

Many passages speak of the rain making the grass grow for the cattle, seed grow for man, etc. (Isa. 55; 10, etc.) Let us not forget as the people did in Jeremiah's time. (Jer. 5: 26.)

(1) Without the rain the earth is unfruitful. (Jer. 14: 4; Amos 4: 7; Zec. 14: 7, 8, etc.) So without God's grace in our hearts the seed of the kingdom (the word of God) cannot grow, and we are unfruitful like the dry and barren ground.

(2) "I will pour down rain, floods upon the dry ground" is God's promise. (Find it.) "Dry" means thirsty. We read of "a thirsty land" in Ps. 63: 1, and the Psalmist says his soul is thirsty for God. To all such God gives the rain (his grace), and they grow and become lovely. (Are we thirsty?)

(3) Look now at the rain in itself:—
(a) It is clean. So should we be—pure, sparkling, bright.

(b) Every raindrop is small in itself alone; but each one has its place in a shower. Every boy or girl alone is a small unit, but as many "little drops" make "a mighty ocean," so many children united for Jesus become powerful and useful.

(c) Every raindrop helps to make the earth beautiful and the crops abundant. "The showers that water the earth" make the pastures green, the harvests plentiful, and provide abundantly for all God's creatures. So every child Christian is to be useful for God and help make the earth a holy and beautiful place.

Questions for home study by the Juniors. (Quote passages.)

1. When was rain withheld because of sin?
2. What does Lev. 26: 4 teach?
3. What may we learn from Deut. 11: 14?
4. What is likened to the rain in Deut. 32: 2?
5. When was rain sent in answer to prayer?
6. What N.T. writer tells about this remarkable rainfall in answer to prayer?
7. What does II. Sam. 23: 4 say comes after rain?
8. What does God's word say shall be rained upon the wicked? (Ps. 11: —?)
9. What prophet says God will rain righteousness upon the Godly?
10. Find two places in the last book of the N.T. where a rainbow is mentioned.
11. Where (besides in our lesson text) does Jesus speak about rain?
12. Where in Acts is the rain spoken of as a "witness" of God's faithfulness?
13. When did St. Paul suffer because of a heavy and cold rainstorm?
14. Where in Hebrews is the rain referred to as coming on the earth as a blessing from God?
15. What lessons are we taught in Zec. 10: 1?

May 3.—Abram's obedience and mine. Gen. 12: 1-9.

This is a beautiful and easy lesson to prepare in study and teach in League meeting. Let someone tell the story of the less text, and then deal with such questions as these:—Who was Abram? Where did he live? Did he know God? Did God speak to him? What was God's message? Did Abram believe God? How did he show his faith? Did he leave his home? Why? Where did he go? Did God promise him anything? Did Abram doubt God's word? Who went with Abram? Who was Lot? How old was Abram at this time? When Abram came to Moreh what did God show him? What did he promise him? What did Abram do? So the narrative should be made clear. Then the N. T. application. "Abram believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness." (See also Heb. 11: 8-10.) Abram's obedience

was one of implicit faith, and a year ago we analyzed faith as follows (apply and illustrate these points):

Find.
Ask.
Incline.
Take.
Hold.

"Find" the will of God, "ask" his guidance and help, "incline" your heart to obey him, "take" him at his word, "hold fast his promises." This is what Abram did, and our faith must be of the same practical nature. We have Abram's God as ours, and he is ever faithful and true, and will not fail us.

May 10.—Bible lessons from trees. Ps. 104: 16, 17; Jer. 17: 7, 8.

This is the same topic as we studied July 6th, 1902. We reprint part of our Epw. notes in June, 1902, issue. "Have your juniors, as far as they are able, prepare a list of the various trees mentioned by name in the Bible, and give honorable mention to the ones who show the best results. For example: "The almond tree is mentioned three times. Find the references." "The almond tree is named twice. Where?" "Who refers to the green bay tree, and why?" "Find as many passages as you can telling about cedar trees."

