

life to fulfil for God help us in the matter of spiritual growth? Lay special emphasis upon the suggestions of v. 52. Bring out by questioning the fourfold growth of Jesus,—physical, intellectual, social and spiritual. When our growth is stunted in one of these relations, are the others in danger of suffering too?

2. *A course in ethics*, 2 Peter 1:5-8. To properly understand these verses, it is necessary to study them in relation to what goes just before. It is from God that the strength must come which will enable us to make the progress commended here by the apostle. Be sure to read this passage to the class in the Revised Version. This will make it clear that the Christian life is not a mechanical adding of qualities together, but a continuous

growth. "Virtue is in faith, as the flower is in the seed; the complete fruit is love." Question the class as to the meaning of the different qualities of character which are enumerated here, and show how they all make for the supreme quality of love.

3. *Two requisites for Christian growth*. One of these requisites is communion with God. Remind the class of how needful it is for the plant to be in contact with the sun and air and moisture. Then point out that just so must the soul draw its strength from God. Have some person read Isa. 40:29-31. The other requisite for Christian growth is exercise. Show how children grow by activity. The same thing is true of the Christian. How can we exercise the soul?

FOR TEACHERS IN THE INTERMEDIATE DEPARTMENT

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Teachers in the Intermediate Department should study carefully the scholars' materials in the *INTERMEDIATE QUARTERLY*.

Refer to Emerson's saying that every farm should be a gospel, that all the processes of growth should have a fascination and spiritual uplift for us, should lead us to think about how our own life is developed. A gentleman who last summer for the first time in his life cultivated a garden, says that he had no thought that his backyard could teach him so many good lessons. There is something about vegetable growth beautifully suggestive of what should be ever going on in the realm of humans. Note that the lesson has to do with physical and mental and spiritual growth.

1. *Ideal Growth*, Luke 2:42-52. Question the class about this touching incident in the boyhood of Jesus, bringing out his love for his Father's house, and for his Father's business, and his love for his home. Make clear that these were the dominating influences in the development of his life as he increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man. Note that ideal growth implies a perfect development of body, mind and spirit. Physical culture is a grand thing, but without mental and spiritual culture it leaves one little better than a mere animal. Spiritual culture is a grand thing, but without a sound, strong body the life is seriously handicapped. Teach the class that when life is developed in this

ideal way we come into favor with God and man and realize what a good thing it is to live. Point out that the use of strong drink weakens man physically and mentally and degrades him spiritually. There can be no ideal growth under the influence of alcohol.

2. *Gradual Growth*, 2 Peter 1:5-8. Dwell upon the spiritual graces mentioned in this passage, allowing the emphasis to fall upon temperance or self-control, and show how they grow naturally out of one another; and refer to Professor Drummond's saying that we must not expect a boy's religious life to be so mature as that of his grandmother. Remind the class that there is something the matter with life when there is no growth, and call attention to what the apostle teaches us, that we must give all diligence,—earnest thought and prayerful effort and persistent practice—to this matter if we are to succeed. Remind the class that God is willing to do his part if we will give him a chance, if we will only do our part. If there are weak places in our life, weak sides to our character, let us do our best to build up these.

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FOR DISCUSSION

1. Should young boys and girls come to the