

GRADE III — SECOND SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Mark 6:30-44

FEEDING THE MULTITUDE

Golden Text — And Jesus, when He came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep without a shepherd: and He began to teach them many things.—*Mark* 6:34.

The news of the teaching and healing work of Christ Jesus was spreading far and wide; many people for miles around came to hear Him speak. It was at His suggestion that He and the disciples went by ship to a desert place to rest awhile; however, the people saw them leaving and followed along the shore line, finally meeting up with them. When He saw what the people had done, He felt sorry for them, and began teaching them many things.

As the day was drawing to an end, and the people had not eaten all day, the disciples came to Christ Jesus saying, "It is getting late, send the people away that they may go and buy food, for they have nothing to eat." He said, "Give them to eat." The disciples asked, "Shall we go and buy bread and give them to eat?" Christ Jesus then asked, "How many loaves of bread have you? Go and see."

They found five loaves of bread and two fishes. Christ Jesus commanded the people to sit down on the grass in groups. This they did in rows of hundreds and fifties. He took the five loaves and two fishes, looked up to heaven and blessed the bread and broke it, giving the pieces to the disciples to pass on to the people. He did the same with the fishes. In all, about 5000 people ate and were satisfied. What was left over filled twelve baskets. The people were then sent away, and the disciples with their Lord departed in a ship.

This feeding of so many people was a great miracle which could only be done by Christ Jesus at that time, although

later He taught the disciples how. He also taught them to heal, giving sight to the blind, making the deaf to hear, removing obsessions, and many other things. There will come a time when we also may perform these wonderful miracles, but not until we have learned to do good to those who do us wrong, and we recognize that we are all brothers and sisters — that we are each our brother's keeper. We will not use such gifts for selfish purposes, for that would create much more trouble in the world.

We can begin working toward that high ideal by doing the best we can right where we are. That may not always be easy; however, we will win out if we persist, for each time we succeed we gain more strength to overcome wrong thinking and unkind actions, and to become a true worker for God.

What do you think are some of the ways in which we can be God's helpers?

GRADE III — THIRD SUNDAY

KEYWORD: Rhythm.

Have you thought much during the week about that ladder of life that reaches from the lowest and littlest thing all the way up to God? Isn't it interesting to know that everything and everybody is climbing, climbing from the bottom to the top of that great ladder, and to know that we can help ourselves and others so much just by listening to God's voice in our hearts and by being kind?

This is the day we talk about our body, this dense body of ours which is really just as wonderful in its small way as the Universe is in its great way. Those who have studied them together — the Universe and the body — have found out a great many things that are never found out by those who study them apart. One of these things is that our body is divided into twelve parts, just as the zodiac is, and that there is a mysterious connection between these twelve parts

of our body and the twelve groups of wonderful Beings who are working with God through the twelve signs of the zodiac, each part being connected with one of the signs. So we say that each part is *ruled* by a certain sign.

Some parts of the body seem to us more important than others. For instance, we would say that the head is more important than the feet, or the stomach more important than the knees. Yet both have their particular work to do and both are necessary to make a perfect body. God seems to think they are all equally necessary, for each part is under the care of one of the twelve great groups of Star Angels.

Pisces, the sign we are studying, rules the feet. Our whole body rests on the feet, doesn't it? Well, just so do our whole life, our health, and our happiness rest upon how well we understand the lessons that the great Beings in Pisces are teaching us and how well we do the two things that Neptune and Jupiter are telling us to do: obey our conscience — which is the voice of God in our hearts — and *be kind*.

You already know how the thoughts that we send out come back to us and bring with them the good or the harm they have done. Well, today we want to find out just what these good and bad thoughts do to our dense body. You remember that the whole universe is being built and held together by the thoughts of God and His great Helpers, so you can imagine how very, very powerful these thoughts must be. They pour out from God and His Helpers in a steady, regular way that is like the beat of time in music, the beating of your heart, or the beating of the waves on the seashore. Those of you who are studying music know that this regular beat is called "rhythm".

The life that is in these powerful thoughts flows into the different parts of our dense body through the body made of ethers — our vital body. If nothing happened to interfere with this beautiful rhythm all twelve parts of our body would be perfect in form and would always work perfectly. But we, with our little minds, send out thoughts of our own;

and with our desire bodies we send out feelings of our own — all sorts of thoughts and feelings, some good and some bad. Whenever these thoughts and feelings are true and fine and good they are in tune with the thought waves of God and His Helpers and so they help to keep our bodies in good condition or correct whatever is wrong with them. If these thoughts and feelings are out of tune with the wonderful love thoughts of God and His Helpers, though, the *rhythm* which keeps the little cells in our body strong and well is interfered with and these faithful little workers grow confused. They cannot do their work properly and things begin to go wrong inside of us.

