

God's time." "What is that?" "Playin' on Sundays." So "God's time" was written. From another little girl, "Borrowin' books, and forgettin' to send them back again." "Very well; can any of you think of anything else people sometimes forget to return on rainy days?" "Umbrellas!" went up from a dozen voices. "Borrowing books" was then put down. Next answer, "Found things." I said to a little boy, "Suppose you don't know whose it is, and keep it; what then?" "Well, if I don't know whose it is, I have a right to it," said the little fellow. "Very well, it is a question; how many think that they have a right to keep it when they don't know whose it is?" No hands up. There's an intuition about these things. "Missionary money," was the next answer. "How can you steal missionary money?" "I knew a little girl," said one of the girls, "and her mother gave her a penny to put in the box, and she kept it." "How do you know that?" "'Cause I was the little girl." The next thing we had was "Playing." "Inchin' marbles," said one little boy. "What's that?" "Why, sir, inchin' 's cheatin'." The next common way of stealing that the class gave was, "Making bargains." And then I told them a story about a little boy who had some brass buttons, and another boy who had a beautiful ship. The boy with the buttons got the other little fellow to swap off his ship for the buttons and a penny, though the ship was worth ten times the buttons; and then, said I, "Do you think God wrote down that he stole?" "Yes, sir," in a low voice, was the answer. "Bargains" was therefore next written down. "Character" was the next answer got. "How in the world can you steal character?" "Well," says she, "I can say that girl over there is a very bad girl—I suppose that's a way of stealing character." Oh, how hard it is to rob a man or a woman of character merely out of thoughtlessness, or a desire to appear favourably in the contrast! So "Character" was put down. The next was "Servants." As fifty of our scholars are "living out," that came home to a great many. One girl says, "Taking home things to mother from mistress." Then we came to the "Causes." The first answer I got was "ignorance," and the second, "covetousness." But time will prevent us from dwelling on this point. "The Remedy." The first answer was in these four words, "Thou God seest me." "Very well, what, then, should that lead you to do?" "It should lead me to go to Jesus with my poor, dishonest, guilty heart, and get him to give me an honest heart."

Take another illustration—the third commandment. "How broken?" "Why broken?" "Why not?" "How broken:" First, "Profane swearing;" second, "Oh, gracious!" was written down as covering a great deal of swearing. that is called by other names. "Making fun of the Bible;" and those covert Bible puns, that I have known even deacons of the church guilty of—taking a passage of Scripture, and trying to make something very smart out of it. "Making fun of the Bible" was accordingly put down in the column "How broken." "Taking God's name in vain, by singing improper songs," and "Praying with the lips alone." These were the five divisions of "How broken." "Why broken:" "Got mad," was the first reason I got from the children. The second was, "Didn't think;" the third, "Think it's big;" and the fourth, "Bad company." Then, "Why not:" "Not right;" "Bible says so;" "ungenteel, unmanly;" "useless;" "bad place."

Take another illustration entirely different.: At one of our lessons I wrote on the blackboard, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." Six months or a year after, I was called to see a little girl. When she saw me she says, "I have got some good news to tell you; I have become a Christian." "How do you know that?" "Because I hate sin." That is it; when a child shows by her life that she hates sin, that is, perhaps, one of the strongest evidences that the love of Jesus is in her soul. Says she, "Those words on the blackboard, 'Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian,' kept coming up before my eyes all day, and a voice in my ears, 'Almost! why not altogether? Why not?' And that girl attributed her salvation, under God, entirely to those words on the blackboard. We hear similar instances, again and again, from different teachers.