

room, to which all of the members of the Home Department and any friends whom they care to bring are invited.

Our members are much interested in the

LEAFLET study. To this, the social calls, the flowers, and birthday cards, we attribute our large membership and the interest taken.

St. John, N.B.

## THE DEPARTMENTS

### The Bible for Little Children

By Mrs. J. J. Eaton

In considering the Bible for little children let us look at it from three viewpoints, keeping in mind one aim—to teach the little children to know and love the heavenly Father: 1. The Bible and Nature. 2. The Poetry of the Bible. 3. The Stories.

1. *The Bible and nature.* Every child loves nature, and can be taught much about his heavenly Father, from it. In the trees and grass, the hills and lakes, he can see God the Creator, in the fruits and vegetables and flowers, he can see God the Giver; in the birds and butterflies and animals, he can see God the Protector. Can we not, then, use the references in the Bible to all these things in teaching the little child lessons about God?

It makes the country where Jesus lived a much more real place, to know, that Jesus, as a little boy, watched and loved the robins, blue birds and finches, to know something of the flowers, the lakes, the rivers, the mountains, that are connected with the Bible stories.

Little five year old Bobby watched carefully, while the asparagus bed was being prepared one fall afternoon, for winter. The brown stalks had been cut down, the weeds were being pulled out. "What you doing?" he asked. "Oh, getting ready for winter." You know, the little roots are down in the ground all winter. The boys are going to cover them over with a nice brown coat of manure, and then, pretty soon, old "Mother Nature" will spread a pretty, soft white blanket of snow all over, to keep them nice and warm, so that there will be more asparagus next spring." Bobby looked thoughtful—then—"Is old 'Mother Nature' God?" he asked.

The master teacher taught many lessons from nature,—from the "fowls of the air," the "lilies of the field," and why, not we, as Sunday School teachers?

2. *The poetry of the Bible.* The poetry of the Bible teaches the little child: (1) God's care; (2) to worship God; (3) to praise God.

The beautiful Shepherd Psalm (Ps. 23),—could a child have any more beautiful picture of God, in his heart, than that of a shepherd, caring for his sheep and lambs? Ps. 121,— "the Lord is thy keeper" . . . "He that keepeth thee will not slumber"—teaches how God watches over us all the time.

The wonderful 91st Psalm,—little children dearly love to see an old mother hen with her little chickens all snuggled under her wings. This, however, is something Sunday School teachers cannot often show their children, but, we can all use a picture of the old mother hen and her chicks and then we can teach, "He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust." Is not that a beautiful picture of God's care of his children? And, "he shall give his angels charge over thee"—always protecting and caring for his children.

In this poetry is also the thought of worship, of praise—"How amiable are thy tabernacles O Lord of hosts" (Ps. 84); "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands . . . enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise" (Ps. 100); "Let the people praise thee, O God, let all the people praise thee" (Ps. 67); and many, many other parts in this beautiful poetry of the Bible teach the lesson of praise.

2. *The stories of the Bible.* The simple stories of home life, and especially of child life, in the Bible appeal to the little child. If in telling them to the child, we keep in mind a direct aim, the story will impress the child so much the more.

The direct aim of Bible stories suitable for little children is to teach: (1) *God's care*, and trust in it; (2) *Obedience*; (3) *Service*.

In telling the story, we must keep in mind, the age of the child, for our aim will be different according to the age of the little one.

For example, in the story of the Creation, we would teach the Beginner, about God, the Creator,—the Primary child, not only about God the creator, but about obedience, whereas, to the Junior, our whole teaching would be about disobedience—bringing out