

it are life and blessing. How we should pity those who do not know. With every possible means in our power we should help to spread the knowledge of our Heavenly Father's will throughout the world, that every idol may be destroyed.

March 5.—A lesson in prayer. Ex. 33. 12-17.

#### HOME READINGS.

Mon., Feb. 27.—God will answer prayer. Ps. 30. 14, 15.  
 Tues. Feb. 28.—A prayer of confession.  
 Wed., March 1.—A prayer for Jerusalem. Dan. 9. 16-19.  
 Thur., Mar. 2.—A prayer answered. Dan. 9. 20-23.  
 Fri., March 3.—A prayer of repentance. Ps. 51. 1-10.  
 Sat., March 4.—Talking with God. Ex. 33. 7-11.  
 Sun., March 5.—Topic. A lesson in prayer. Lesson as above.

In addition to the lessons derived from a direct study of this beautiful intercession on the part of Moses, let our Juniors be asked to prepare during the week preceding the meeting, Scripture texts which teach us what we ought to do if our prayers are to be answered. This will become a Bible reading on prayer. Ask each to find a text appropriate to the subject, write it out on a slip of paper, bring it to the meeting, and put it on the table or desk on entering. Let the Superintendent arrange the texts as desired, and give them out again to be read by number when asked for. In this way you have an orderly arrangement. Such texts as the following are suggested:

What we must do in order that our prayers may be answered:

We must ask in the name of Jesus, John 14. 13, 14.

We must be abiding in him and his word in us. John 15. 7.

We must be keeping his commandments. 1. John 3. 22.

We must give thanks as well as pray. Phil. 4. 6.

We must watch for answer. Col. 4. 2.

We must have no hard feelings towards any one. Mark 11. 25.

We must not ask for fleshly desires. James 4. 3.

We must not doubt. God will keep his word. Mark 11. 24; 1. John 5. 14, 15.

We must be sincere. Ps. 145. 18.

We must be humble. 2. Chron. 7. 14.

We must unite with one another. Matt. 18. 19.

Many other similar texts will probably be given. By wisely sifting them out and arranging them, and then by putting the main thoughts on the board, a very effective topic study will result.

If you have not yet secured enough topic cards for your League, do so at once. Get them from the Book Room. Do not depend on The Era to know where or what the topic is from week to week. Every member of your League should be supplied with the year's list. These are inexpensive and no League can do fitness work without them.

Have you had an open meeting in your League lately? If so, tell us what you did and how you did it. The Era wants some new programmes for such meetings. Have you a suggestion? Send it. Do not forget to have a parents' meeting occasionally. Send special invitations to them. They will come. Keep close touch with the homes of your members through such gatherings. Give a social (free) if necessary. Make the Juniors feel that the Church is as much theirs as their parents, and make the parents feel that the Junior League is their ally in all good things for their children.

