

Lesson Hints.

'Led up of the Spirit'—the Holy Spirit is the Guide of our Christian life. When he leads us into trial and testing, he will sustain us through it all. He who puts himself unnecessarily in the way of temptation has no surety of victory.

'If'—notice the insidious temptation to doubt his relation to God. Truly, 'he was in all points tempted as we are.'

'Command'—consider it your right to have bread. A temptation to doubt God's justice. 'Bread'—a temptation to escape the sufferings of the flesh, and thus make impossible the sympathy and compassion which unites Christ to us, his brethren.

'It is written'—our Saviour made valiant use of the 'Sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,' and with it vanquished for ever the enemy of our souls. It is worthy of note that these answers are all quoted from Deuteronomy, the 'Book of the Law,' in which all Jewish children were well instructed. Our Lord had probably learned these passages of Scripture at his mother's knee, and had meditated upon them until they had become part of his very being. And now, in the hour of need, they came naturally to his aid. Let us learn from this to store our mind with God's word! Let us learn to 'meditate upon it day and night' until it shall become so much a part of us that we can not forget it any more than we can forget our own hands.

'Not live by bread alone'—the soul is infinitely more important than the body.

'Pinnacle'—a point about six hundred feet above the ground.

'He shall give'—this passage is taken from Psalm xci. The tempter can quote scripture to deceive us, but the Spirit of God teaches us to rightly discern the meaning of scripture, and prevents us from foolishly twisting it to suit our own convenience.

'Not tempt the Lord'—presuming on his love, expecting him to care for our safety and comfort while we are disobeying him.

'All these things'—the tempter promised what he could not give. The world belongs to God and he has given it to his Son. (Rev. xi, 15.)

Primary Lesson.

Once there was a little boy who was asked if he could walk ten miles in a day. He said he could. He was asked if he had ever tried it. No, he had never tried it, but he knew that he could do it.

Would any one believe that he could do such a hard thing if he had never even been tried?

We only find out what we can do by trying, we only find out what we are by being tried.

If a miner wants to find out whether there is gold in a lump of metal, he tries it in the furnace. If it is gold it comes out clear and pure after all the testing, if it is not gold the fire cannot make it any better.

God allowed Jesus to be tested by the temptations of Satan. Jesus showed that his obedience to God was real and pure. The tempter offered him a great many things if he would only disobey God. But Jesus chose to obey God even though it meant hunger and want and loneliness, and more sorrow than we can imagine.

Jesus knew that if he was faithful and obedient through all the trials of earth, he would have an eternity of joy in heaven.

Jesus suffered and was tempted so as to be exactly like us, so as to know all our trials and troubles. Whenever you are tempted to any little act of disobedience, remember how Jesus was tempted just in that way. Ask him to put his Holy Spirit within you to keep you from yielding to temptation. He will do it. Learn the words of God that you may be able to know what he wants you to do. Obey him.

Practical Points.

A. H. CAMERON.

Jan. 9.—Matt. iv., 1-11.

God's Spirit does not always lead us into flowery beds of ease. Verse 1. Only the human nature of Jesus was tried. But the hungry one had bread to eat that Satan knew not of. Verses 2, 3, 4, Psalm 1, 12. He who neglects the laws of health violates the sixth commandment. Verses 5, 6. Satan's attempt to use the Sword of the Spirit is an awkward one. How deftly his blow is parried and returned by Immanuel! Verses 6, 7. Sight-seeing has its best influence on the soul when it causes the onlooker

to glorify God. Verses 8, 9, 10. In the triple temptation (to selfishness, suicide, and idolatry), the aim of the tempter is to disparage the deity of Jesus. Verses 3, 6, 9. God's messengers often come to us when they are needed most, and expected least. Psalm xxxiv., 7. Tiverton, Ont.

'Our Blackboard.'

First. Every school, and every class in the school, should have one. Second. Every superintendent and every teacher should use it. Third. One idea worked out by yourself is worth two of one just copied. Why, then, do we provide for you. Simply that you may receive suggestions that will help you to do the work better. Now, as to the work upon the board, here are some 'don't's.'

Don't be afraid of your work being too poor. Children have large hearts and great imagination.

Don't put in too much detail. The children can do it in their own minds and like it.

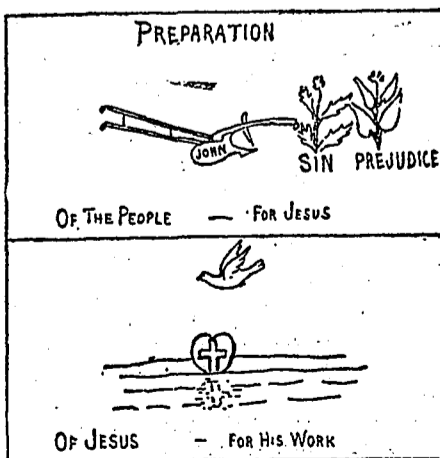
Don't teach more than one thing at a time. One thought in many ways possibly, but be brief.

