

How, Who, When, Where?

THESE are practical questions in maintaining a normal class. A little wisdom on just these points will overcome difficulties and smooth the way to success where it could not otherwise be secured. Many have tried and failed. Thus they settle down upon the conviction that it is impracticable with them to sustain a normal class. But this conclusion in many instances might have been avoided if the requisite attention had been paid to the questions, how, who, when, where.

How.—First, *prepare*. The leader may be well or poorly informed; may possess or lack tact; may have the gift of language or be slow of speech; but in any and every case it is necessary to prepare.

Prepare something worth attending to and mastering. Select a definite course of thought; state it in carefully chosen words. Be exact. Aim at precision of statement.

Second. *Waste no time.* Begin at the minute. If five are present, begin. If two are present, begin. If yourself and only one other are on hand at the time, begin. You need not, just at that instant, enter upon your prepared course, although it will generally be best; but begin, and begin earnestly.

Who.—Everybody who will come. And if this everybody is hardly anybody, go on with the class all the same. Be independent of the crowd by beginning without it if necessary.

About three regular attendants will serve as a nucleus. Go on with these, make the exercises spirited and instructive, and you will win a larger number.

The conductor will be the superintendent, unless he desires the pastor or some other person to take up the duty. In some cases several may be detailed in turn for the service. But appoint no one who will not do his best. And give all appointees ample notice that they may have time to prepare. But the best way usually is to let some one person conduct the class continuously.

Sabbath-school teachers, candidates for that work, those who are likely to be called on to serve as substitutes, parents,

and all who desire a better knowledge of the Bible, and the manner of preaching it, are proper persons to compose a normal class.

WHEN.—In many cases once a week is too often on account of the great number of affairs pressing upon earnest people. Once in two weeks is the best average appointment.

When the appointment has been made let it be observed. If sleigh rides, parties, lectures, and other diversions, break up the meeting a few times, the result is disastrous. If some necessity calls the many away let the few go on with the work and keep up a "godly succession."

WHERE.—In the same place continuously, if practicable. The best room is the Sabbath-school room, or some apartment connected with it. The blackboard will then be accessible, and it is of essential service in the normal class.

But a class may be held in private residences, going in turn from house to house.—*Church and School.*

Hints on Bible Study.

BY REV. J. I. BOSWELL.

1. BEGIN and accompany the study of the Bible with prayer. Exclaim with the psalmist, "Open thou mine eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law." Prayer prepares and keeps the mind in such a state that it will receive the truth and be impressed by it. Truth is spiritually discerned. The devout spirit will catch glimpses of divine wisdom and goodness which will never break on the unaided intellect.

2. Use, if possible, a Bible arranged in paragraphs. The present division into chapter and verse is arbitrary and illogical, but for convenience of reference has been retained. Many passages which seem so difficult as to need a commentary would be made clear by a proper arrangement of the text. Little did Paul imagine when he wrote some of his glowing arguments that they would be cut up into fragments by chapters and verses, and be the more difficult of comprehension on that account.

3. It is well to have a Bible with