We go on all through this Earth life sending out thoughts and feelings, every single one of which is doing either harm or good to this body of ours. Then, when our Earth life is ended, we go into the heaven worlds, as you know, carrying with us the tiny *thought seed* of this body that holds the picture pattern in it. And here is something important to remember: every thought we have had during this Earth life has made its mark upon that picture. If our thoughts have been mostly kind and good and true and we have taken the right care of this body of ours we will find that the picture pattern has been improved. Then, when we come to build a body for our next Earth life, it will be a better and more beautiful body than the one we have today.

But suppose someone has thought wrong, ugly thoughts most of his life, and besides that has treated his body very badly. When *he* comes to build a new body for the next Earth life he finds that the picture pattern in that little seed has been injured so much that the only body he can build from it is one that is weak or crippled or out of order.

In the heaven worlds he will see just what he did to himself by his bad thoughts and actions, and perhaps would come to Earth wanting with all his heart to be good and kind and true. But he would have to live in that poor body just the same, because it is the one he made for himself by his

own thoughts and actions. But here is the beautiful part of it all: if he opens wide his heart and lets God's great love come in; if he listens to that sweet voice that tells him what is right and what is wrong; if he takes care of his poor body and tries always to be kind and true and good, that body will begin to get better right away and *can* be healed entirely.

We have all made many mistakes and have all had wrong thoughts and feelings in this life and in other lives. That is why there is so much sickness in the world. But we know the way out now, don't we? We know that we can build a strong fine body by treating it right and by *thinking* right, *feeling* right, and *doing* right.

When we think good thoughts we help other people, too. We know that sending them thoughts of love and good wishes really does make them happier and feel better, even if they don't know who it is that is sending the good thoughts, or even, that anyone is thinking well about them at all. Good thoughts sent to other people can help them get well when they are sick, solve hard problems, cheer them up if they feel sad, and help them enjoy life much more than they may have been doing. Even if we see someone in such trouble that we think we couldn't possibly do anything to help, we can always send him our good thoughts of love and encouragement.

So we see that thinking good thoughts is not only a very good thing because it helps us maintain healthy, strong bodies and helps us feel cheerful, good, and loving, but it also is one of the best things we can do for other people.

Let's try sending out nothing but good thoughts all week, and see how good we feel, and how cheerful we are, next Sunday.

GRADE III — THIRD SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Matthew 9:1-8

HEALING THE PALSIED MAN

Golden Text — When Jesus saw their faith, He said unto the sick of palsy: Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.—*Mark 2:8.*

When Christ Jesus came to Capernaum, word passed around quickly that He was there. A great crowd gathered, all eager to hear Him speak. While He was preaching, four people uncovered the roof and let down a man, sick with palsy, in his bed, so that it came right in front of where Christ Jesus stood. That was the only way they could possibly get near Him. When the Lord saw their faith, He said to the sick man, "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee." Nearby were seated some scribes, or professional scholars, studying the laws of Moses and judging such matters. They were looked up to by the people and addressed as master, lord, sir, father, etc. Anyway, when these scribes saw what Christ Jesus did, they thought within themselves, "Why does this man speak blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God?"

Now Christ Jesus understood in His spirit what these scribes were thinking, so He said to them, "Why do you reason these things in your hearts? Is it easier to say to this sick man, 'Thy sins be forgiven thee' or 'Arise, take up your bed, and walk'? But that you may know the Son of God has power on earth to forgive sins (He turned to the sick man and said), I say unto you, Arise, take up your bed and go your way to your house." Immediately the sick man arose, going before all the people, and they were all amazed, gloryfying God, saying, "We never saw it in this way."

People of the early Christian Church believed that diseases come from sins like slander, killing, false oaths, robbery, envy, and conceit. You may well ask, how is it that some who never did these things now have diseases. The answer is, they very easily could have committed one of those sins

in an earlier life and are only now paying off that debt of destiny. We know that we have all done many wrongs in previous lives, so many that we could not have paid off our debts before and, at the same time, make progress in each life between then and now. It is the Lords of Destiny who help us, just before we return to this Earth for more experience in the School of Life, to select the particular debts we shall pay off in each lifetime. Such is the teaching of the Law of Cause and Effect.

Christ Jesus, however, taught us about the state of Grace. When we are in the state of Grace, it means that our sins are forgiven and we do not have to pay debts for them as we would have to under the Law of Cause and Effect. In order to reach the state of grace, we must be truly sorry for what we have done wrong, and make up our minds that we will never again do the same wrong thing. If we have hurt somebody else, we must do all that we can to make it up to him. If we do all these things, and most of all, if we are truly sorry, deep within our hearts, then our sins will be wiped away. This is the Christ message. In so doing, we awaken that Divine spark within each one of us through a life of love, service, and unselfish actions. In this way we learn to make a new life and a new environment in accordance with the promises of Christ Jesus. This is a great challenge we can all meet if we will keep on trying, day by day, striving to become better people in the service of all mankind.

