



## Junior Department.

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### Weekly Topics.

MAY 19TH.—"A nameless girl heroine." 2 Kings, 5: 1-4. (A union meeting with the older Society.)

Naaman is the type of popular hero. He was a successful soldier. Under his leadership the armies of Syria had been victorious. The world has always loved such a military idol. The idea of a hero has generally been associated with martial renown. Caesar, Alexander, Wellington, Napoleon, Blucher, Garibaldi, Grant, and others of past generations; Buller, Kitchener, Roberts, Dewey and others still living, have been almost idolized at times, because of their heroic leadership on the field of battle. Indeed, the popular conception of a hero has been that of one noted for extraordinary and conspicuous bravery on the battlefield. This is at best only a partially correct idea. Heroes may be found in many places and in almost every walk of life to-day. You may be one, and you will be to do the right every time you will be one. Our study this week is about a little heroine. Not Naaman, the great man and brave soldier, but the young captive maid, whose name we do not know, is to be our example of heroism to-day. Of this little girl we are told the following things: (1) She was young; (2) she was a servant; (3) she was in a strange land; (4) she knew and believed in God; (5) she had heard of Elisha's great deeds of mercy; (6) though a captive, she sympathized with Naaman, because he was a leper; (7) she recommended Elisha to the great Syrian, and expressed full confidence in the prophet's power to heal the leper.

"Well!" you say, "where did the heroism come in?" If you consider well the following points, you will see that she was a brave girl.

(1) She was a girl. Girls generally are thought to be weak, nervous things. This is a mistake. Boys have no monopoly of bravery.

(2) She was a "little" girl. "Children should be seen and not heard" is not always a safe axiom. Little ones have a place and a duty in life. "A little child shall lead them."

(3) Her youth would be considered sufficient evidence of her inexperience. But she knew something, and what she knew she could recommend. There are some great things that even little girls may know. They may be sure of God's love and power, and speak plainly and definitely of the Saviour's grace and mercy.

(4) It took courage to speak up and tell even Naaman's wife, "her mistress," what she knew. We all have felt our weakness, even when we have wanted to speak for God. She was not "bold," as we usually speak of "a bold girl," but she was brave in overcoming her timidity, and in daring the possible anger of her mistress in thus recommending such unlikely treatment as Elisha would give.

(5) It seems very likely that she kept on telling until the message reached her master and he went to Elisha. It costs us the very highest courage to persevere in doing a good and kind thing to any person; but to act thus to one we may have reason to call an enemy is the sublimest kind of heroism. This young girl did so. She had no reason to love those who had stolen her away from home and friends, and yet she acted in a truly Christian spirit in returning good for evil.

So we, Juniors or Seniors, may imitate her bravery and act heroically in the battles of life.

(In preparation for this meeting, the Superintendent might well solicit aid from the Juniors in illustrating the heroic spirit among the young. Ask them a week ahead to look up an account of some brave act by a girl, and to bring it to read at the meeting. From the items so brought, select the best and read, thus enforcing the thought that such acts are being still performed.)

MAY 20TH.—Missions: lessons from heroic lives. (The committee will take different missionaries and describe their lives.) 2 Cor. 11: 23-28.

Our last week's topic was about a heroine. Have you read the story of the young Chinese boy hero, as given in the last number of our paper? If not, have it read to-day. As the Juniors hear of his brave and courageous journey, they will surely learn that everywhere Christ's love prompts His children to deny themselves for others. Such present-day heroism is abundant evidence that the spirit of the martyrs is still alive and operative in the Church of Christ everywhere. The Superintendent is also recommended to issue a missionary, and, either by short papers or an address, give the outline facts and impress the main lessons of his life. Material is abundant. Few better subjects can be found than "The Apostle of the North," Rev. James Evans, and the book bearing the above title (one of the present Epworth League Reading Course, by Egerston K. Young) will afford splendid matter to interest and inform the Juniors of work among the Indians in our own country by one of our own brave missionary heroes.

JUNE 2ND.—Jesus in our meetings. John 20: 19; Matt. 18: 19, 20.