### The Value of Child Life

A true conception of the value of child life is essential to successful work in either Sunday-school or Epworth League. We cannot place too high an estimate on it; but if we esteem it at too low a worth our work among the children will be perfunctory and fruitless. The trend of thought when Jesus came to earth was away from childhood. He turned the thoughts of mankind back to the little child. He glorified childhood by becoming himself a child. In his relations to his disciples, as their Teacher he used "a little child" as an object lesson in true heavenliness. He taught that for the child's own sake he should be received with glad and hearty welcome. And his command, "Feed my lambs," is based upon this idea that the child for his own intrinsic value was worth looking after with tenderest care and wisest solitude. "Only a boy," "but a child," are phrases old as man, and behind them much of indifference as to the child's training and future are to be hidden. "Mostly adults" we sometimes read of the persons received into church membership, as if the children were at best of but little worth. The thought is wrong and contrary to the idea of the Master. Value your little children for their own sakes now, not merely for what they may possibly become in after years. Judged by this latter standard they are indeed of priceless worth; but the best can be made of them only when the teacher or teacher or parent puts upon them the high present value of the Lord who said, "Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Anticipatively, we delight to picture to ourselves a bright and happy future for our boys and girls; but too often we forget that the future is in the present in infancy, and that if we fall now, we have probably ruined it altogether. "What manner of child shall this be?" may largely be answered by the influences under which the child grows up to adult years. The process of growth is all that pertains to true manliness may be retarded or helped in the training the child receives while it is a child, and while it is growing out of childhood into youth. You may make or mar your child's future as you associate with him to-day. For what he is going to be for good or ill, then, place a high value on him now. Prospectively every boy is the beginning of a man, every girl the beginning of a woman, and twenty years from now the man or woman will be glad or sorry as each looks back on the past and remembers your influence and work with them. There is still another reason why we should value the child life very highly. It is because of the helpful influence the child thus rightly valued has on ourselves now. Kindly and tactful sympathy with the children is the best way to live the "simple life" to which we are exhorted. Simplicity is not silliness. Childlikeness is not childishness. Naturalness, not artificialness, is the great need of society today. The church that ignores the children, the preacher that overlooks them, the teacher that forgets them, the parent that neglects them, will all soon lose thereby. Keep in touch with the little ones if you would keep in vital sympathy with Christ. We can think how his kindly smile won them to his side, how his loving hands gently rested on their heads in benediction, and how his simple teaching imparted to them sublimest wisdom. The pulpit that does not preach to children or that does not preach so that the children can understand the message is failing in its mission. Too many of our Sunday congregations lack the juvenile element. And because they keep our hearts young we must value them highly and associate with them much. The conventional of modern life are very formal, the claims

of business are very disturbing. We grow old in desire and aspiration very quickly. Keep young, and do it by close association with the little children.

### Roland's Present

"What is the matter, dear?" asked mamma, when she went into her room and found a very dismal-looking little boy standing by the window.

"Nuffin' much, mamma," answered little Roland. But brave as he tried to be, mamma knew that he was almost crying, and, taking him on her lap, she questioned him tenderly.

"The boys don't want me to play with them," he said at last; "they say I'm too small, and they are whittling splendid things, and I wanted to whittle, too, and they said they couldn't have me wasting their wood, and I couldn't get the littlest piece, nor any knife nor nuffin," he sobbed.

"Don't cry, dear; mamma has some nice wood, and you can sit right in here and whittle. Let's spread a paper down, and you and I will have a fine time making things; let's make a boat."

Roland soon forgot his grief, and with mamma's help, he made a nice little boat, that floated very well on a basin of water. "I am sorry, boys," said mamma, later, "that you are not nicer to your little brother. I hope if Roland ever has any wood he will be more generous with it." The bigger boys, Fred and Charlie, hung down their heads and looked ashamed.

For their Christmas present Fred and Charlie had a nice Sloyd work-bench. Little Roland had a Sloyd knife, too; but what do you think he had for his biggest present?

Why, he had a whole bundle of shingles! Just think of it! Two bundles and fifty shingles all his very own! Now he has plenty of wood, and does not have to ask any of the big boys for any; instead, they often beg wood of him. I am glad to say Roland is very good, and gives them all they want.

Such nice things they have playing together now, all cutting and whittling boats and many other things.

"I think I had just the nicest kind of present," said Roland, one day. "I wonder who tells Santa Claus just what little boys want. I think the mamma and papas must have something to do about it, don't you think so, mamma?"

"Yes, indeed," said mamma. "I really think they do."—Junior Herald.

"The junior superintendent needs to be very near to Christ. He must often be a sacrifice of time, much self-denial, and great discouragement. On the other hand, the child's heart is an open door to the home. The gratitude of the parents, and often their conversion is one of the teacher's rewards. More than that, the great joy of reckoning, no sweeter smile will light our Master's face than when he shall say to some faithful soul, 'You fed my lambs.'"

"Junior superintendents should not become discouraged if their small charges fail to give attention. The fault may not be in the children, but in the methods used. Perhaps the teacher is 'in the ruts' and cannot work out. Perhaps he has not a real love for children. If he has not such a love, it will be quickly discerned by the watchful eyes which are constantly upon him during the lesson time. Perhaps the superintendent is so burdened with 'cant's' that he has forgotten the way of faith. When we become discouraged, let us remember the great watchword, 'Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord.'"