What O.T. prophet speaks of oaks and elms? "Tell something about the Bible says about the fig tree." "The fir tree is named more than twelve times in the O.T. See how many of these places you can find." "Who rested under a juniper tree, by lying down and having a sleep?" "Who heard a rustling in the tops of the mulberry trees?" "What prophet used the myrtle tree as an emblem of fruitfulness?" Find any references you can to the "oak," "oil trees," "olive trees," "palm," "pines," "apples," "ycamane," "sycamore," "terebinth trees," "willows." Here are upwards of twenty different kinds of trees. "They all speak of the variety that is in God's world, and from their association, with the incidents recorded, teach great spiritual lessons." The cedar is so-called from its firmness, the palm is the emblem of usefulness, and in Song. Sol. 2: 3, the apple is given a first place among trees. Whatever kind of tree you describe, teach the following easy yet essential lessons:—

1. Every tree must have roots. Without good root growth the tree would soon die. The roots not only feed the tree, but make it firm. Most of the tree is out of sight below the ground. So with every Christian. His first growth must be downward. Without a good grip on the truth we are easily blown over when temptations and trials come. (See Mark 4: 17.) (2) "The trees of the Lord are full of sap." Psalm 104: 16.) The sap gives life to the whole tree. By it the leaves expand, the twigs grow, and the whole body of the tree is fed. This reference reminds us that we as Christians need life within us. The sap is not seen, but without it neither leaf or fruit would be seen. God's grace is within us, but its evidence is given in the fruits of righteousness. (3) "Every tree is known by his own fruit." (Luke 6: 43.) So with Christians. We "bear fruit," and Christ's desire is that we bear much of it. (John 15: 8.) Trees may be beautiful; but beauty and fruit united are the best proof of value. God does not want us for ornament only, but also for use. (4) Trees grow fruit. (Lut. 13: 19.) So it grew and waxed a great tree.") So juniors do not become matured men and women Christians all at once. They grow. Cared for, nourished and trained, they become strong as the years go by. . . . We are either, growing straight,

tall, beautiful and useful, like the palm (Ps. 92: 12) or crooked, perverse, and evil, like the trees mentioned in Jude, 12th verse. (5) Fruitless trees are cut down (Matt. 7: 19). So if we are worthless because our lives are barren, we may expect ruin at last. Let us all seek to be everything that the Lord asks of us in this life, and in the world to come we shall have everlasting joy and blessing.

We recently attended a children's meeting, conducted by Evangelists Kennedy and Whyte. The former gave a very interesting address on the Bible, using the word as an acrostic, and enlarging on the points represented as follows:—

Buy.
Investigate.
Believe.
Love.
Employ.

He showed that the Bible as a book is so cheap that nowadays there is no reason why every person may not have one of their own. The book is to be studied. To "investigate" means "to dig," as one boy said. "Search the scriptures."

We are to "believe," i.e., "to think it true." Every boy or girl should learn to "love" the Bible for its own sake, and then "employ" (use) it in the work of Jesus Christ. The address was freely illustrated by anecdote and parable, and we are assured that such clear-cut truths are understood and will "stick." Junior workers in League or Sunday-school cannot too frequently adopt such methods of address. Evangelist Moule gives a similar talk, using the acrostic thus:—

Blessed.
Invitation.
Bringing.
Life.
Everlasting.

Juniors easily remember such outlines, and they cannot but produce lasting good if wisely used by devoted teachers.

Durham Junior League.

The Secretary of the Durham Junior League writes: "The last monthly meeting was held Monday, March 9th. It took the form of a pleasant evening with parents and friends of the Juniors. Upwards of ninety members were present. Mr. J. A. Glass gave numerous selections on his gramophone. It was unanimously voted that the collection should be used to help lift off the church debt. The collection amounted to \$5.30. A Cradle Roll Department in connection with the Junior League was instituted in the month of January last under the control of Mrs. Benton, and we have now upwards of twenty members enrolled in it. This feature of our work finds ready welcome in the homes into which it is introduced."

Helping the Minister.

"One thing helped me very much while I was helping to-day," said a clergyman.

"What was that?" inquired a friend.
"It was the attention of a little girl, who kept her eyes fixed on me; and seemed to hear and understand every word I said. She was a great help to me."

"Think of that, little one, and when you go to church, fix your eyes on the minister, and try to understand what he says, for he is speaking to you as well as to grown-up people. He is talking about the Lord Jesus, who loves the little ones."

"O, pa," exclaimed little Johnny, the first time he saw a trout, "it's got the mealies, ain't it?"