

OUR JUNIORS

Junior Topics

MAY 21ST.—A GROWING BOY. Luke 2: 41-50.

2. Ask one of the Juniors to write or tell the story as given in this Bible Lesson. The last Bible record we have of the childhood of Jesus is: "The child grew and waxed strong in spirit, and the grace of God was upon Him."

The age of twelve was the dividing line between childhood and youth. A Jewish boy was then called "a son of God," and a "son of the law," because he was old enough to read the Scriptures himself, understand much of what they taught, and fulfil the services of the synagogue. It was when twelve years old that Jesus was taken by Joseph and Mary to Jerusalem to attend the Passover Feast. This was a great event in the life of a Jewish boy. They travelled with many other pilgrims from Nazareth to the Holy City, the women and old men on camels and other animals, while the young men and boys walked. When Jesus saw for the first time the Temple at Jerusalem He must have looked upon it with joy and wonder. And the service was so attractive that He wanted to linger there and enjoy more of it. He had learned much in His home and from the village Rabbis at Nazareth, but the most learned men were at Jerusalem, where they had a school in the Temple. Jesus went there to learn, not to teach, as some have thought. As He quietly seated Himself the teachers must have asked themselves, "Who is this stranger-boy?" "Why is He alone?" His modesty and reverence, His bright face, close attention and earnest look pleased them. When He began to ask, as well as answer, questions they were "astonished at His understanding." When the company started on the homeward journey they did not notice that their boy had remained behind. They thought that He was in the caravan with the other boys. Soon He was missed, and they returned to Jerusalem and found Him still in the school-room of the Temple. In answer to the question of his mother He said, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" He meant that God had called Him to work for Him. Noble boy! A right example for every boy and girl of similar age.

Illustrate by some such simple blackboard outline as the following that youth is the best time to begin to follow and serve God. Why? Because youth is the "beginning of character," then it is "easy to choose," "service is a joy," and "time soon passes by" and life is gone.

Youth is the

Beginning of character.

Easy to choose.

Service is a joy.

Time soon passes by.

Time to serve God.

MAY 28TH.—MISSIONARY MEETING. A Study in Biography. Scripture Lesson, Isa. 54: 3, 4.

Put on your meekness caps, Juniors, and see if you can tell who he was, as we learn about his life and labors.

He was one of the very first missionaries to India, and if you trace the story of his life you will see that the determination which characterized him as a boy who said, "I will begin with I feel that I must go through with it at any cost," remained with him.

By pre-arrangement with picked Juniors, have them tell—

(1) Story of the lad's successful climbing of the great chestnut tree; struggles as a shoemaker's apprentice;

(2) Persistent endeavors to interest the people in Missions. Have memorized his striking missionary motto, "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God." Speak of that wonderful sermon.

No, he didn't give up "attempting," but just kept on hoping and praying for the commencement of his foreign missionary work, while some of the people of England sneered at him and his friends, and spoke of them as "consecrated cobblers"—these men who wanted to give their all!

All at once the way opened up for our hero and his friend, Mr. Thomas, a surgeon, to set out for India, and again difficulties loomed up; the unwillingness at first of the wife of the former to accompany the party, and the refusal of the East India Company to permit passage in their ship of any who claimed to be missionaries.

But it was not this man's way to give up—he felt, too, that God wanted him to go to India. At last passage was secured on a ship which carried the Danish flag, and away they sailed to India, to do their share towards winning that great country to Christ.

Have a Junior tell of the missionary's work in India, his study of the Bengalee language, translation work, employment for a part of the year by the East India Company, and preaching and teaching in conjunction with his friends, Dr. Marshman and Mr. Ward, the printers.

Who was this great missionary to India? Hands up, let's count the Juniors who say, "I know!" He was WILLIAM CARY—B.H.F.

General Thought for June—Meeting

Temptation.

JUNE 4.—AN ANSWER FROM GOD'S WORD.—Matt. 4: 1-10.

"An answer from God's Word is one of the best means of meeting temptation." It takes a hero to win a victory over temptation.

Jesus after His baptism went from Jordan into the wilderness, where He would be alone with His Father, and think and pray about the great work He was beginning. While wild beasts might be about Him there, He was not alarmed by them. "He fasted forty days and forty nights," and became, of course, very hungry. When money needed and worn He was tempted of the devil who tried to make Him sin. (How?) But Jesus resisted, repeating to him words from the Scriptures, with which He had become so familiar, and which He was ever ready to use. Then Satan tried another temptation. (What?) But Jesus said, "It is written again, thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." The devil, hoping still to make Jesus sin, tried a third temptation, asking Jesus to worship him, and promised Him power which was not his to give. Jesus answered, "Get thee behind me, Satan. Do not try Me any more. I will not obey you. 'Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.'" Jesus had conquered Satan. Angels came with food for His body and gave joy and strength to His spirit. "He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep

thee in all thy ways." Every Junior should think of Jesus as the tempted but sinless child; every youth should think of Him as the tempted but sinless youth; every man should think of Him as the tempted but sinless man. Each may feel that Jesus knows how to pity and help, because He himself was tempted. Remember that Jesus learned many Bible verses and they helped Him to resist temptation. All repeat, "Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against Thee."

JUNE 11TH.—REFUSING TO LISTEN.

Matt. 16: 22, 23.

Truth.—"The power of a temptation grows with thinking about it."

The Bible says much of "traps" and "snares." This may be illustrated by a rat or mouse trap. Men into the League and placed upon the table. The trap is baited, and therefore attractive to the creatures and is designed to harm. The danger is concealed and the rat walks in, yields to the temptation, is caught and killed. Satan has many traps. He tempts boys to steal apples, money, and many other things. If the boy yields to his tempting he is snared. The only way is to keep our minds and hearts closed to sin by keeping them open to God. This we will do if we

BELONG TO BELIEVE IN BATTLE FOR THE JESUS.

Show how first comes the thought to do wrong, then the desire, then the doing.

Suggestive thoughts:—

What is the best way to drive out evil thoughts and feelings? Romans 12: 21.

Every time we give in to temptation we grow weaker and less able to resist; and sinning becomes a habit. From the habit's character grows either good or bad.

If we want to overcome, God will help us, but we don't. He cannot make us good. No temptation is so strong that we cannot resist it, but every temptation unresisted leads to sin. Temptations come to all. The great warning is, "Take heed." Be careful! Watch! Pray!

Put on the blackboard these striking sentences, show how each successive step grows, and cause every member to memorize it thoroughly.

"*Now a thought and reap an act. Sow an act and reap a habit. Sow a habit and reap a character. Sow a character and reap a destiny.*"

Promises

While wine drinking was the fashion all about him, Mr. Lincoln never forgot his dead mother's request that he should close his lips to all strong drink. Once, when he was a member of Congress, a friend criticized him for his seeming rudeness in declining to test the rare wines provided by their host, urging as reason for the refusal, "There is certainly no danger of a man of your years and habits becoming addicted to its use."

"I mean no disrespect, John," answered Mr. Lincoln, "but I promised my precious mother only a few days before she died that I would never use, as a beverage, anything intoxicating, and I consider that promise as binding to-day as it was the day I gave it."

"There is a great difference between a child surrounded by a rough class of drinkers and a man of mature refinement," insisted the friend.

"But a promise is a promise forever, John, and when made to a mother is doubly binding," replied Mr. Lincoln.

He had great love for his mother and respect for her memory. He once said: "All that I am, all that I hope to be, I owe to my angel mother."—Selected.