

Acts 1 : 1-11. Bring out : (a) The definiteness of the farewell and the eleven witnesses to His ascension. Emphasize the effect of His ascension upon them as the outburst of worship, joy and supreme satisfaction in the issue of the ministry of Jesus. This attitude of the disciples is of the highest value to the victory of Jesus as their Lord and leader. (b) The definiteness of the promise of the coming of the Spirit, another testimony to His victorious work. (c) The definiteness of the apostolic commission to evangelize the world. (d) The definiteness of the promise that the exalted Jesus would return in glory. In each of these He appears as conqueror, ruling the destiny of the church and the world.

3. *Some consequences for Christian living of the Lord's ascension.* It is a type of the ascension of all believers. The new life beginning here finds its completion in the presence of Christ in glory. It develops and feeds the desire for immortality. It suggests important possibilities for our bodily nature which will be redeemed, quickened, glorified.

For Teachers of the Senior Scholars

What does Christmas mean to us? Have we learned to associate all its joys with the Christ-child who came to Bethlehem long ago? Bring out that the reigning spirit in all that is good in our Christmas festival is the Christ-spirit. The child born in the manger is king of hearts and homes. Self is dethroned, and under the influence of the new ruling spirit which gets possession of us life is filled with kind thoughts and loving deeds, and the world is made brighter and better. In our Lesson to-day Christ is represented as a king. We have two thoughts :

1. *The King Heralded*, Isa. 11 : 1-10. Question out the particulars of this announcement : (1) The king's origin, v. 1. He is of royal lineage but of a line that has declined in power and become obscure. What a suggestive illustration of Israel in the days of Christ is this hewn-down tree of the prophet! (2) The king's endowments (v. 2), intellectual and spiritual. He is filled with the Spirit of the Lord. There is something very beautiful about this representation, something completely fulfilled in no one else except Christ. (3) The character of the king's

reign (vs. 3-10),—a reign of righteousness and peace. Point out that the time will come when, through the influence of this king, all injustice and wrong-doing shall be driven out of life.

Dwell upon the beautiful way which the prophet has of picturing this universal reign of peace when even the wild animals shall lose their fierceness.

2. *The King Enthroned*, Luke 24 : 50-53 ; Acts 1 : 1-11. The work which Christ had come into the world to do was done. He had lived in such a way as to inspire all the future ages with a new ideal of life, with a new conception of what it was possible for human life to become ; and He had died a death so full of love's revealings that man could never again think much about God without thinking a great deal about love ; and He had risen from the dead and had commissioned His disciples to go everywhere preaching the gospel of God's love, the gospel of the ever-living-loving One. He is now about to ascend to His throne on high. Question the scholars about that parting scene, and remind them that Christ was never more with the disciples than after He had gone away. He went away that He might be with us all. Let us open our hearts to-day to His life and love.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

This is a Christmas Lesson, and it would be well to make clear to the scholars the relation between Christmas and Christ. Impress upon them that there would have been no such glad season had it not been for the giving of God's unspeakable gift. Take up the two passages :

1. *Christ's Work Foretold*, Isa. 11 : 1-10. Begin by asking the class who Jesse was. Who was his famous son? David was regarded as the great king of Israel, but the kings who followed him were sometimes anything but great. Now the prophet looks forward to one of the royal line who will be even greater than David. Call attention to the different features which are to characterize His work : (a) He is to be specially equipped by God. In what ways? (Vs. 2, 3.) Remind the class of how often the fear of the Lord is spoken of in the Old Testa-