

leading in this severe trial. The three temptations should be dealt with separately :

(a) The first, to satisfy selfish physical desire by using special divine power. Discuss wherein lay the temptation. Contrast Jesus' answer with Adam's (Gen. 3 : 6, 12) and with the Israelites' in the wilderness, Ex. 16 : 1-8. Bring out the lesson, that our selfish desires must be subordinated to the will of God.

(b) The second, presumptuously to tempt God in times of religious enthusiasm. Show how Jesus meets this temptation with trust in God in every emergency. Bring out the lesson, trust in God to save us in His own way.

(c) The third, to use wrong means to good ends. Jesus meets this with the truth, that means and ends alike are sacred. Emphasize the lesson, that there is to be no compromise with sin.

In closing enforce the reality of Jesus' temptation, His identification with us, and His sympathetic help, which rescues us when we are tempted.

For Teachers of the Senior Scholars

Begin this Lesson with a reference to the hidden years at Nazareth. For eighteen years after the glimpse of Jesus in the temple, when he was twelve years old, His life is hidden from view, except that we know that He worked as a carpenter (Mark 6 : 3), and that He increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man, Luke 2 : 52. Show how suggestive of the beautiful life these references are ! Let the Lesson Plan be taken as the basis of teaching.

1. *The Baptism of Jesus*, Mark 1 : 9-11. Explain that the time came, when it was necessary for this young Man to go away from home to undertake His life-work. Picture His going away vividly ; it will greatly interest the scholars. Turn this leaving of home to practical account. Explain how critical a time it is and how almost everything depends upon the spirit in which young people go forth.

Turning to the baptism of Jesus, question out the details given in the Lesson, and explain, that, amongst other things, it meant consecration to His life-work. Show that the young person who goes forth in this spirit

is sure to make good. This will be a good time to impress upon the scholars the necessity of an attachment to Christ, and a love for the church of Christ, and a consecration to the service of Christ, before going out into the world to do the work of life.

2. *The Temptation of Jesus*, Matt. 4 : 1-11. Remind the class that temptation almost immediately followed consecration in the life of Jesus. Consecration was a preparation for a world full of temptations. Explain that consecration does not free us from temptations, but it makes us strong to resist and overcome.

Take up the temptations one by one, bringing out their details, and show the character of each (see Exposition) and how it was overcome. Have the class give some of the forms in which these several temptations appeal to us in our day, and learn from Jesus, how to overcome. Draw specific attention to v. 11, and remind the class that if we use Jesus' weapons (and if we use them, we shall prevail), we shall have the sweet ministry of angels, the sweet consciousness of having won in the battle through the power of God in the heart ; and that each victory of this kind "will help us, some other to win".

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

Recall by questioning, the children John and Jesus, how closely joined at the beginning, then growing up separately, and now brought together again. This will include questions on John's ministry and the meaning of his baptism, which was the initiation ceremony into the new kingdom of heaven that he announced was at hand. Jesus is now to be acknowledged as the Messiah who is to bring that new kingdom in.

I. THREE TESTIMONIES TO JESUS, Mark 1 : 9-11. Did Jesus come to be King on His own authority ? Bring out by questioning : (a) *John's testimony* (see Matt. 3 : 14 ; Mark 1 : 7, 8 ; John 1 : 33). (b) *The Holy Spirit's testimony*, v. 10. The Holy Spirit is the third Person in the Trinity (see Matt. 28 : 19). (c) *The Father's testimony*, v. 11. Teach that heaven and earth proclaim that Jesus is the King of love.

II. THREE TEMPTATIONS OF JESUS, Matt.