Don't be afraid of repetition of symbols. Children and grown-ups like to see things they know.

Don't keep on if by chance you have lost their attention. Change at once.

Now, as to coloring, use your own judgment. Bright colors for holy and happy things. Dark for sin and temptation. Let me recommend very highly the use of paper-symbols pinned on the board as you want them. Things that would take a long time to draw, and be difficult to get right, can be easily made at home and pinned on in a moment. It will give you more time, show up more clearly than the chalk, and also insure your preparing before you come to Sunday-school. This will also, if followed out, every week, soon give you a large stock of paper symbols, from which to choose. At least see that the central figure of each lesson be one cut in paper, or one you can quickly draw, so that Review Sunday exercise will be bright, quick and stimulating to the memories of the scholars, as each well known picture brings back all its accompanying lesson.

For six months we are to study the life of Christ, and we want a symbol which will be recognized at once as representing him. What shall it be? The cross represents his death. A golden heart his life. Let us, then, keep during these months as our symbol of him, upon whose life the cross cast its shadow from the beginning, a heart outlined in yellow or gold, with a plain cross lined upon it, in red; which shall speak of the blood shed for us, and thus teach us that for him was not only the death but the life of the cross.

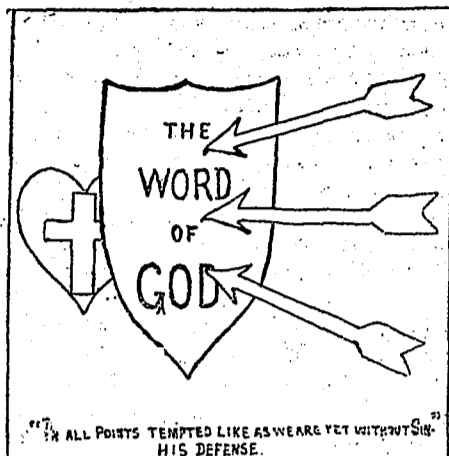


LESSON I.—January 2.

Keynote.—Preparation—I. John preparing the soil of the people for the seed of the

word, from the hands of the Sower, Christ. The plough turning under the weeds, and breaking up the hardened soil.

II. The preparation of Christ for his life and work, two-fold, baptism of water and the Holy Ghost. The heart emerging from the water, the dove, ever a type of the Holy Spirit, descending upon the heart, representing Jesus.



LESSON II.—January 9.

Temptation of Jesus.—The heart as before representing Jesus, behind the shield of the Word of God, by the use of which he warded off every temptation. The arrows, with blunted points to show their failure, representing the three temptations, the first a temptation for the body; the second, for the mind, to misuse the promises; the third, for the heart, as Christ lovingly gazed on the nations, and longed for them all to come unto him.

Emphasize in words the need of knowing Gods word in our heart. Temptation does not always come in the room where the bible is handy, but when we are away from it; lonely, tired and hungry.

Search Question Honor Roll.

VERY HONORABLE MENTION.

Emma Moore, Louis G. Hamilton, Grace D. Allan, J. E. Gray, Jennie Ross, Helen Bentham, Lizzie C. Brown, Cora May Sider, Maude Peach, Annie Sharpe, Leila Duffin.

HONORABLE MENTION.

Elizabeth Ann Craig, Kate H. Moorhead, Ella C. Anderson, Helen de Witt Laurence, Etta M. Rogers, Mary Lydia Crisp.

The Teacher's Strength.

No worker has ever done much for Church or world who has not wrestled and wept in supplication with the angel. It is such men alone who are God's Israels—the spiritual athletes who have power with him and prevail. David Brainerd prayed in the loneliness of the American forests until, with the tension and excitement, his body was bathed in sweat from head to foot; but we know how he came forth, from his oratory, with a strength like to the strength of ten, and how under his preaching the Indians of New Jersey pressed into the kingdom. None of us can expect that harvest of souls which surely we desire, unless we are willing to pay the price for it in earnest, clinging, agonizing entreaty. There is our own equipment to be sought at his hands who makes his grace sufficient for us. There are our scholars to be mentioned by name to him who, when he sees our faith, will say to them, 'Be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven you.' If this were the habitual exercise of the teacher's Saturday night, then, some happy Sabbath day, here or hereafter, he would come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.—'S.S. Chronicle.'

The time of seed-sowing passes quickly. Ere it be gone, let me consider closely, 'Have I sown the seed of all I purpose to have?' For, as is the seed-sowing so must be the summer glory and the autumn fruition.—'Sarah Smiley.'