

The Sunday School

Teachers Should Teach.

Neither preaching, talking, nor telling stories is teaching. If your pupils know nothing, it is because you teach nothing. We are indebted to Robert M. Offord for many of the following suggestions.

As good food is spoiled by a poor cook, so many a lesson is made unattractive and unprofitable by the poor way in which it is prepared and presented. The lesson should be:

1. **POINTED.** A multitude of words does not insure worth. Five gold dollars are better than five hundred copper cents. No true teacher will take up a lesson without, at least, one point in view. Toward this point everything will tend. Lessons differ. Some have many points, some few. The few should be driven with force. Better one made than ten attempted and lost.

2. **PRACTICAL.** Beware of speculation and disputation. As discussion of the growth of wheat cannot nourish physical life, so discussion of theories cannot nourish the spiritual. He who fails to find present, practical, spiritual truth in the lesson is not a true teacher, no matter how perfectly he may present the history, biography, or geography.

3. **PERSONAL.** To be practical the lesson must be personal. The teacher should study his class—know their temptations, trials, needs, weak points and strong points, not to expose them but to teach the pupils how to overcome, to bear, to pray, to appropriate. No pupil has been rightly taught until he can say, "God is *my* Light. The Bible is *my* Book. Christ is *my* Saviour. The promises are for *me*."

4. **PUNGENT.** That teaching fails of its highest, truest object which does not prick the "heart." Isa. 40: 2, Marg. God's Word is a "sword." Heb. 4: 12. We should know how to wield it, and not make Bible stories dull and ineffective.

5. **PREPARED.** It is audacious and presumptuous to pretend to teach God's truth without preparation. The teacher should pray, ponder, plan. He who prays will study. He must plan skillfully who would capture hearts. After planning, ponder. Ponder, pray, plan. Plan, ponder, pray. Let prayer be first, middle, last.

Gather as you go. Study daily. Everything is grist that comes to the teacher's mill. Turn daily incidents into illustrations. Save bits of history, poetry, striking thoughts, illustrations, pictures, tracts, anything that will send the truth home in power to the heart. Not until one has faithfully prepared is he in a condition where he can claim the promise, "Open thy mouth wide and I will fill it." Ps. 81: 10.

Prepare the lesson as one teacher does.

Take four pieces of common note paper. Number them. Cut the text from a lesson leaf. Pin it verse by verse, an equal distance apart, on the left of each blank sheet, putting a fourth of the verses on each. Jot down in pencil opposite each verse, any question to be asked, truth to be brought out, Bible reference to be read or illustration to be used. When the work is complete, take a four page sheet of note paper about the size of your Bible, paste the verses on it and copy the rest neatly in ink.

This paper is an incentive to careful preparation. If the paper lying in the Bible is blank, the lesson will be dull and unfruitful. It prevents the mind of the teacher being a blank when the boys or girls are talking about the latest pleasure. It holds the class to study. The Bible and these notes should be the only help in the hands of the teacher. This original lesson help preserved will give the foundation of a talk, Bible reading, or expository sermon if called upon with no time for preparation.—*Illustrator*.

Notes and Suggestions on the International Lessons.

By George W. Pease, in the *Sunday School Journal*.

LESSON 10.—DECEMBER 4, 1898.

The Book of the Law Found.

(Lesson Text: 2 Kings 22: 8-20. Memory Verse 19.)
(Read 2 Chron. 34.)

GOLDEN TEXT.—"Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart."—*Ps. 119: 2.*

DAILY READINGS.—Monday: A good king, 2 Kings 22: 1-7. Tuesday: The book of the law found, 2 Kings 22: 8-20. Wednesday: Effect of the book, 2 Kings 23: 1-8. Thursday: Putting away evil, 2 Kings 23: 15-25. Friday: The law in the heart, Deut. 6: 1-13. Saturday: Hear, learn, and fear, Deut. 31: 7-13. Sunday: The perfect law, *Psa. 19: 7-14.*

INTRODUCTION. After the disastrous reign of Manasseh, about whom we studied in Lesson 8, his son Amon reigned for two years, and the record is, "He did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, as his father Manasseh did." Amon was succeeded by his son, Josiah, one of the best of the kings of Judah. Give the class some idea of the moral degradation of the people at this time, as shown by the prophets Jeremiah and Zephaniah. Also briefly sketch the early life and probable training of the young king. It was during the temple repairs that the incident happened which is the text of our lesson to-day.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE TEXT.—Place upon the blackboard the subject, "The Way of Success," and the following outline: 1. The unexpected discovery; 2. The king's inquiry; 3. The Lord's answer; 4. The promised blessing.

1. **THE UNEXPECTED DISCOVERY.** While the high priest Hilkiah was engaged in some work connected with the temple repairs he found an ancient roll of the law which had been hidden away during a previous reign or had been thrown into the accumulated rubbish. Note that (a) Hilkiah was