



WEEKLY TOPIC CALENDAR

WITH SUGGESTIONS BY THE EDITOR



JAN. 21.—GREAT HYMN WRITERS: CHARLES WESLEY. Psalm 96.

Read Mr. McCamus' article carefully. If you are to lead the meeting, arrange your programme so that all the hymns used shall be selections from the notable compositions of the subject of our study. As a part of your programme you might well have from a dozen or more of the members, the recitation by each one of, say, one favorite verse from Charles Wesley's hymns. This meeting should provide for some form of examination of the Methodist Hymn Book. You might appoint two or three persons to find out the number of Charles Wesley's hymns contained in it, others to mark the hymns most frequently used, and still others to report on the number of his hymns in the hymn-book that they have never heard sung in church. Do not permit any one to read Mr. McCamus' article in your meeting, and refuse absolutely to countenance the weakening method of cutting up any article and handing out so many fragments to be simply read to the meeting. The article, like all others relating to our topics, is provided in order to give food for thought and material for re-statement in the speaker's own words. Let your young people study it, and then give in their own way, preferably as an address, brief treatment of such themes as, The mission of religious poetry; The power of singing in the Wesleyan revival; The secret of Charles Wesley's influence; Charles Wesley's characteristics as a religious poet; The hymns that live and never grow old; The place of praise in public worship; How and what we should sing. Many such themes will readily suggest themselves and be very profitable.

JAN. 28.—CHRIST'S DOCTRINE OF SOCIETY. Matt. 7: 16-20; 13: 54-58.

You will find Mr. Tucker's article on another page. Look it up, read it well, and mark how he treats the subject point by point. If possible, use the blackboard, writing down the main thoughts so that they will appeal to the eye as well as reach the ear of each of the audience. Assign sub-topics to different persons rather than cover the whole ground yourself. Such questions as follow will be found apt and interesting:

Wherein does the Kingdom of Jesus differ from all other kingdoms?

In what sense is the individual of supreme worth in the esteem of Christ?

By what way may we expect human society to reach its highest state?

What is our personal obligation to our fellows, and how is it to be fulfilled?

Name some principles announced by Jesus for the perfecting of the individual.

Define selfishness, and show how it differs from self-assertion.

How does social service help the one who renders it?

How did Jesus give His disciples an object-lesson in service?

What test of blessedness is applied in Matt. 25: 34-40?

Through what process does self-realization come?

Distinguish between self-denial and self-sacrifice.

In what way is sacrifice superior to example? (Illustrate.)

How is vicarious suffering "the supreme law of life and society?"

FEB. 4.—STUDIES IN NEW TESTAMENT CHARACTERS. ANDREW. John 1: 40-42, 6: 8-10, 12: 22-24.

Bear in mind that this is your Consecration meeting. No more fitting study than that set for this evening. Your League must train your members in Personal Work, and Andrew is set before us as a shining example in this. Study Dr. McArthur's article well, and by as many different persons, of the points named below:

Give some incidents in the public ministry of John the Baptist.

Describe how Andrew probably became a disciple of John.

In what way did Andrew become acquainted with Jesus?

How did Andrew show that he appreciated Christ's company?

What do you understand by Personal Work for Christ?

Give some instances of Personal Work from the Gospels. (See list.)

What prompted Andrew to go out after Peter first?

In what sphere should every Christian begin personal testimony?

Describe some of the benefits of comradeship in Christ's service.

What qualities were most marked in Andrew's character?

Give a brief account of Andrew's career as found in the Gospels.

Why cannot the minister in the pulpit accomplish by his preaching all that is necessary in winning souls?

How may the Epworth League be made a truly soul-saving agency?

What is our own League doing in personal evangelism?

FEB. 11.—OUR OBLIGATION TO THE FOREIGNERS. Romans 13: 1-10.

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY.

What are some of the causes of the emigration from European countries?

How far is the cry "Canada for the Canadians" right and practicable?

What is a "Canadian?" Who are fit for Canadian citizens?

What qualities are most desirable in the Canadian people?

About how many foreigners on the average come to Canada yearly?

Describe our duty as a Church to these immigrants, and tell how we should seek to do it.

What is the real basis of our duty to the newcomers—self-interest, our country's future welfare, the command of Christ, or what?

What part does the Bible play in the building up of a pure national character and life?

Into how many different languages and dialects has the Bible been translated and sold in Canada?

Tell of some plans whereby the non-English speaking people may be given the Gospel.

Among what class of foreigners are the various denominations in Canada doing work to-day?

Do not permit any one person to answer these questions, but let arrangements be made well ahead of the meeting for their discussion by a number,—the more the better. Keep your meeting thinking, speaking, singing, praying, working, right on the one straight line of the topic.

An Optional Programme for Your Citizenship Meeting

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Recent events in Canada have attracted world-wide attention to the development of the Canadian national spirit. Indeed, as one looks back over the recent Reciprocity campaign, he sees this phenomenon as its most outstanding feature. It is well, therefore, for young Canadians through whom the national spirit crystallizes and expresses itself, to study earnestly the motive force that makes for its development. Is it loyalty? Is it patriotism? Is it both? May patriotism and loyalty be in complete harmony? Are they always so? When they are not, which should be the motive principle determining national choice?

The discussion of these and similar questions involves the study of the meaning of the words "patriotism" and "loyalty," and in order that such a discussion may be thorough and as truly helpful, I would suggest as an optional programme for citizenship night in January a young men's Debate on the following theme, viz.: "Resolved, that loyalty is a more commendable motive principle in nation building than patriotism."

The following suggestive arguments might enter into the discussion:—

FOR THE AFFIRMATIVE.

1. Personal loyalty is one of the strongest natural traits.

2. Monarchical forms of government are most stable in which this personal allegiance is strongest, e.g., Victoria.

Edward VII., George V., Emperor Francis Joseph, and others.

3. Most great nations have been either empires or kingdoms held together by personal devotion to the crown.

Instance Greece, Rome, the Napoleonic Empire, Germany, Italy, Russia, and the British Empire, and others.

4. Loyalty to a common king and emperor is necessary to the maintenance of an empire, e.g., the British Empire.

5. Continuous loyalty on the part of all the people would forever banish internal discussion, rebellion and revolution.

6. Loyalty even to a corrupt and tyrannical king and government is better than civil war, for "war is hell," and the king and government in process of time will give place to others.

7. For these reasons loyalty is the highest patriotism.

FOR THE NEGATIVE.

1. Define clearly the distinction between loyalty and patriotism, the former being fidelity to a person, the latter fidelity to one's country.

2. Show that when loyalty interferes with the highest freedom, loyalty should cease and patriotism begin. Instance the English Revolution in the days of Charles I. and the American Revolutionary War.

3. Patriotism makes for the development of the highest national ideals—equality, justice, brotherhood.

4. Patriotism is the foe of every unnecessary national evil.

5. Patriotism has been the propelling motive in winning the rights and liberties of the common people.

6. Patriotism, while in harmony with the highest imperialism, is in opposition to the centralizing principle and to the unwholesome tendency to magnify and worship place and power and royalty.

7. Patriotism is the forerunner of a world consciousness and a world citizenship. "When men shall brothers be the whole world o'er."

Many similar arguments, constructive and destructive, may be formulated and presented during the debate by either side.