

thing, here was a promise to cover it all—a bank on which they might draw: "Whosoever ye shall ask in my name, I will do it."

Here are some of the grounds of comfort which our Lord gave his disciples—not all, for we have gone through but a few verses. But what has it all to do with a class of boys and girls now? They are not losing Christ from their midst. They are not situated like the disciples.

No. But they will have to face other partings, other sorrows. And Jesus meant his words of comfort for all his people, through all the time (just as his prayer was for all). Chap. 17. 20. To those who are truly his, we may say: Whoever leaves you, Jesus still loves and cares. Whatever happens, there is a home above for you. Wherever you are, he will come and fetch you. However unlearned, your home shall not be strange. However weak and needy, you have a sufficient supply promised. And to those who are troubled because they are not his disciples, he still says, "Let not your heart be troubled: BELIEVE IN ME."

Herean Methods.

Hints for the Teachers' Meeting and the Class.

Show what were some of the troubles in which Christ undertook in this lesson to comfort his disciples.... What are some of the troubles in which we need comfort.... The comforts which Christ offered to his disciples. 1. **A Comforting Faith.** v. 1. In trouble there is nothing like having some one in whom we can trust. So Christ says, "Believe in me." 2. **A Comforting Place.** v. 2. The wanderer looks on home as a place of rest. 3. **A Comforting Hope.** v. 3. That is, the hope of meeting Christ, and being with him. 4. **A Comforting Way.** v. 4-6. How many comforts we find in the way which Christ reveals to us! 5. **A Comforting Father.** v. 7-11. When we know Christ we know God as our Father. 6. **A Comforting Work.** v. 12. There is joy in the consciousness of power to do Christ's work in the world. 7. **A Comforting Privilege.** v. 13, 14. Though Christ may be absent, yet we have the privilege of prayer in his name.... Another line of thought is that in the Analytical and Biblical Outline, where the heads form an acrostic, which may be written on the board. 1. Comfort; 2. Heavenly mansions; 3. Returning Jesus; 4. Intimate companionship; 5. Showing the way; 6. The Father seen.... Still another plan of treatment may be found in the Thoughts for Young People, "Benefits from Christ's Departure."

References. FREEMAN. Ver. 6: "Truth," the seal of God, 797.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

44. What is meant by saying that God is gracious and merciful?

That he is full of compassion, slow to punish sin, and ready to forgive.

The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.—Exodus xxxiv. 6.

For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.—Psaln lxxxvi. 5.

God is love.—1 John iv. 8.

Primary and Intermediate.

LESSON THOUGHT. *The Way to the Kingdom.* To be taught: 1.) How to be happy. 2.) How to find the way home. 3.) How to get help from God.

1. Tell that the disciples were troubled when Jesus told them at the supper-table that he was going away from them. Call for Golden Text. Jesus does not want his disciples now to have troubled hearts. We shall have trouble because there is sin in the world. We shall have troubled heads, because there are so many things we cannot understand. Perhaps our bodies will be troubled with pain and disease. But our hearts never need be troubled, for Jesus says, "Let not," etc. There is but one way to keep from having troubled hearts sometimes, and that is just to believe in God our Father, in Jesus, his dear Son our Saviour, and to rest in the simple faith that wise, strong, kind hands have held. Tell story of a child who walked over a rough road in the night holding her father's hand, who said she was not afraid because she had hold of father's hand! How much stronger and kinder is our heavenly Father than any earthly father!



2. Where was Jesus going? Yes, to heaven. He had work to do there. He was going to prepare a place for them, so that some day they could be with him there. He said he would come back for them when he was ready. Illustrate by a father leaving his little family in the east and going

west to make a home for them. How they would think about him, talk about him, and wonder what the new home was like. And how they would watch for his coming! Thomas was afraid he could not find the way. Give the answer of Jesus in verse 6. Suppose when the father came from the west to take his family to the new home one had said, "But, father, how can we find the way?" He would have said, "Come with me, my child, I am the way, I will lead you." The way to our home in heaven is just to follow Jesus.

3. How can we follow him? It is true that we cannot see Jesus with these earthly eyes, and so we may lose the way. But Jesus told his disciples that night at the supper-table how they might always learn what they wanted to know, and where they might always get help. Read verse 14, and teach that prayer is simply asking for what we need. If we need teaching, ask for it. Jesus will give the Holy Spirit to teach us. If we need faith, love, patience, whatever it may be, ask for it.

"Satan trembles when he sees
The weakest child upon his knees."

Lesson Word-Pictures.

Still at the supper-table, all save Judas, and you can count them one by one, reclining on the couches. In what tender tones Jesus speaks to them, their faces darkened by some strange fear aroused by that mysterious going away of the Master! What a supper this has been, Judas marked as the traitor, Peter announced as one who would deny Jesus, and this the last supper before the strange going away! He tries to comfort them. With what hope shines the Saviour's lifted face as he draws back the veil from the Father's house, whose windows are the stars, whose tenants they shall be, and whither he goes to prepare a place for them! Goes? Look at Thomas's face. A ques-