

occasion he went alone to pray after the evening of healing in Capernaum, when possibly he felt the temptation to lay stress upon the physical miracles to the detriment of his spiritual mission. Is there anything of the same situation in to-day's lesson? He had just fed the Five Thousand. What did they want to do with him? See John 6 : 15. Was there any special reason why he should go into the mountain to pray alone? Be sure that the members of the class see the important lesson in all this. If the Son of God needed the strength which comes from prayer in the critical moments of his ministry, how much more do we need that same strength.

2. *The Ever Present Helper*, vs. 24-27. Can the class suggest any reason why Jesus insisted on the disciples leaving so quickly for the other side of the sea? Did the popular movement to make him a king have anything to do with it? While Jesus prays on the mountain what happens to the disciples?

Remind the class that, for such a small body of water, the Sea of Galilee could become very turbulent. Show how Jesus did not allow his personal struggle to interfere with his care for the men who had given up all to follow him. Is that typical of Jesus? Speak of the fear of the disciples. What light does it throw upon the relations of Jesus to his disciples to know that his word: "It is I" calmed their fear?

3. *Faith and Doubt*, vs. 28-33. What does the class think of Peter's request? Why did Christ grant it? Is it a good thing for us to discover our own weaknesses? Do we ever act like Peter, beginning an enterprise enthusiastically, and then allowing our faith to cool? Point out the connection between faith and doubt. If there were no possibility of doubt could there ever be any such thing as faith? Show that there is always hope for us, if we know enough to cry, as Peter did, "Lord, save me."

FOR TEACHERS IN THE SENIOR DEPARTMENT

Teachers in the Senior Department should study carefully the scholars' materials in the HOME STUDY QUARTERLY.

The Lesson Passage contains four extraordinarily vivid pictures: I. JESUS AT PRAYER ON THE MOUNTAIN TOP. II. JESUS WALKING ON THE SEA. III. JESUS SAVING PETER. IV. JESUS IN THE BOAT. It should be the aim of the teacher to make these four wonderful pictures stand out like life before the minds of the scholars. The pictures, clearly seen, cannot fail to make their impression.

I. JESUS AT PRAYER ON THE MOUNTAIN TOP, vs. 22, 23. The Lesson should, first of all, be related to the story of the Feeding of the Five Thousand (see vs. 15-20) and the reason should be brought out which led Jesus to send his disciples and the multitudes away. That reason is given in John 6 : 15. The multitudes who had been fed, were eager to take Jesus and make him king. Was Jesus himself tempted to yield to their wishes? Was it for strength to resist this temptation that he withdrew himself to the mountain top and there spent the hours of the night in prayer? At any rate,—and this should be impressed on the scholars—that, at great crises in his life, Jesus turned to God in prayer (see Luke

3 : 21 ; 6 : 21 ; 9 : 18, 29 ; 22 : 41). In this, as in all things, he is the great example of his followers.

II. JESUS WALKING ON THE SEA, vs. 24-27. Bring out the peril of the disciples in the boat, reminding the scholars of the sudden and fierce storms which sweep down on the Lake of Galilee, encircled as it is by hills. Picture Jesus, between 3 and 6 o'clock in the morning, walking on the stormy sea as if it were dry land, and the terror of the disciples because they thought that they had seen a spirit. Dwell on the words of good cheer which Jesus speaks in v. 27.

III. JESUS SAVING PETER, vs. 28-31. Discuss the features in the character of Peter illustrated here,—his love for the Master, his natural daring, his desire to show his trust in Jesus, his rashness and unsteadfastness. Make much of v. 31. As soon as Jesus caught the sinking disciple, he was perfectly safe. Use this part of the lesson to illustrate the entire safety of all those who just cast themselves on the power and grace of Jesus.

IV. JESUS IN THE BOAT, vs. 32, 33. The