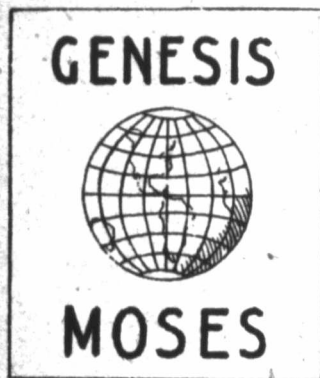


Fourth, the usual lack of pictures is an element of unattractiveness. Fifth, the desultory way in which Bible reading is usually conducted, without any thought of connectedness. Sixth, the requirement that children shall listen when the reading conveys little or no meaning. It is my purpose to present some practical plans for overcoming such difficulties.

If we would interest children in reading the Bible, *we must begin before they can read it for themselves.* A wise mother once said to me: "I believe stories from the Bible should precede all other stories."

Where shall we begin? We can hardly go amiss anywhere we open its pages. The make-up of the child-mind renders it unnecessary, even undesirable, that these stories should be told as connected Bible history; that will come later.



Bible stories should be told to young children rather than read to them, because the text contains many unusual words, which they do not understand, and because the child is brought into closer contact with the story through the voice and facial expressions of the narrator.

A pictorial Bible will greatly help the story-telling. All sorts of picture books are purchased for the child, and why not a pictorial Bible? There are several such on the market now which can be had at no great price.

So much for children who cannot read the Bible for themselves. Now, as to the difficulties in the way of those who can read it, but do not: 1st. As to the Bible being so large as to discourage its reading. Let the Bible be given to a child in several small books, rather than in one large volume; for example, the whole New Testament is published by the Bible Societies in

small books, and in capital type for children's eyes, each book costing a mere trifle. Genesis, Isaiah, Psalms and Proverbs are also published in this form. These should be given to a child, not all at once, but one by one, and parents or teachers should carefully compute the time in which a child might be expected to read one through, and place this limit before him: for example, the Book of Genesis, which is the first volume in the series, can be read through without haste in three hours. This would be too much for a child to read at one sitting, but it could be divided into half or quarter hour portions, and so accomplished within a month.

Before each book is read an effort should be made to open it up; to create an anticipative interest in it. Two years ago, at several of the Chautauquas, I gave a series of lessons in which

all of the books of the Bible were in such a manner brought before the children. Genesis was presented thus by drawing upon the blackboard, while the children copied the work on small books which they had folded with paper.

The work was done with colored pencils, and, at the end, each child who had been faithful was the delighted possessor of sixty-six attractive little books, which would certainly be the means of interesting him to read the Bible, and a help to his intelligent reading of it. In arranging this series I was greatly helped by a small book on Bible symbols by Mr. Geo. W. Pease.

In regard to the second and third difficulties mentioned: the close manner in which the Bible is printed, and the smallness of the type, it should be said there are two classes of persons who should always have the Bible in large print—the young and the aged. Buy for little son or