

might be touched upon (see Rom. 1 : 21-32 ; Eph. 2 ) ; also the almost equally sad formality and lifelessness into which Judaism had lapsed. Use the blackboard to summarize the Review. Take :

#### I. THE BEGINNINGS OF CHRISTIANITY. LESSONS I.-V.

(a) *The angelic announcement of the birth of John as the forerunner of Jesus*, Lesson I. Recall what this Lesson taught about the peril of prayer. We need faith to believe that our prayers shall be answered and faith to accept the answer.

(b) *The birth of John* (Lesson II.) *as the fulfilment of the prophecy*. Teach that God keeps His promises and emphasize the message concerning the preparatory work John would do.

(c) *The birth of Jesus*, Lesson III. Show that this is the heart of the whole revelation of God (see John 1 : 14). Dwell on the word "Saviour." Jesus was born to save. His name is descriptive of His mission.

(d) *The presentation in the temple*, Lesson IV. Bring out, by questioning, the contrasts between Simeon and the Babe ; also Anna and the Babe. Show that the longing and expectations of these aged saints represent and are typical of the attitude of all pure souls, ever eagerly anxious for fuller and clearer knowledge and experience of God's presence.

(e) *The worship of Jesus by truth seekers*, Lesson V. Ask about the persons here mentioned in connection with Jesus : (a) the Wise Men, (b) Herod and his courtiers, (c) the scribes, and (d) Joseph and Mary. Show that at the very beginning of His life He was worshiped, hated, talked about and loved. Teach that He attracted the attention of the world and revealed the character of men. Dr. George Matheson says that Christ's cradle was the meeting place of three continents,—Europe, Asia and Africa.

#### II. THE PERIOD OF PREPARATION. LESSON VI.-VIII.

(a) *The boyhood of Jesus*, Lesson VI. Show that Jesus had already taken the right view of life, making God's house His starting point. Emphasize the practical lesson, that the way to true success is to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

(b) *The ministry of John*, Lesson VII. John's message was—a pure heart and life for a pure kingdom. Show that by this John brought men to see their need of a Saviour. Teach that we can do much to prepare others for the coming of Jesus into their hearts and lives.

(c) *The baptism and temptation of Jesus*, Lesson VIII. Bring out the three great facts : (a) The recognition by the Father, (b) The gift of the Holy Spirit, followed at once by (c) Searching temptation. Teach the need of guarding against a feeling of security from temptation (see 1 Cor. 10 : 12).

#### III. THE FIRST CAMPAIGN OF JESUS. LESSONS IX., X.

(a) *The plan of campaign*, Lessons IX. and X. Educe the details—it included preaching, healing the sick and selecting disciples and helpers. Emphasize, that He sought to win by His message rather than by His miracles. Ask what later plan He made for perpetuating His work. (See Matt. 28 : 19, 20.)

IV. THE PARTING OF THE WAYS. This includes Lessons XI. and XII. Make clear that some who heard Him grew in knowledge, faith, love and loyalty, while others opposed Him and kept it up until they crucified Him. Deal with :

(a) *Conflict over the question of Jesus' authority*, Lesson XI. Ask what grounds Jesus had for claiming power to forgive sins and have Mark 1 : 10, 11 read. Teach that Jesus' claim has been made good in the experience of mankind.

(b) *Conflict over Jesus' relation to social and ritual observances*. Show how He used social life for soul winning, and how He rejected ritual observances as unsuited to the freedom of His method and truth.