

wheat and the tares, and the subsequent explanation by the Saviour Himself.

#### VI. SUGGESTIVE STEPS IN TEACHING THE LESSON.

Note.—The lesson is one that must be clearly understood by the teacher. We must first fix in mind the significance and meaning of the terms used in the construction of the parable.

Field.—World.

Good Seed.—Children of the Kingdom.

Tares.—Children of the wicked one.

Sower of the good seed.—The Son of Man.

Sower of the bad.—The Devil.

Harvest.—The end of the age.

Reapers.—Angels.

There is much discussion as to the true interpretation of the parable, but for the purposes of Primary teachers, we need not enter into it.

A beautiful lesson can be taught from the central thought. Keep in mind the influence of the christian's life upon others. This is the teaching of the parable. We are the good seed, the children of the kingdom, and the Saviour sends us out into the world to bear fruit for Him.

1. Boys and girls I want to tell you four stories.

#### Story No. 1.

Once upon a time, the fable says, there was a girl who, as she went about through the town in which she lived, used to scatter flowers along the way. Each one of them would take root, and form a border to the path she trod.

All the people could tell wherever she went, for beautiful flowers, spreading fragrance in the air, were to be found all along the way.

#### Story No. 2.

Tell the story of the parable. Write on board "there are two kinds of sowers." Who are they? There are two kinds of seed. What kinds are they? As this is told draw on the blackboard a picture of the field. This can be done by a stroke or two, of the flat side of the green chalk.

Then using two colors of chalk, show the wheat coming up, and then afterwards the tares. By using the board, and then colored chalk, the story may be made very graphic, and the attention of the children easily held.

#### Story No. 3.

Tell a story of the influence of one child upon another. Something that has come under your own observation. The thought is illustrated, by the miller coming out of the mill, all covered with white flour. As he goes through the crowd, he leaves his mark upon every one he touches.

#### Story No. 4.

Tell of the life of Jesus, whose life was perfect, and beautiful. How He lived for others, and made their lives happier and holier.

He would have us like Himself, and send us out into the world like good seed, to make the world better.

2. Now with these illustrations before the class, use them again and again, to teach the lesson of the parable.

Make four seeds out of pieces of paper. Cut them out the shape of a heart, but have them rolled up into the shape of a ball like a seed, before the children see them. Say, "here is a boy, here is a girl. Each is a seed. Some are the children of Jesus, and some are the children of the devil. Which are we? Good seed or bad? How can we tell? Let us plant them." Pin them to the board, as suggested in the cut. Let us watch them grow. Now draw a shoot, and then a flower, or fruit, and call it *love*. Another and call it *hate*. Now we see that the fruit is like the seed. If it is good seed, wheat, the fruit will be good, but if it is bad, the fruit will be bad. Unfold the paper until it shows the heart, and show that out of the heart the actions come.

3. Close with the thought, that we must allow Jesus to make our hearts right, so that we will bear good fruit, and make the world better and not worse because we live in it.