

We sometimes speak of impression, or learning, as if it were something apart from expression, or practice. But the fact of the matter is that each exists for the other. We never really know until our knowledge has taken some sort of form outside of ourselves. And so the teacher should be always on the lookout for those appropriate ways by which the teachings of scripture may find expression in the lives of his pupils. The "cup of cold water given in the name of a disciple" is not only an act of Christian service; it is also an appointed way for the deepening of Christian experience.

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Provision for Children in Public Worship

By Rev. John W. Little, B.D.

Worship is an essential element in the full development of the life of the child, and the importance of making suitable and adequate provision for children in public worship, whether in the church, the Sunday School, or the weekday meeting, deserves fuller recognition than it has generally received. Through worship, the culture of the emotions is secured. Those feelings of reverence, love and fear in the presence of God that must rule the life if it is to be vitally spiritual, are stimulated and turned into permanent attitudes that influence the whole realm of thought and conduct. Fellowship in prayer and praise also helps in the socializing of motives and so in promoting right relations to others.

In worship, singing holds an important place. Children are ready to join in the singing if the hymns chosen have meaning for them and if the tunes are within their range. In the church service, at least one hymn might well be sung that gives suitable expression, in language children can understand, to the religious feelings normal to youth. But there is real value also in hymns that, while they touch, also transcend their present experience, and so open up before them vistas of unexplored privileges that look to a richer and fuller emotional life. In all hymns used the thought should ring true and the expression be poetical. The tunes also should be musical. Jingling tunes cheapen worship.

There are many ways in which the Bible may be used in worship. The leader may read a passage while the children listen. But even when the passage has been carefully chosen to meet some definite need of the children it is hard to know that they are really following. By resorting to responsive reading their attention is assured. But, relatively, only a very few passages of scripture lend themselves effectively to this method. The 121st Psalm is a good example. Reading in

unison has more to say in its favor. If passages with rhythmical quality are chosen and the reading is not too rapid good results may be attained. Incidentally the children learn how to use their Bibles freely.

Unison prayer is finding a larger place in our services to-day. In addition to the Lord's Prayer, short prayers specially prepared are memorized by the children and repeated together. Here, as elsewhere, the important thing is that the thoughts expressed are such as the children can feel and utter sincerely, even though they do not understand the meaning fully.

In the church service most ministers now have a short sermon for children. In some cases a hymn is sung immediately after, during which the children march to another part of the building and have a service of their own. Where this can be avoided it seems better for the children to remain with their parents to the end, that they may become thoroughly identified with the church service during the formative period of their lives. And who can estimate the permanent value of the unconscious impressions left on their sensitive natures simply by sharing in the activities of the community gathered together regularly for worship?

In making provision it should never be forgotten that children are very responsive to the suggestions of their surroundings. Reverence is largely communicated by atmosphere. Inattention and disorder, if habitual, may do irreparable harm. God will become real to the children just to the extent that he seems to be real to the adults present. If there is warmth and sincerity and joy expressed in the words and postures of the parents or teachers, it will awaken similar responses in the children. Every care should be taken to make the children feel that in worship they are expressing their own thoughts to God or are listening to God speaking his message to them.

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The Sunday School Treasurer

By Rev. W. O. Rothney, B.D.

The office of treasurer affords a good opportunity to secure for the Sunday School the services of a capable and successful business man. It does not demand from him any speech-making or any other work uncongenial to him. It simply calls for the abilities he possesses and exercises in his everyday business life. The money interests of the Sunday School are too important to be left in the hands of any one who has not already made a success of managing and financing some business concern. An experienced, clear-headed, keen, business man should be secured