

FOR TEACHERS IN THE PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

By Louise M. Ogievee

Teachers in the Primary Department should study carefully the scholars' materials in the PRIMARY QUARTERLY.

AIM OF THE LESSON. To teach what even the weakest and humblest may do with the help of the Holy Spirit.

INTRODUCTION. For forty days after Jesus arose from the grave he had gone about among his friends and disciples; then from the mountain top he had gone up into the clouds. He had left a great work for his disciples to do in the world, that of telling people how to live and how to meet him in the heavenly home.

THE STORY. But Peter and John were only fishermen, not great and learned as it would seem they ought to be to be special messengers for the Lord Jesus; but though they could not see him, he had promised that his Spirit should be with them, helping them in all that they did for him.

In Jerusalem there were many others beside the twelve disciples who met together to pray and to talk and to work. They were to stay in Jerusalem until some sort of message came to them from heaven, and just what that message was to be they did not know. So they waited. And on the Day of Pentecost, the message came.

On this day they were gathered together, perhaps in a room of the Temple, when suddenly a strange sound filled the air like the rushing of a strong wind. Something that looked like tiny tongues of fire appeared hovering over each person, and they knew that God was there. Then each person could do a very wonderful thing, he could talk in a language that he did not know.

All over the city the people heard the strange sound and they came hurrying to find out what it was until the streets were packed with them. There were people from many countries who spoke many different languages, but when the people came out

on whose heads the tiny flaming tongues had rested, they began preaching in so many different languages that everybody there could hear God's message in his own speech. How amazed they were! And they, too, felt that God was there, and they listened as they had never listened before.

Peter stood up and preached a very wonderful sermon, one of the most wonderful that the world has ever heard. He was only a fisherman, but he had been with Jesus, and God was helping him that day. He repeated from the Jew's own Bible (the Old Testament we call it now) the parts which told about how God's Spirit was to come to the world as it had come that day. Then he told of Jesus, and of how he had died and had been raised again.

"What shall we do?" asked the people. And Peter told them that every one who believed on Jesus should be saved. "The promise is unto you and your children," he said.

Never before had there been such a church service. If you wanted to count how many people gave their hearts to Jesus and were baptized that day you would have to count one hundred ten times; then ten times more; then ten times more; for there were three thousand! It was a wonderful, wonderful time, and a time of great joy.

HANDWORK. This first Sabbath of the New Year when the bright new year so full of precious possibilities is opening before us, perhaps some schools that have never been in the habit of using handwork, that great aid to interesting and impressing the children, will start it. The circles and candles described in the PRIMARY QUARTERLY might be cut out, or directions and suggestions for the children doing it at home might be given.

FROM THE PLATFORM

Begin by asking which of the apostles is most prominent in the lesson. Having received the answer, print PETER on the blackboard. Follow up the first question by asking what we find Peter doing. The scholars will readily answer, PREACHING (Print and fill in 'S.'). This is the first thing, then, that we have in the lesson. Have a little talk about the matter of the preaching. Next, question as to the effect of Peter's preaching on THE PEOPLE (Print). A little help will bring the answer that it produced in them PENITENCE (Print, and again fill in