

In learning to pray, the first thing to remember is, that we are speaking to a loving Father who is far more willing to give than we are to ask.

The things we ask for should be things which we really need and desire. Before we pray, therefore, we should think what these things are. There is not much use in thoughtless prayer.

Our prayers do not need to be long. Look at the brief prayer given at the end of each Lesson in this *QUARTERLY*. Prayers in the class no longer than these will be just as effective as those occupying a much greater amount of time.

In prayer one should forget that the other members of the class are listening to him and keep before his mind that he is speaking to God. This will be the best cure, after all, for the shyness which, in many cases, is the real difficulty in the way of learning to pray.

The class in which all the scholars have learned to pray will be a joy to the teacher and one that is sure of blessing on its work.

### How Jack Got His Class to Do Things

*By Rev. C. A. Myers, M.A.*

Jack was not satisfied with things in his Sunday School class. "There was nothing doing," as he expressed it. There were seven boys of thirteen or fourteen in the class, but usually only three or four were present on Sunday. Jack had seen in the Sunday School papers about the "good times" other boys were having, and he decided to speak to the teacher about it. One day after Sunday School he waited behind for the teacher, and a long walk and a talk followed. Next Sunday a meeting of the class was announced by the teacher for the following Tuesday evening.

At the appointed hour every boy was present, and eager to find out what was going to be done. The teacher was made the chairman for the evening. After a short prayer, he called on Jack to state the purpose of the meeting. Jack proceeded to tell what he had been reading about other classes, the good times they were having, and the good things they were doing, and he thought their class ought "to get busy too." Each boy was

asked to say in turn what he thought, and all were agreed that they should be "doing something," but how would they go about it?

Finally, Jack, who was a business man's son, proposed that they form the class into a "Boys' Union" and have each member take shares in it as a joint stock company, "doing business for the King." This proposal was hailed with delight, and a motion was promptly passed declaring that their class would hereafter be known as the "Boys' Union" of \_\_\_\_\_ Church.

Friday evening was fixed upon for the week evening meeting of the class, and the Session was petitioned for the use of a vacant part of the basement to be fitted up as a club room for their meetings. Officers were now appointed, the pastor was made Honorary President, a member of Session and of the Board of Management, First and Second Vice-Presidents. The teacher was to be called Superintendent, but the acting officers were appointed from among the boys themselves. Jack was promptly nominated as first President in recognition of having originated the idea. Other boys were appointed as Third Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, respectively. Committees were also arranged for baseball and other games.

The most important matter, however, was deciding on what the class would do for the Master. First, every member was expected to be a shareholder in the club. Shares were placed at \$1.00 each, so that they could at least take one. Many were the plans proposed as to what each would do with his talent money in order to make gain for their missionary object. One decided that he would purchase some hens, another planned to plant some potatoes, still another thought he could do better at the delivering business at the corner store, while a fourth would sell papers as his share.

The second rule adopted was that each member should make it his aim to do some act of helpfulness or service to some person or animal every week, and that a part of each regular Friday meeting should be a report of the "good turn" performed by the members, and of the progress of their investment for missions.

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