

## FOR TEACHERS IN THE ADULT DEPARTMENT

By Rev. M. B. Davidson, M.A., Gaft, Ont.

Teachers in the Adult Department should study carefully the scholars' materials in the HOME STUDY QUARTERLY or the PATHFINDER.

Introduce the lesson by emphasizing the fact that we are not only beginning a new Quarter's study, but beginning a new chapter in the Christian experience of Peter and John. Up to the present, they have been depending upon the bodily presence of Christ with them; now he has left them in bodily form, and it looks as if they were to be thrown upon their own resources. Is it true, however, that they were thrown upon their own resources? What great promise of help had Jesus given them? In what way was that promise fulfilled? Have some one read the first thirteen verses of our chapter. Say something about the permanent meaning of Pentecost, seeking to show how much we need the endowment of the Holy Spirit for any real Christian service. Define the Holy Spirit as "God working in the spirit of man." Now discuss:

1. *Peter's new task*, v. 14. Call attention to the contrast between this scene and the one at the time when Peter denied that he so much as knew Christ. How are we to account for the change in Peter? What had the resurrection to do with it? What had Jesus' command to "feed my sheep" to do with it? What had the gift of the Holy Spirit to do with it? Show how Peter took

advantage of the questions of the crowd (vs. 12, 13) to preach Christ, and show how opportunities come often to us to do the same thing.

2. *Christ, the centre of Christianity*, vs. 22-24, 32-36. Lay emphasis upon the way in which Peter, after quoting the Old Testament prophecy, turns immediately to the great central fact of Christ. Are we in danger sometimes of forgetting that Christ is the indispensable explanation of Christianity? Call attention to the concise summary which Peter gives of the outstanding features of Jesus' ministry, death, and resurrection. Show how particularly Peter connects these facts with the eternal plans of God, and remind the class of how Jesus was always conscious of doing the Father's work. What place has our work in the purposes of God? Point out the accusation which Peter did not hesitate to bring against his hearers as he ended his sermon.

3. *Beginnings of the Christian Church*, vs. 37-42. What effect did Peter's accusation have upon many in his audience? Emphasize the course which Peter suggested to those who desired to redeem the past. Say something about the necessity of repentance as the first step in the Christian experience. Is it as needful for us as for the Jews long ago?

## FOR TEACHERS IN THE SENIOR DEPARTMENT

By Rev. J. M. Duncan, D.D.

Teachers in the Senior Department should study carefully the scholars' materials in the HOME STUDY QUARTERLY or LEAFLET.

The Topic for the Senior Department is THE PERMANENT MEANING OF PENTECOST, and the discussion may be gathered about the following five points:

I. THE PREACHER, v. 14. Bring out the points of resemblance and of contrast between the Peter of the Acts and the Peter of the Gospels. He is still the leader and spokesman of the Twelve; but his steadfast courage is different from his former rash self-confidence. Bring out the force of "standing up,"—"taking his stand;" it was an important occasion. Refer to the "spoke forth" of the Rev. Ver.—it was a solemn and weighty message that Peter had to deliver.

Have the scholars note the respectful form of address in, "Ye men of Judea."

II. THE MESSAGE, vs. 22-24, 32-36. The following points should be brought out:

1. *What Peter said about Jesus*, v. 22. Question about how God regarded Jesus, how Jesus showed his power, what was the source of this power and the effect of his deeds.

2. *What charge Peter laid against the Jews*, v. 23. How did this charge show the boldness of Peter? What was God's part in the crucifixion of Jesus? Were the Jews blameless? Draw attention to the wide application of the promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit made by Peter in v. 29.