Do our Junior League meetings belong to us or to Jesus? They are His first, and ours in order to improve for His glory and to use in His name. Every meeting we hold should be considered and treated as one in which He is expected to be present to bless. We should therefore ask ourselves if we are ready in going to meeting to enjoy His presence and benediction while there. His promise is, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst." It is very important, then, that we ask why we go to our meetings, why they are held, and what the aim is in conducting them in a certain order. If we are to have Jesus in our meetings, we must—

1. Come in the proper spirit. He can bless only those who want to meet Him. The proper spirit is (a) Devotional, i.e., we must come to worship. (b) Praise: He deserves our thanks for all His gifts from day to day. (c) Prayer: Every one of our meetings should have our petitions prominent. (d) Order: Every item of the programme for the day should be well arranged, so that every member in the meeting should be reverent and attentive. (e) Union: All should want the Lord's presence, and all should so love one another and help one another that the Saviour shall see them "with one accord in one place." (f) Study: Our meetings from week to week are for the improvement of us and our members, and we must come to "learn of me," as the Lord said. (g) Obedience: To do what we learn is the great duty. If we are anxious not only to have a good time in meetings, but to do work for Jesus between meetings, He will love to meet with us and teach us. So we will then—

2. Go in the proper spirit to live that when we come together again we will have good grounds to expect Jesus to be there.

Hence, coming to the meetings and going from them, we will have Jesus with us to bless us both in learning and doing His holy will.

(Catechize your Juniors on this question: "What keeps Jesus out of our meetings?" and so seek to show that if He is not there

every day the fault is ours, not His, for His word of promise cannot fail.)

JUNE 9TH.—"Lessons from Bible kings."

History teaches by examples. Kings, because of the prominence of their station, are more than merely good or bad men. They lead the nation after them. Many of the kings named in the Bible were both good men and wise rulers, others were both bad in character and in influence. Some remembered that the Great King over all is God, and thought of everything to God's glory, the latter though only of their own place and power. The kings that honored and served the great King of Kings were wise, strong, and prosperous; those who dishonored or forgot God were soon overcome by their enemies or destroyed by their sins. Among the first class were David, Herodiah, Josiah and Jehoshaphat; of the bad kings Ahab, Manasseh, Nebuchadnezzar and Herod are well known. Many methods may be employed to interpret and enforce the important lessons of some of these Bible kings; but such questions as the following (given out the week ahead, for careful study at home, and to be answered by the Juniors holding them, in the meeting) may interest the greater number.

What king showed a very jealous disposition, and how?

What king was once a shepherd boy, and how did he become very great?

What king showed a very covetous spirit, and in what way was he punished for it?

What king commenced his reign with a prayer to God for wisdom and help?

What king's life ended in a very dreadful and painful way?

What king suffered greatly because of his great pride, and how?

What king commenced to serve God when very young, and how did he prosper?

What king's life was spared in answer to prayer?

By what king were God's people carried into captivity?

What king consented to their return from captivity to their own land?

Why in your judgment was the greatest king mentioned in the Bible? Give reasons for your answer.

Name five of the leading characteristics of King Solomon, and prove your answers from scripture.

(By such questions, adapted to the varying abilities of your members, you may teach many important lessons in an entertaining manner, and so utilize many in the week's programme.)

JUNE 16TH.—"The law of kindness." Jas. 2: 8; Prov. 12: 10.

Many people who are unkind are not naturally cruel; but they are a thoughtless habit. "Put in yourself in his place" is a good piece of advice. Only by doing this can we form an idea of another person's need of us. . . .

It is easy to become unfeeling if we are not thoughtful of others. Unselfish prompts us to observe the Golden Rule. No one has so much love as Jesus; but everyone ought to have the same kind of love of cold water about doing good. "Because His heart was so kind, His hands were full of blessing and He was generous and benevolent to all. To do as He did we need His disposition. Boys and girls often mistake the value of a truly kind word or act. The motive is what gives worth. If we "give a cup of cold water" in the custom of Christ it is more precious than a golden goblet. A single kind word spoken to-day means not only blessing to the person spoken to; but it helps form a very excellent habit in the speaker. "Kind words can never die." Many people have made a habit of cross words, sour looks, and nasty actions, who might as well have grown into a bush of scattering sunshine and happy smiles all around. We should be kind regularly—not just once in while, or to simply