

# The Junior Epworth Era

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## About Your Parents

Did you ever wonder why the Fifth Commandment is just where it is in the Law? Four Commandments relating to God and our duty to Him. Then right afterwards, and in the very centre and heart of the ten, comes the one about our parents. Why? Because after God, our parents are the most important beings in the whole world. There is only One who has a higher claim on us than they have. How sacred they should be to us, and how great is our duty to "honor" them! After our debt of gratitude to our Heavenly Father, there is none so large as that which is due from us to our earthly parents. Think of what you owe to them. When you were a weak, helpless little baby you would have died if it had not been for a loving mother's care. She fed and clothed you, nursed you in sickness, watched your feeble little steps as you learned to walk, guided you from straying, guarded you from every danger, and what you are now is largely because of what she was to you then. Can you be thoughtless or unkind to such a mother? And as she watched and worked indoors, your father was busy out of doors. He was not working hard every day for himself. He thought more of yours than of his own wants, and through many a weary day of toil he labored hard to provide the comforts of home and plenty for you. So father and mother, indoors and out, by day and by night, planning, working, saving, have always lived for you. Their hopes and prayers have been long cherished that their children may prosper and profit. Many of you have such parents. What are you doing for them in return? As soon as sons and daughters are able, it is their

duty to help at home. Your mother can no doubt do most things better than you, her daughter, can. But she will be glad to have you help, and it is not in what they actually do, but by showing their willingness, that girls may greatly help mother. Many a mother is wearied more because of her daughter's carelessness than by the work itself. A girl that can prevent mother from worry, by showing herself a willing helper to mother, is a jewel in the home. And so with father and the boys. A willing boy who sees things to be done, and does them even if he is not told to do them, is a joy to his father's heart. Neither father or mother likes to be continually giving orders, and if boys and girls were more wide-awake to see, and more active to do, the little daily duties of home, there would be much more happiness in life. Now, the secret of all this willingness to help is I-O-V-E. Just as we love one another at home, will life be happy. A loveless home! How dreary the picture is. How sad the whole history of the family. Do you love your parents? I know you will answer "Yes!" Then let them see that you do. You may tell them as much by what you do, as by saying it. Because they are your parents as well as for what they have given to you of their time, thought, attention, care, provision, money, love and prayer—love and honor them, and you will always be glad of it; and perhaps when they are dead and you have grown old, you will be happy in the thought that you always tried to keep truly and well the Fifth Commandment. And if you do this, God will fulfil the promise that goes with it.

## New Testament Studies

### IV.

37. What period of time is covered by St. Matthew's Gospel? About 33 years,—from our Saviour's birth to His ascension.
38. What period is covered by St. Mark's? Less than four years,—from the beginning of the preaching of John the Baptist to our Lord's Ascension.
39. What time is covered by St. Luke's Gospel? About 34 years,—from the birth of John the Baptist to our Saviour's Ascension.
40. What period of time does St. John's Gospel cover? Only about three years,—from the later preaching of John the Baptist to the appearances of our Lord after His resurrection.
41. Give in order the Gospels according to the length of time covered by each one. John, 3 years; Mark, 4 years; Matthew, 33 years; Luke, 34 years. (N.B.—J., 3; Mk., 4; Matt. 33; L., 34.—3, 4, 33, 34.)
42. When was St. Matthew's Gospel written? About A.D. 65.
43. When was St. Mark's Gospel written? About A.D. 65.
44. When was St. Luke's Gospel written? About A.D. 62.
45. When was St. John's Gospel written? About A.D. 95.
46. What part of our Lord's ministry

does St. Matthew make very prominent? His discourses.

47. Name some of these. The sermon on the Mount, (chaps. 5, 6, 7); Christ's charge to His Apostles, (chap. 10); the parables of the kingdom, (chap. 13), and the prophetic discourses, (chaps. 23, 24, 25).

48. How many parables are recorded by St. Matthew? Seventeen.

49. How many of these are not found elsewhere? Eleven.

50. What phrase is peculiar to St. Matthew's Gospel? "That it might be fulfilled!" This occurs 13 times.

(Note.—Our aim is to make this New Testament Catechism so simple that the Juniors may understand it, and at the same time sufficiently comprehensive to give them an intelligent and working knowledge of the Book. The League Superintendent will do well to take only three or four questions each week, teach them clearly, review often, encourage the Juniors to write their knowledge in the form of brief essays in their own words, and it may be wise, say once a month, to give a written examination on the questions covered. In the past four months we have had in all 50 questions. We should be delighted to receive essays covering these four months' studies from any of our Juniors, and may print the best of them. To write what one knows on any subject is a splendid exercise in itself, and is the best way to make sure of not forgetting it.)

## Weekly Topics

March 24.—"The Traveller's Psalm." (God our Keeper.) Ps. 121.

The prominent words in v. i. are "Hills" and "Help." The first stands high and strong before the eyes of the psalmist, and represent to him the everlasting strength of Jehovah. All that the hills are to the city encompassed by them, God is to His trusting children. These hills surround the city as a defence. On them is a glorious vision of daybreak, in their shelter is protection from the storm, on their sloping and verdant slopes is abundant pasturage. Many lessons may be associated with the two roads each with the same initial letter "H." A suggestive study and Board Review may be summarized thus:

Help, High. Ps. 104 18; Isa. 2. 14.  
Invest. Ps. 125. 1, 2.  
Light, Life. Joel 2. 2; Ezek. 34. 13, 14.  
Lasting, Hab. 3. 6.  
Strength, Safety. Ps. 36. 6; 65. 6; 95. 4; Isa. 65. 25.

God, the Most High, as the everlasting hills, compasses His children, giving them light and life, safety and strength, to preserve and keep them His forever.

March 31.—"The Missionary Trip Around the World." Across the Pacific to Japan, visiting our Missionaries at their Stations.  
(Canadian Hymnal used).  
(Use a Map of Japan).

Hymn 217.

Prayer.—For our Japan Missionary and especially for the orphans. (See article in this number of the Era and in March Outlook).

Repeat together Psalm 115. (Ask how many learned it themselves and how many were taught it).

Reading by a Guide "Across the Pacific to Japan." (See below).

Visiting the Mission Stations—Use a map of Japan and as the News Agents read or tell about each station, the guides will point out the places on the map. Ask all the children to look at the pictures of the missionary on their ticket as each station is named.

Hymn 273.

Some Interesting Stories by the News Agents. Use the Post Cards and also Hymns in this number of the Era.

Hymn 447.

Give out the tickets for the next meeting.

For Discussion—How much can we give to our orphans in Japan?  
Mizpath Benediction.

## THE LITERATURE FOR THE TRIP MEETING ON JAPAN.

Leaflet, "Across the Pacific to Japan." Japan for Juniors, 20c; Set of Japan Post Cards (11), 15c; The Story of a Pot of Rice, free; Japan in 1906, free; Atlas of the World, 10c, and The Era, The Missionary Outlook for March will furnish stories of the work.

The post cards show many phases of Japanese life and customs and furnish information arranged for children on the following subjects: "Idol Worship,"