

MAY 27TH.—"Good Neighbors." Luke 10: 25-37.

"Who is my neighbor?" The person who needs me. Good neighbors.

Hasten
Every time,
Like the Good Samaritan,
Pour in the oil and wine, etc.

One another. This is a beautiful story, and one that may be dealt with in a variety of ways; but "help" should be the prominent thought.

JUNE 3RD.—"Abiding in Christ." John 15: 1-10.

You should illustrate this by using a piece of grape-vine. The season is timely, the study appropriate, and very easily can you show how bud and leaf and fruit depend on the union of the branch with the main stem. Make this point prominent in your application. It matters not how the branch is severed from the vine. You may rudely tear or wrench it away, neatly cut it off with saw or axe or knife; but the result is the same. So with us. It makes little difference in what way we are separated from Christ. Gross sins will do it; great evils will do it; but what girls and boys call "little sins" will do it too. Hence, let nothing come between you and Christ. Bear much fruit.

JUNE 10TH (Special).—John Wesley, our sainted Founder.

If, as Britons, we love to celebrate the Queen's Birthday, as Methodists we should as loyally remember John Wesley's. And yet I fear very few of either Juniors or adult Epworth Leaguers know when John Wesley was born. This should not be. Arrange this week for a union meeting of your League, and make it a John Wesley night. While the adults deal with the larger topics of Wesley's work and its fruit, let the Juniors at least memorize the following items and repeat them openly.

John Wesley was born on June 17th, 1703. He was one of nineteen children.

At the age of six years he was saved from fire, which destroyed the Epworth Rectory where the family lived.

He was a quick scholar, and when twenty-one years old became fellow of Lincoln College.

In 1735 his father died, and in the same year he, with his brother Charles, went to Georgia as missionaries to the Indians. He returned to England in 1738. His conversion soon followed, for on May 24th, 1738, he realized as never before the power of God to take away sin and fill the soul with the joy of forgiving love.

His power as a preacher soon became widely known. Thousands were converted. In 1739 he drew up the rules of the societies, which are still the rules of the Methodist Church.

He died March 2nd, 1791. His followers are now in every land, and number over 25,000,000.

As a suggested treatment of a text for a "Children's Talk" I give the following as used by myself, on John 8: 12. "... the light of life."

"The Saviour in speaking these words about light, meant us to learn many lessons; but the chief one is that without Him we must be in the dark. All that the light of the sun is to the world Jesus is to us His friends. Let us see what this 'light of life' means. First we look at the two words on the blackboard in this way:

LIFE
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Looking at them, we learn that there can be no healthy life anywhere without light.

You have all seen a plant that has been kept in the dark. It has become all sickly looking. The leaves instead of being a nice green have an unhealthy yellow look, and if kept in the dark long enough, the poor plant would die. . . . Without the light of the sun all the life on the earth would soon die out and the world become a desolate wilderness. Now, what the light of the sun is to everything that lives without us, Jesus is to the soul within us. His light is life, and without it we must be spiritually dead. . . . If He is our light and life, we want to know something of what this life means. What is the difference between us as boys and girls and all other creatures? It is that we have intelligence. I will put the lesson on the board in this way:

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Jesus said that we may know God through Him. The great truth for all is that only through Him can we have the knowledge of God the Father that they may know. "This is eternal life, that they may know thee," etc. Light means knowledge, darkness means ignorance, so that when Jesus said that if we follow Him we shall not walk in darkness, He meant that we would have just what John speaks of in 1 John 5: 20. Do you know how many different things John in his first epistle says we may know? If you count them you will find fully twenty. He is our Light, meaning Teacher, giving us knowledge of God, of duty, of heaven, and all we need to know.

But, this life means growth too, so I will now write it thus:

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Paul prayed for some of the disciples in his day that they "increase more and more." And it is he who speaks of growing in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. . . . We all know that nothing can grow well and strong in the darkness. The sunshine is needed to make the crops in the gardens and fields come to perfection. The summertime, when the sun shines so brightly is the season of growth. It is then we look forward to the harvest with hope. And we must live in the light if we desire health. A sun-bath is a very wholesome thing for people who are ill. And so it is with the soul. We must live in Christ who is our Sun. So many people are spiritually dwarfed because they try to live without Christ. If we live in His sunlight we shall grow, and only so can we bring forth fruit to perfection. "Growing up into Him our living Head. . . ." Another lesson:

If we have this Light of Life in us we shall be holy, so I write it:

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There is a beautiful text I want you to hear (1 John 1: 7). Notice the "if" in this text. "If we walk in the light. . . the blood of Jesus. . . cleanseth us from all sin." It is very clear now, that there can be no true purity or holiness if we do not walk in Him who is our Life. Life means wholeness. It is not enough that our bodies even merely exist. We are not truly living unless we are healthy and growing. So it is with our souls. We need wholeness, which is holiness. Only in the light of Christ is this found. . . . The sun in the sky is the greatest purifier. Unhealthy places become healthy when his light is let in. . . . So

with Jesus Christ. He is the great Purifier of our hearts. . . . "Be ye holy."

Turning again to 1 John 5: 20 I read, ". . . this is the true God and eternal life." And again, we remember that Jesus said, "I am the Truth and the Life." So all the blessings of the life we have in Him here and hereafter are ours because we "walk in truth." So we finish our lesson by writing:

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Jesus is the only Truth. All else is false. Let us live and walk in Him.

The Social Half-Hour.

Junior meetings would be made much more interesting than some of them are if part of the time of each evening were given to social intercourse and good-fellowship. There are many ways in which this may be done. Let this portion of the meeting be made secondary to the topic study; but do not overlook the fact that the Juniors may have a good time socially under the direction of wise Christian counsellors, and that if they are denied such under such direction Satan will not leave them unattended, but the light and frothy amusements that fail to profit in the least degree will become their delight. At our last meeting we had what we call "Riddle half-hour." The Juniors are asked to seek out the best riddles, conundrums, etc., that they can find, write them on paper and place them in the hands of the superintendent. These are submitted to the League in order and at the discretion of the superintendent. The time passes quickly; but the Juniors think even more quickly, and the mental stimulus is as profitable as the social enjoyment of the occasion. Here are some "riddles" propounded at our last meeting:

What of your own is used more by other people than by yourself? Your name.

What by adding to it becomes smaller and by taking away from it becomes larger? A hole in a stocking.

A word of three syllables seek till you find, and see then in it, twenty-six letters combined? The word *alphabet*.

Why is "K" like a pig's tail? Because it is the end of *park*.

What asks no questions, yet receives many answers? A door-bell.

Why is buttermilk like something that has never happened? Because it hasn't a *curd* (occurred).

Why is a beggar like paper? Because he is composed of *rags*.

What two letters represent the fate of all earthly things? DK—(decay).

Something no one wishes for, yet having does not wish to lose? A bald head.

Give a reason why ladies should not learn French? Because one *tongue* is enough for any woman.

What act of folly does a washerwoman commit? Putting out her tubs to catch *soft water* when it rains hard.

Why is blind-man's buff like sympathy? Because it is a *feeling* for another.

If a church be on fire why cannot the organ escape? Because the engine cannot *play* on it.

Why is the nose placed in the middle of the face? Because it is the (s)cienter.

Why is a mouse like hay? Because the cat'll (cattle) eat it.

If a colored water in carrying in a turkey on a china platter were to let it fall, what effect would it have on the world? It would cause the downfall of Turkey, the overflow of Greece, the partition of China, and the humiliation of Africa.