

Primary and Intermediate.

LESSON THOUGHT. *The New Heart.*

The teacher who is in touch with her class knows right well that in many a little heart there is a troubled sense of something wrong, something out of harmony. The child does not know just what is the matter, and too many teachers think that the innocent little ones cannot understand the mystery of conversion, and so say little about it.

But the world and Satan are not slow to enter, and some day, when parents and teachers think the child is old enough to think of becoming a Christian, they find to their dismay that the ground has been pre-empted!

Let us teach the little ones of the primary class the way to the cross. Nay, let us go with them to that sacred spot, and not only bring them to the Master's feet, but help them to abide there.

Print at the top of the board in large letters:

The Old Heart—Self-will.

The New Heart—God's will.

Make a large heart on the board; or, better, pin up one cut from white paper. Ask children to unite in the familiar recitation:

"Two little eyes to look to God,"

using the appropriate motions.

What was it we all said just now about the heart? Yes, we are to give it to God. Eyes, ears, tongue, feet, hands—all are to be given to God; but do you know, they will not work for God unless the heart is really his? So, first of all, if we want our eyes to

"look to God," our "ears to hear his word," our "feet to walk his ways," our "hands to work for him," we must give our hearts to "him." "When?" "Now, in my youth." How "old" must you be to give your heart to God? How many of you love somebody very much?

[Question a little, letting several children tell whom they love, and why. Bring out the thought that the one whom the child loves and tries to please is the one to whom he has given his heart.]

When we ask you to give God your heart we just ask you to love him and do as he tells you to do.

[Print "Self-will" in the heart on the board. Tell that this is the heart that has not been given to God, that loves its own way and does not care for God's way.]

A beautiful little girl in a home of great wealth had a teacher who came every day to give her lessons. At first the child would say, "I won't," to every thing the teacher asked her to do. She had learned to love her own way. Gradually she grew to see that this was wrong. Her teacher told her that self-will hurt her character as well as displeased God. The dear little child looked sad,

and said, with a sigh, "O, I wish I had begun to make a good character sooner!"

Every act of self-will leaves a dark stain on the heart. [With soft black crayon make several spots on the paper heart, giving some illustration of self-will in connection with each.]

The little girl cannot make a good character, no matter how hard she tries. She can learn to conquer her naughty spirit, but she must have help even in that. What can God do with the heart all full of stains?

Our lesson tells us. [Read from the Bible verses 25 and 26.]

God says this! He will wash away all the stain of sin. He will even give a new heart—a heart that loves God best, that chooses his way, that makes room for his Spirit to come in.

[Make another heart, or pin up one, in which print "God's Will." Give some illustrations of children giving up their own way because they want to do what will please God.]

God wants to help us to remember to please him, so he says he will put his Spirit in us. Without this we should forget and often grieve our loving Lord.

How may a little child whose heart is stained with self-will get a new heart?

Come to Jesus. Tell him that you want a heart that loves him best, better than self or sin. Believe him when he says, "A new heart will I give you," and thank him for it. Then ask him to help you every day and every hour. When you feel like doing wrong, look up quickly and whisper, "Dear Jesus, help me!" and he will do it. To live this way is to be a Christian.

OPTIONAL HYMNS

No. 1.

Holy Spirit, faithful guide,
Jesus is tenderly calling thee home.
O for a heart.
Precious promise.
Come, my soul.
If my disciple thou wouldst be.

No. 2.

All the promises of Jesus,
I love the name of Jesus.
'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus.
Come, every soul by sin oppressed.

The Lesson Catechism.

[For the entire school.]

1. What does God promise to do for the Israelites? **He will cleanse them from their sins.**

2. How will he keep them good? **GOLDEN TEXT: "A new heart," etc.**