

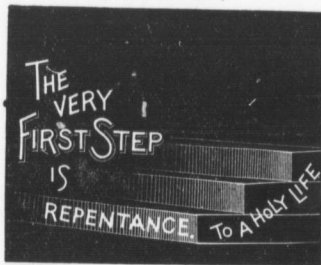
early history....His mission: 1) To reform. 2) To prepare for Christ. 3) To point to Christ....The place where he preached and baptized. Draw a rough map of Palestine, and show the wilderness of Judea, the Jordan valley, Nazareth, and Jerusalem....The preaching of John. (See the Analytical and Biblical Outline.)....The requirements of the gospel. (See Thoughts for Young People.)....Find in this lesson about Christ: 1) His origin. 2) His rank. 3) His mission. 4) His preparation. Some one has said of John that his preaching was like the headlight on an advancing locomotive, a narrow light, but strong, and warning of danger....Wherein should we, and wherein should we not, take John the Baptist for our example?

References. FREEMAN'S HAND-BOOK. Ver. 3: Preparing the way, 513. Ver. 6: Rough garments; locust food, 632. Ver. 7: The sandal, 832; the shoe-latchet, 791....FOSTER'S CYCLOPEDIA. Ver. 1: Poetical, 2041. Ver. 2: Prose, 2638, 11156. Ver. 3: Prose, 9135, 10543. Ver. 4: Prose, 6085. Ver. 6: Prose, 9136; Poetical, 3632. Ver. 7: Prose, 9662, 9771, 9677. Ver. 8: Prose, 2988, 2001, 9555. Ver. 11: Prose, 5783.

Joy to the world! the Lord is come.
Come, Christian children,
The name of our salvation.
Grace! 'tis a charming sound.
Father, lead me,
Dare to do right.
Will Jesus find us watching?
My Father is rich.
One little hour for watching.
Soldiers who to Christ belong.
Give me some work to do.
Stand up, stand up for Jesus.

Blackboard.

BY J. B. PHIPPS, ESQ.



OBJECT OF THE ILLUSTRATION. To show the steps leading to a holy life, as set forth in John's preaching. These were, 1. Repentance; 2. Faith in the coming Messiah; 3. Forgiveness, and, lastly, Baptism, signifying the cleansing from the evil of the old life. Draw the steps with white chalk, and see that the lines forming the ends of the steps are made quite strong, while the lines on the edges of the steps, lengthwise, gradually diminish. In speaking of the different steps, write the words "Faith," etc., on the spaces.

Here are two other exercises that may be used in connection with the diagram:

THREE JOINED TOGETHER.
PROPHECY, 3 THE GOSPEL,
REPENTANCE, 3 FAITH,
PARDON, 3 OBEDIENCE.

THREE IN ONE.

FATHER, 3 VOICE,
SON, 3 JESUS,
SPIRIT, 3 DOVE.

John's Mission { to tell about Jesus.
My Mission {

Primary and Intermediate.

BY M. V. M.

"The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God," the beginning of a new year, and the beginning of faith in many a little heart, let us hope!

O, to know that the real beginning in every life is in preparing the way of the Lord! And who can prepare it for another heart, who has not first walked therein? Let us receive the Gospel, dear teachers, as we enter upon the work of another year, that we may in a true, deep sense, give it.

LESSON THOUGHT. "I am the way."

John the Preacher. Print "Messiah." Tell what the name means, and that the Jews were looking for such a one. Why? Because he had been promised. Read from the Bible the prophecy in our lesson. It was God's promise. The Jews were watching for the "messenger" who always went before the king when he traveled, to see that there was a straight path for him to go in. Print "John," "Messenger," in such a way that by printing in the connecting words you will make the sentence, "John was the messenger of Jesus, the Messiah." Make a word-picture of John; his strange dress; his ringing words; the great crowds that gathered about him, and the strange baptismal service in the waters of the Jordan. A picture of the scene will help to make it real to the children.



Jesus the Messiah. Tell how John prepared the way for the coming of Jesus: he called the people to be sorry for sin and to put it away. Jesus comes to the heart. His way must be prepared in the heart. Even while John spoke, Jesus came. Did he come like a king? No;

he came like any man, and was baptized as the others were. Then God spoke out of heaven and called him his beloved Son. This was to show all the people that Jesus was truly the Messiah. The Spirit of God in the form of a pure dove rested upon him, and the people saw it. So the King came to the Jews. Does he come to us?

The Way to the Heart. Jesus the Messiah wants to enter every heart. He will enter every open door. How can we open our heart-door? Sorrow for sin and turning away from it opens the door. This is *repentance*. Sorrow alone is not repentance. There must be putting away sin—all naughty temper, self-will, wicked ways and words. There is only One strong enough to do this for us. Jesus said, "I am the Way."

Lesson Word-Pictures.

Who is this coming out of the wilderness? Such a strange man in his ways. A camel gave him its hair for his clothing. Around his waist is strapped a girdle of skin that some other creature gave him. His food? The locusts furnish that, and the bees give flavor to it. Where does he sleep? Ask the birds of the air and flocks of the field. Who saw this son of the wilderness first? Did he appear to a solitary toiler in the field?