

## Junior Topics

FEB. 25.—GEORGE YOUNG. Matt. 18: 31, 32.

On December 31st, 1830, Rev. George Young, D.D., was born on a farm in Prince Edward County, Ontario. When seventeen years old he was a volunteer soldier in the MacKenzie Rebellion, in 1837. The training received as such prepared him to some extent for later arduous labors of pioneer missionary. He was converted in 1842, and ordained in 1846. In establishing the mission at Fort Garry (now Winnipeg), in 1868, he endured many hardships, on account of a severe winter and a threatened famine. With dauntless courage, however, he toiled on, notwithstanding the rebellion of 1869 further retarded his progress. His strong faith, clear vision and persistent endeavor enabled him to surmount great difficulties. The fruits of his efforts are seen in firmly established Methodist Churches in our Canadian West. While naturally sympathetic and sweet-spirited, he was called upon at times to face conditions requiring the tact, judgment and courage of a good soldier. He was truly a hero, whose name finds a noble place in our country's history, and that of our Church. In 1878, the degree of D.D. was conferred upon him by Cornell University. In 1882, he was appointed Superintendent of Northwest Missions, and first President of Manitoba and Northwest Conference, which he organized. He had fruit of his ministry also in London, Hamilton, Bay of Quinte, Montreal, and Toronto Conferences, in which he was stationed. He died in Toronto, on August 1st, 1910.

*Thought for March—Christ and Prayer.*

MARCH 3.—CHRIST AS A MAN OF PRAYER. Luke 6: 12, 18: 1.

Whenever Jesus was troubled he turned for help and comfort to his Heavenly Father, and he often sought the quiet places that He might be alone and uninterrupted, by any person. We find, in studying the New Testament, there are many verses which refer to Christ praying. The Superintendent might find these and distribute to the Juniors to study at home, to be repeated in the meeting. When we have an important task to perform we often feel the need of talking the matter over with some one. So did Christ, and in prayer he found strength for every difficulty. Should we not follow his example? We are told that after the Sabbath Day of miracles at Capernaum, although He was weary, He rose early, "a great while before day," and went to a quiet spot outside the city to pray. Before choosing his twelve disciples, "He went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God." He always found time to commune with His Father. Are we not forgetful of prayer in the midst of our busy life?

In the Bible we have a record of nine prayers of Jesus. The "Lord's Prayer" was taught to his disciples on a mountain in Galilee; there were two prayers of thanksgiving, one in Galilee and another by the grave of Lazarus. He prayed for strength in the upper room, when with his disciples, and prayed for them and for all who should follow in their footsteps in the coming days. In Gethsemane he prayed for submission to the will of God; and on the cross He prayed three times, for forgiveness for those who crucified Him, for help in His loneliness, and again when commending His spirit to God.

In the Gospel of John we have an account of a beautiful prayer as Jesus sat at the last Supper with his disciples. It was a prayer of love and compassion, and of thanksgiving. Jesus said, "Watch and pray." He taught us also to "Pray for them that persecute you." He also warned us against using "vain repetitions."

In developing the thought of prayer being essential to the truest life, the Superintendent might give examples of leaders, past and present, who, like Christ, were "men of prayer."

What did Jesus do whenever he needed guidance? Name the recorded prayers of Jesus.

MARCH 10.—ANSWERS TO PRAYER. "YES" OR "NO." John 15: 7; Matt. 26: 37-44.

An interesting incident is related concerning the Duke of Kent, father of our late beloved Queen Victoria. When she was a baby princess, a clergyman was one day visiting in their home, and was requested to give his blessing upon the child lying in the crib. In a short prayer he asked God, as she grew in years, she might grow in grace and in favor



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both with God and man. To this the Duke responded with an emphatic "Amen." Then he continued: "Don't pray simply that hers may be a brilliant career, and exempt from those trials and struggles which have pursued her father; but pray that God's blessing may rest on her, that it may overshadow her, and that in all her coming years she may be guided and guarded by God." That prayer was offered, and may we not add, answered? God always answers prayer.

Though we do not always get just what we pray for, we often get something far better than we asked for. "God is able to do for us far more abundantly than we can ask or think." "If we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us." If wisest and best, the very thing asked for is given, but sometimes the answer is, "No."

"Ask and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

Name five truths that Jesus taught concerning prayer? How does God answer prayer? What do we mean by an answer to prayer?

Tell the story of Daniel, as a brave boy, who grew up to be a strong, able man, and the place prayer had in his life.

The story of Joseph or of Samuel might be told by a Junior, to illustrate the teaching of the topic.

MARCH 17.—THE MODEL PRAYER. Matt. 6: 9-13.

The Lord's Prayer followed the request of the disciples that Jesus would teach them how to pray. We all know this prayer and have repeated it so many times, that perhaps we may have overlooked some of the truths it contains. When we repeat the words, "Our Father," we may truly feel that we are children of a King, joint heirs with Christ. We ask for a number of important things,—that the glory of God's name may be known upon the earth,—that the Kingdom of Christ may come, not only into parts of the earth which know not Jesus and His love, but into our own hearts, that we may grow more and more like Him.

Then we pray, too, that every thought and every action may be in conformity with His Divine Will, that perfect obedience may abound.

For forgiveness we pray when we have done wrong. It is so easy to do this. But how often we find it hard to forgive those who have been unkind to us. It is easy to pray for dear kind friends, but Jesus teaches us that we must truly forgive

all who despitefully use us, or He cannot abide in our hearts. We must learn how to forgive, the way Jesus forgives sin. Then there is the prayer for strength to withstand temptation, for boys and girls are tempted to leave the straight and narrow path just as well as men and women.

Let the Juniors name some of the things we ask for in saying the Lord's Prayer.

The Superintendent might profitably tell some missionary story, illustrating the methods used for prayer, such as prayer-wheels, etc., in lands into which we are sending the Gospel.

Emphasize the truth that God wants prayer from the heart, simple and loving.

MARCH 24.—PRAYER FOR OTHERS. Luke 21: 37; John 17.

Read alternately the verses of this beautiful chapter in St. John's Gospel. You will notice that Jesus prayed for Himself, for his disciples, and for all who believe on Him. His whole mission had been to reveal unto men His Father by His own unselfish work on earth. In praying for His disciples, He asks that they be kept strong amidst the evil of the world, not that they might be taken away from it, but that they might have courage to face its sin and difficulties. He especially desires that they be kept very close to the Father, whom Jesus had shown unto them. He prayed that selfishness be taken from them, and that these men be set apart to continue the great work for which they had been trained by Jesus. He prayed that his disciples might be sanctified, and not they only, but all who believe in Jesus, that we may be one in purpose, and that we may be all filled with the love of God. Jesus prayed for the Church, that every member might truly love the other, and that in them there might be continued expression of Himself. Do we pray for ourselves or others?