

in the upper room was the spring out of which flowed a mightier river than the Nile or the Mississippi, even the river of the Church of Christ, which has brought fertility and life to all the lands.

**References.** FOSTER'S CYCLOPEDIA OF ILLUSTRATIONS: Ver. 4; Poetical, 2952; Prose, 11231, 12177, Ver. 7; Prose, 2422, Ver. 8; Prose, 2576, 2999, Ver. 9; Prose, 655; Poetical, 150, 3127, Ver. 14; Prose, 4591, 11496. . . FREEMAN'S HAND-BOOK; Ver. 10; White garments, 472; Ver. 12; Sabbath day's journey, 824; Ver. 13; An upper room, 333.

### Primary and Intermediate.

BY M. V. M.

**LESSON THOUGHT.** *The Promise of Preparation.* To be taught; What preparation is; What God wants to prepare us for; What our part is in the preparation.

**INTRODUCTORY.** Recall the resurrection of Jesus, and some of his appearances during the forty days' stay on earth. When he met the disciples, he always spoke of the things of the kingdom of God. Why? Because that is the kingdom which will continue. Question on the ascension, Lesson 12, Dec. 17, and read verse 4 of the lesson for the day.

1. Talk about promises, and show that our joy in a promise depends much upon the character of the one who makes the promise. Read Luke 24. 49. Who is the Father of Jesus? Will he keep a promise? Now talk about preparation. Children have all seen preparations for a picnic, a Christmas festival, a feast, or celebration of some kind. Make it clear that to prepare is to make ready for, and show that the Father's promise is of something, or somebody, rather, to make his children ready for what he has waiting for them.

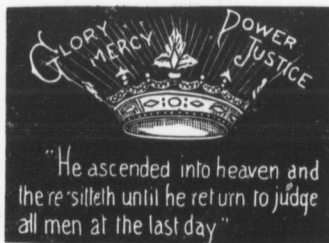
2. Teach that an apostle is one sent out. Illustrate by the work of a newsboy. The newsdealer sends out his boys to sell his papers. That is their work. God has a work for each one of his boys and girls and men and women. He sends them out as soon as they are ready to do their work. But he has to make them ready. Talk about the work that God has for us to do, telling that the book from which these lessons are taken tells what the apostles did after Jesus was taken up to heaven. But first they had to be prepared, and as they did not know what would be given them to do, they had to wait for the Holy Spirit to come and tell them.

3. Teach that this is what we are to do—wait and pray for the Holy Spirit to come and tell us what to do each day. Tell what the disciples did after Jesus went out of

sight. Read the names of those who waited and prayed in the upper room. Print on the board, "a Promise Given." To whom? Show how lack of faith hinders the receiving of a promise, and print below, "To Faith." Tell what the angels said about the return of Jesus some day, and show that this was something to look forward to in hope. Print in a line with the last, "To Hope." Let "To Love" follow this, teaching that only those who love Jesus will want the Spirit which he sends to tell them what to do, and how to do it.

### Blackboard.

BY J. B. PHIPPS, HQ.



**EXPLANATION.** The crown represents the Kingship of our ascended Lord. It should be made with bright yellow crayon touched up with red and green; the rays also of yellow, with letters in red. The Saviour ascended to assume the majesty of his glory and power. He intercedes for all men, and he will "return to judge all men at the last day," therefore the words Mercy and Justice accompany Glory and Power. The sentence at the bottom is from our Articles of Religion. [See Article III.]

**NOTE.** The scholars should receive instruction in the Articles of Religion as set forth in the Methodist Discipline.

### THE DISCIPLES

ONLY	WATCHING	} THE CLOUDS.	
AND	WAITING		} For the Promise.
AFTERWARD	WORKING		
	ITNESSING	} WITH POWER.	
		} FEARLESSLY.	

### Lesson Word-Pictures.

Forty days with Jesus! He is alive again. He repeatedly crosses the path of the disciples. At Bethlehem, Bethany, Gethsemane, by the Jordan and Galilee; in the morning's freshness, the heat of noon, or in the stillness of night; to one, to two, to ten—he reveals himself again and again. It is the same musical voice, the same compassionate face, the same Jesus they look upon, and yet the