

stand. There would be more practical, simple, and brief prayers in the prayer-meeting if they were so at family worship.

3. Give the children something to do. Stopping over night in Maine, at a brother clergyman's home, the morning brought me an ideal picture of family worship. There were seven or eight children. Every child that could read at all had a Bible. To one was the regular duty of distributing the Bibles, and to another the hymn books. All took part in reading. Then came the hymn. Then followed the prayers, concluding with the Lord's prayer, in which all joined. The variety, the brevity, the simplicity filled each child with hearty interest delightful to witness. There is no diviner sight on earth than a large Christian family at home worship.

Give each child something to do. As soon as each has learned to spell out a few words, let him have a Bible, and with your assistance stumble through a verse. Family worship of this sort tends to proficiency in reading, and especially in reading aloud. It is sad to hear some young men try to read the Bible aloud. They have gone into business, and yet cannot read decently. It could not possibly have been so had all the children read at family worship.

If possible, have singing. In any case close with the Lord's Prayer. The children will listen more intently to the parents' prayer to know when to join in the closing part. With many business men the morning devotions take place at the breakfast-table. Each child comes to the table with a verse to repeat. All being seated, each repeats his or her verse, then all heads are bowed, while the father offers a brief prayer, concluding with the Lord's Prayer. No family is too busy for at least this, and it ministers to the memory, storing the mind with Scripture. The more formal worship may be held in the evening.

The Sabbath worship should be most precious. Beside all else, it is in my own home the time of a tiny prayer-meeting. Every member offers a short petition, down to the little fellow who says, "Dear Jesus, help me to be a good boy to-day."

Why will any Christian father let the day go by without establishing this blessed service even if he has to get his wife to read, and nothing more follows but the united repeating of the prayer? And if the father is gone, mother, begin to teach

that oldest boy his place. The son of a widow in my congregation was converted a year ago. Although only fourteen, the next day his mother put the Bible in his hand, and he has since been the priest of the household. And when we hear his prayers in prayer-meeting, we know why they are so acceptable and Scriptural. God fill this whole land with family altars! —*American Magazine.*

### RULES FOR TEACHERS.

There are four duties which ought to be counted binding on every Sunday-school teacher.

1. The teacher should hold it as a solemn obligation to be punctual every Sunday. He should never be absent unless God evidently detains him.

2. When unavoidably absent, he should always provide a substitute. The occasions when he is utterly unable to do this will be too rare to be counted.

3. He should in some way so acquaint himself with the lives of his scholars on week days as to know the reasons for their occasional or protracted absence on Sundays.

4. He should cultivate a personal friendship with each one, and in his own way make each feel a growing relationship to himself. There are many things, besides, that a good teacher will do, but these four, it seems to me, the superintendent may justly expect of him. —*Sel.*

### THE CROSS OF SELF DENIAL.

A European was once taken prisoner in a Mahomedan land. During his captivity he amused himself by sketching. His enemies saw his handiwork. As they gazed at his skillful and curious productions, it struck them that they might turn his talent to profitable account. He was promised his liberty, on condition that he would design a new mosque. He agreed to the proposal. An elegant and substantial building was planned. At first it pleased them, and the hour of his emancipation seemed near. Some keen eye, however, made a discovery. It was found that the mosque was drawn in the shape of a cross. Disappointed and angry, they put the architect to death. Thus do some reject the Gospel. They are well pleased with the plan of salvation, until they discern in it the cross of self denial.