundland, and 125 in Manitoba, the Northwest, and British Columbia. There are 60 or more missions among the Indians of our country, and 7 among French Roman Catholics. So our Juniors can see that our church is doing a great work for the land we live in, as well as for the salvation of China and Japan. About 550 persons are paid by our Missionary Society to help in this home mission work, and sides over, many more are enrolled on our home mission charges. For every dollar given for missions, over seventy cents are spent on mission fields in Canada. Last year there were more than \$200,000 spent by our church in missionary work in our own Dominion. There were over \$22,000 given by the children of our Sunday-schools, and \$18,000 by our Epworth Leagues, so our Methodist young people do very well. This year we expect that they will do a great deal more.

"What home missions are doing for our country," can only be partly known. Other churches have their mission fields, and when we think of the army of preachers, Sunday-school superintendents and teachers, and others, at work for Christ, we must see that great good is being done. The "home" field most requiring attention now is the great Northwest, where so many immigrants are settling. There are thousands of Galicians, Doukhobors, and others who have come to Canada to find a home, and they need the Gospel. Ought we not to supply them? Do not keep back your money, but send it on in the name of Christ, and Methodism for the salvation of all Canada, for "there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed."

CHRIST IS COMING.

Mon., July 29. Through our repentance. . . . Acts 3: 19, 20
 Tues., July 30. By our words. . . . Matt. 10: 11, 12
 Wed., July 31. Through our love. . . . John 14: 21-23
 Thu., Aug. 1. In giving. . . . Matt. 25: 37-40
 Fri., Aug. 2. To all the world. . . . Eph. 2: 10, 11
 Sat., Aug. 3. My kingdom. . . . Luke 11: 20
Sun., Aug. 4. Topic—How Jesus will come. . . . Rev. 1: 1-7

BIBLE SEARCH QUESTIONS.

Where did Jesus first come to earth?
 To whom was his coming first told?
 Who first came to see him?
 Who were led by the star to his birth-place?

Where was Jesus "brought up"?
 Where was he put to death?
 Where was he last seen by his disciples?
 Who saw him after his ascension into heaven?

What did the angels say to the disciples after Jesus had vanished from their sight on the Mount of Olives?

How does Jesus come to us? (1 Jno. 5, 20.)

A FRIENDLY LETTER ON THE TOPIC.

Dear Junior Friends,—For many months past we have been studying in our Sunday-school course of lessons about Jesus—how he came to earth, lived and died, and then went back to his heavenly home. His mighty deeds of power, his kind and loving words, his great suffering and painful death, have all been brought to our minds. When he told his disciples that he was going away from them, they were very sorrowful; but he promised to see them again. And he did so. After his resurrection he appeared to them and talked with them about his kingdom. Then he left them again, but not to forget them. Stephen, Saul, and John saw him, and he has said that we all shall. How or when we do not know. But "where he is our life shall appear, ye also shall appear with him in glory." Christ is coming! There is a sense in which he is ever coming. When we pray for pardon, he comes to our hearts to forgive; when we pray for help, he comes to assist us; when we pray for guidance, he comes to lead us, and in all such ways Jesus is never absent from the earth. But we do not see him. Though our hearts move towards him in love, and we know that he is near, we cannot look upon him with our eyes or hear him with our ears. The time is coming, however, when we shall all both see and hear him. Jesus comes whenever a Christian dies. "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit," was dying Stephen's prayer, and many thousands since have said the same in their last moments. Jesus will personally come at the last day as Judge of all mankind, and for that coming we should always be ready. When he is to come no one knows; but if we truly love and serve him, it will not matter. We shall be waiting, and, like John, be able to say, "Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus." Watch and wait, and when he comes, and we see him, it will be with great joy and gladness. "So shall we ever be with the Lord."

PROPHETS OF THE BIBLE.

Mon., Aug. 5. Elijah discouraged. . . . 1 Kings 19: 4
 Tues., Aug. 6. Free-herein Elisha. . . . 2 Kings 5: 15, 16
 Wed., Aug. 7. The prophet of the Messiah. . . . Isa. 2: 1
 Thu., Aug. 8. Jeremiah's call. . . . Jer. 1: 7, 9
 Fri., Aug. 9. The vision of wheels. . . . Ezek. 1: 15-21
 Sat., Aug. 10. Daniel's message. . . . Dan. 9: 2
Sun., Aug. 11. Topic—Lessons from Bible prophets. (Elijah, Elisha, Daniel, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah.)

The prophets were God's messengers to the people. Abraham is called one (Gen. 20, 7), and it is implied that Moses was one (Deut. 18, 15), but the first prophet in the ordinary meaning of the word was Isaiah. When Solomon died, and the kingdom was divided into Judah and Israel, the order of prophets came into great prominence. In idolatrous Israel