

our lives may be used to strengthen the teachings that you have discovered. Above all things be practical and concrete and do not let your lesson be deadened by dryness. In order that your lesson may be thoroughly prepared it is an admirable safeguard to write out an analysis of how you are going to teach it. Have a book for this purpose in which you carefully sketch out lesson after lesson : Such a method will ensure thoroughness and will relieve your teaching of confusion.

Of course all this is work and hard work at that. It takes time and thought and self denial, but remember that your lesson is just as important to your pupils as a clergyman's sermon is to his congregation—the green spot in a week's oasis, which offers refreshment to the wearied, pleasure to the unhappy and hope to the discouraged.

But this study of Bible, Catechism and particular lesson does not exhaust the teacher's practical preparation. Added to these there should be a personal knowledge of pupils and their surroundings. Personal knowledge gives you their needs, teaches you their weaknesses and thus puts it in your hands to minister to those needs and supply strength for these weaknesses. Here is veritable service—a service that may be irksome and tiring but yet one that is rich in opening opportunities for usefulness. Know your pupils, know them in their homes and their surroundings. Strive to see life from their centre by entering into a knowledge of their circumstances, and striving to comprehend the nature of their temptations. This work may be hard work and trying. The places you visit, and the confusion you mingle in may make your head and your heart ache but

It is the way the master went
Should not the servant tread it still?

Such then is our practical preparation. It may be summarized under four imperative headings.

1. Know your Bible.
2. “ “ Catechism.
3. “ “ Particular lesson.
4. “ “ Pupils in their homes.

II. And now leaving the Practical Preparation let me pass to that other necessity in teaching—a necessity which we are sometimes