

## Young People's Department.

### MISSION BAND LESSON.

#### Idol Worship.

#### Scripture Lesson.

1. Responsive reading. Isa. 44: 9-20.
2. Talk by the leader on the First and the Second Commandments. Drill. Matt. 22: 37.
3. Exercise, Psalm 115: 1-3, by class of boys and girls.

First Voice—Verses 1-3.

Second Voice—Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands.

All together with appropriate motions, Verses 5-7.

Second Voice—Verse 8.

First Voice—O Israel, trust thou in the Lord.

Response in unison—He is their help and their shield.

First Voice—O house of Aaron, trust in the Lord.

Same response in unison.

First Voice—Ye that fear the Lord, trust in the Lord.

The same response.

Second Voice—Verse 12.

All together—Verse 13.

(Note to Leaders.—Make the talk a personal heart-to-heart appeal. The Psalm exercise is very effective when well done. For the lesson on the idols, use all the pictures possible, adding such descriptions as are necessary. They may often be found in old copies of missionary magazines, and such books as "Story of the World's Worship" and "History of Baptist Missions.")

In our own beautiful land, where most of us have never seen an idol actually worshipped, it is difficult for us to comprehend the fact that millions to-day are bowing down to idols such as are described in this Psalm. India is only one among idolatrous nations,

yet here, it is said, there are 330 millions of gods. Stories concerning the origin of some of these gods, or of their life and character, are so unclean and so impure that they cannot be told. What of the effect of such worship upon the minds, the hearts, and the bodies of the worshippers? Men become like the beings they worship. The Hindu religions tend to immorality, all kinds of wickedness, corruption and decay. There is only selfishness and superstition, no love nor purity, no holiness. There is no great Saviour, whose life among men was such that it continues to inspire men to holy living; no living power to uphold men in doing right. There is no fountain open for sin and for uncleanness. Hence the missionaries say that they can never know the worst of the vileness that actually exists in India, and they can never tell the worst of all they do really see and know. Now, could we look together at a few pictures—or, if you do not have them, let us try to realize from these little descriptions something of the truth that is depicted.

(1) Here are the three chief Hindu gods, the Triad or Tri-Murti—Brahma, the Creator; Siva, the destroyer, and Vishnu, the preserver. These three gods were sculptured on the walls of the Elephanta Caves near Bombay, which were excavated twelve centuries ago, and are now visited by thousands of tourists. The creator has largely been lost sight of, but Siva and Vishnu receive the homage of millions. Revolting symbols representing Siva are seen everywhere, by the roadside, in front of temples, and even in the homes.

(2) Look, this group is of Siva, Sahadra, and Juggernaut. At Puri, on the western shore of the Bay of Bengal, is one of the largest temples for this group. The idols are rude blocks of wood about six feet high, each block surmounted by a hideous representation of a human face. Siva is painted white, Sahadra yellow, and Juggernaut dark blue. The idols are washed and dressed with great seriousness. Every day they are feasted with many pounds of food. What becomes of it? In this