

Primary Teachers' Department

Primary Paragraphs

O, sing the blessed story!
The Lord of life and glory—
Is risen, as he said—
Is risen from the dead!

—Mary A. Lathbury.

THE GLAD EASTER. The teacher of little children should make much of the opportunity Easter brings to teach the glory, the sacredness, the sweetness of the life purchased for us through the resurrection of our Lord.

PREPARE THE EASTER LESSON. A bulb planted early enough to make sure of a plant by Easter may be kept in the class room. A cocoon is a beautiful and impressive symbol. Let the children know that you are looking toward Easter, with its beautiful lessons, not only as a festival time, but as a season of new life. Seek for a new Easter song which makes this prominent, and ask often of the dear Father, both at home and in the class, that new life and love from Jesus, the Lord of life, may come into the little hearts at this beautiful season.

THE EASTER STORY. Let no symbol teaching, however beautiful and appropriate, crowd out the clear, simple, old, but ever-new story of the resurrection. However familiar it may be, study it with fervent desire to find some fresh channel through which to convey to each little soul the profound truth that Jesus is the Life-giver and the one Saviour from death. Study to make the life thought so prominent and real as quite to overshadow the thought of physical death. Said a little child who had been taught not to fear death, "Why, it's like taking off a glove. That's the way the Lord takes off the body when he wants us to go to him."

HOME EVANGELISM. Many of our little ones come from Christless homes. The primary teacher may send many a word of life into these homes, and who knows "which shall prosper, this or that"? It is ours to do the seed-sowing. God will care for the harvest. There are households from which the Shepherd has taken away a precious lamb, perhaps, during the year. The simple message,

"Praise God, the Shepherd is so sweet,
Praise God, the country is so fair!
We can but bring them to his feet,
We can but joy to leave them there!"

may convey balm to the sore heart. Do not forget at the glad Easter to send some life-giving word to the stricken homes and hearts within your reach.

OTHER METHODS. Some primary teachers find it impossible to visit their classes. Such may help to overcome this lack by an occasional letter to the mother, inviting her full sympathy and coöperation; an occasional primary school gathering to which the mothers are invited; a monthly mothers' meeting, if this can be compassed, and always the ministry of the written or printed page. There are few parents who would not welcome the leaflet or card sent by their child's teacher with a request that it be read. Many a word of consolation, of instruction, and of practical help may thus be sent into homes, which even in Christian homes may bear fruit.

NO ROOM FOR DISCOURAGEMENT. "In my class," writes a teacher of little children, "is a stolid little boy whom nothing ever seems to move. I've been discouraged over that child many times, feeling that all my teaching fell upon deaf ears. But one day I told the class about some poor children who could have no Christmas cheer but through the help of others, and this indifferent, careless little fellow was the very first to respond. His mother said he couldn't wait to take off his overcoat and cap, after reaching home, before hunting up something for 'those poor children.' I have learned that there is a way to the most (apparently) closed hearts."

Arbor Day for the Children

THE Sunday school is overdoing the observance of special days. Of course it is commendable to take note of the most important of the great church anniversaries, but it is surely unwise to pay too much attention to all of the lesser ones—especially all those of a secular nature.

However, there is one day whose observance seems especially appropriate to the Primary Department and that is Arbor Day. Little children live so near, so very near to nature's heart that the trees mean more to them than to adults. The minds of the little ones are utterly incapable of comprehending abstract truth; they can have but the slightest comprehension of the plan of salvation, but they can understand what is meant when they are told that God is the Creator of the natural world. They will love the trees all the more when told that God has made them and that man cannot produce even the tiniest of living trees.

Upon this day the teacher might give each child a potted tree, whose growth can be watched at home.

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