

rose. Then he asked those who chose him before twenty to rise, and not so many rose. There were still fewer to rise as he went on, until, when he asked how many started to follow Jesus after fifty, there were only two or three! This shows that now is the time to choose which kingdom you will be in.

The story. Tell the story, but do not leave a horrible picture in the minds of the children. Rather turn their eyes upon the happy lot of John in going straight from the gloomy prison to the brightness and joy of heaven! Show that it was Herod and Herodias who were in a worse prison than John—a prison of their own making, and one from which they could never escape unless they repented of their sins.

The lesson. What have we on the blackboard? Yes, this is a gate, and we will make a picture in our minds of a garden beyond it. The sun is shining on the garden, or the plants and flowers would never grow and blossom. Heart gardens need the sun to shine on them too—the sun of God's love and truth; and these little gardens need a gate, too, which must be carefully kept, or evil things will come in. [Speak of the "eye gate," the "ear gate," the "hand gate," etc.] We shall have to be watchful and faithful if we keep our heart garden clean for the Master's eye. But we shall have One to help us who has never yet failed. This pretty verse will tell who will be right there to help if we want him:

"Help us to keep the garden gate,
While Thou dost work within;
For there a thousand evils wait
To sow our hearts with sin."



Kindergarten Hints.

KINDERGARTEN DEPARTMENT. More about the seeds. Matt. 13. 24-32.

GOLDEN TEXT. "Other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit." Matt. 13. 8.

"Plant it safe, thou little child,
It will grow while thou art sleeping."

—Miss Mulock.

AIDS TO THE KINDERGARTNER. Holy Bible, Mark 5; *Life of Christ* (Gelkie); *Beauties of Nature* (Lubbock), "What Fruit?"

ATTENTION STORY.

The stories which Jesus told were wonderfully interesting to all who heard them, and we are glad that Matthew wrote so many of them. We like to read them and talk about them. Once Jesus told the people that the kingdom of heaven was within them, and at another time he told them a story, saying that this is like a man who sowed good seed in his field, and weeds came up also. The story is here. We will read it, and then you may tell me about it. [Read Matt. 13. 24-0.] After that Jesus told another story about a tiny seed, which was planted and grew more than a hundred times as large ["a hundredfold"], and became a resting place for birds. Matthew wrote down what he said about it. Let us read what he wrote. [Read Matt. 13. 31, 32].

Explain unusual words: "Parable," "tares," "likened," "reapers," "herbs."

OUTLINE.

Sunday. Teach of the kingdom of God and what fruits appear wherever the kingdom is. Mention the fruits named in Gal. 5. 22, 23, and talk about them.

Monday. The story of the mustard seed shows what great good can be done by something very small. Impress upon the children that there are no trifles. Everything, every little bit of work, is important; it has its place in the great work of the world. Each one of us is part of the great whole.

Tuesday. We all are sowers. We sowed either good seed or weeds. Liken the good seed to what is attractive to our spiritual nature, our higher life.

Wednesday. We all are sowers, and what we do and what we say mean much to other people. What kind of fruit would you like to bear? Some of that which we spake of on Sunday? Then the good seeds must be sown upon good ground.

Thursday. There is more good than naughty in this world, more good people than naughty ones, and more wheat than tares.

Friday. The fruit will be of the same kind as the seed. Jesus said once that men do not gather figs from thistle bushes. Corn never grows from grass, and it was a mustard seed which grew to be a mustard-seed tree.

Once a little boy planted his marbles in the springtime, because he wanted to have peach trees in his garden, but his mother told him that only a peach seed would become a peach tree.