

dejected. "If I only could see the results, and know just precisely what the outcome of my efforts will be," she sighed.

And I, enlightened by my walk in the world of men, made answer: "The Father hath set times and seasons within his own authority."
—D. R. Piper, in *The Continent*

Gladstone a Bible Student

No nobler statesman lived in English life during the nineteenth century than William E. Gladstone. His life was founded on "The Impregnable Rock of Holy Scripture," as the title of his book reads. John Morley says that one constant entry in his diary from twelve to eighteen was, "Read Bible." In his university days at Oxford he constantly read and studied his Greek New Testament. This enriched his vocabulary and filled his mind with illustrations, and did much to shape his very expressions and gave him that classic and powerful English style that was at once the admiration and despair of his colleagues.

More than his style, his character and career were shaped by its teachings. His chief rival, Lord Salisbury, called Gladstone "a great Christian." Mr. Gladstone himself testified as to the worth of his Bible study to his own life: "On most occasions of very sharp pressure or trial, some word of scripture has come home to me as if borne on angels' wings. Many could I recollect. The psalms are the great storehouse."—*The Pilgrim Teacher*

The Ideal Sunday School Superintendent

He selects his teachers with great care.

He works in harmony with the pastor.

He gets inspiration from the fountain head.

He is found at the mid-week prayer meeting.

He provides for a regular teachers' meeting.

He attends the preaching services of the church.

He has a well conducted Normal Class in his School.

He is in close touch with every member of the School.

He quiets the School for opening by being still himself.

He reads the very best literature on Sunday School work.

His influence is felt for good inside and outside of the School.

He greets cordially all visitors and strangers who are present.

He is to be found in the Schoolroom before time to open the School.

His soul is happy when he sees the young people joining the church.

He remembers that the Sunday School is to bring the children to Christ.

He announces the revival meetings and urges the young people to attend.

He lifts up Christ in song and prayer, and talks to the School as the great friend of the children.

He cooperates with the pastor in his revival work, and works hard to have his School a power for good in revivals.

How I Get My Bible Students to Prepare the Lesson

Well, I do not succeed perfectly. Usually 90 per cent. prepare. One Sunday last month only 75 per cent. prepared, but we are improving.

About a year ago we adopted what we call Study Centres. That is, each family represented in the class on every Friday evening, from seven to eight o'clock, gather about the table, read over the Sunday School lesson, and each member writes out five questions on the lesson, then they ask the questions aloud and each one leads in a short prayer. By this means parents can show their children that they are praying for them, and children taught to pray aloud. Particular attention is given to find the spiritual meaning and modern application of God's Word.

We had great help from our pastor, who took the matter up from the pulpit, and asked every family in the church to join us in keeping Study Centre and prayer service for one hour each week.

On Sunday, under the division of business, we ask those who have kept Study Centre to rise. Nearly the entire class now rise on that call.

Then, before we read the lesson, I ask about twenty questions on the lesson, which tests their preparation. On Monday evening, when I start to prepare my lesson, I send cards to five members, giving a character study or a question concerning spiritual truth to answer on the following Sunday.

I give fifty questions on a printed slip at the end of each month. The slip has a four or five-inch margin, in which they write the short answers. Mothers and fathers ask these questions at the next Study Centre and at the monthly reunion of the class they ask the teacher to crack any hard nuts, also all debate is postponed and brought up at the reunions.