GRADE III — FOURTH SUNDAY—Review.

LESSON SUGGESTIONS FOR ARIES

GRADE III — FIRST SUNDAY

KEYWORD: Initiative.

Now that Easter is almost here, let us talk about what

happens at this wonderful time of year. You know that the Christ, Who has been in our Earth for many months, leaves the Earth again at Easter and starts His journey back to God. He has really "poured out" His life for us, and for every living thing on Earth, so that we, and the animals, and the plants, can grow strong and have the energy to do the things we should and to learn our lessons.

The Bible tells us how, long ago, Christ Jesus was crucified — that is, He was killed by people who did not understand His teachings. Most people thought He was dead, but what really happened is that Christ entered our Earth for the first time to pour out His Life and Light and Love for all of us — just as He has done every year since then. Then, on Easter Day, He left the Earth to start on His journey back to God, and some of His friends saw Him. Then they knew He was not really dead after all. In a way, we can say that Christ "dies" for us each year, because He really does give His life for us when He is inside our Earth. After He has done this, He leaves us for a few months to go home to God, where He can renew His life and strength so that He can come back and give it to us again next year.

What are some of the things that happen around us — and to us — at this time of year? (Discussion. Get children to describe activity in Nature, growing things, birth and growth of young animals, and renewing of energy that they feel within themselves.) That's right. New plants grow from seeds and bulbs and old plants get new leaves; baby animals are born and grow; and every one of us has lots of new energy that we can use to do ever so many things. We have energy to work with, we have energy to think with, and we have energy to play with.

Now there is one reason why the Christ has given us this energy, and that is that we might use it to grow and learn our lessons in life, and help other people grow and learn too. Many people do just that, but there are some people who use their energy for the wrong things. It seems as

though every spring we hear about groups of boys and girls here and there who have done destructive things, or who didn't really hurt anybody but just acted silly. They do these things because they find themselves with all this energy that everyone gets in springtime and they don't know what to do with it. So, instead of thinking about what *good* they can do with it, they just go about doing things that are no good at all. They can't be learning much that way, or helping other people, either, and you may be sure that the Christ sees how they are wasting the wonderful gift that He gave them and feels very badly about that.

Suppose you tell me some of the things we can do with our energy this spring that will help us and help others, too. (Discussion. Get children to mention such things as renewed application to school work; additional helpfulness, enthusiasm, and initiative in doing household chores; membership and good works in such groups as Boy Scouts, etc.; spending more time reading or in other constructive activity and less in front of TV; getting out into the country to observe Nature and learn from it; remembering to thank God for our many blessings.)

When you think about it for a while, you will realize how much more fun it is, and how much better you feel, when you do things that are helpful and useful and constructive than when you do things that are silly, or useless, or destructive. It's a very good idea, at the end of each day, to think back over the things you've done and decide if they were really good things to do, and why. If you do this, you will soon discover that when you have done things that were helpful and worthwhile you will feel happy and satisfied with your work for the day. On the other hand, when you don't do worthwhile things you will surely feel unhappy and dissatisfied.

Life, you know, is really a great adventure, and we must stay alert all the time so that we can learn the most — and also have the most fun — from our adventure. Every day

we have to make decisions between right things and wrong things to do. If we decide to do the wrong things, our adventure that day ends up on a crooked path filled with troubles, and pain, and bad feelings. If we decide to do the right things, though, our adventure for the day takes us on a nice straight road where we feel joyful and good, and where we can do very wonderful, important things — things that please ourselves, our friends and relatives, and most important of all, God.

GRADE III — FIRST SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — John 4:46-54

THE NOBLEMAN'S SON HEALED

Golden Text — Go, your son is healed.—*John 4:50.*

Can anyone tell us what initiative means? Yes, beginning something new; taking the first step. That may be speaking a kind word or giving a smile, perhaps carrying a package for someone. That sometimes takes courage, doesn't it? Perhaps we would rather wait for someone else to start off rather than being different from our friends or school mates, thinking they might laugh at us or say something unkind.

Did you ever think that our fathers and mothers use initiative nearly every day to make life happier, healthier, and more pleasant for us? Here is what one father did for his son. He had heard that Christ Jesus was in Galilee so he went there asking Him to heal his son, who was ill. Christ Jesus gave him a strange answer, saying, "Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe." Again the father asked, "Sir, come down before my son dies." It took much courage for the man to come to Christ Jesus with his request, for many did not believe that He could heal anyone. In fact, this was the first time He had done so. Christ Jesus said, "Go your way, your son lives."

The father took Christ Jesus at His word and started for home. Along the way he met servants coming from his home. They said to him, "Your son lives." The father asked the servants, "At what time did my son begin to show improvement?" They replied, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." The father recalled that was the same hour when Christ Jesus told him, "Your son lives." As a result of the healing of his son, not only the father believed in Christ Jesus and His message, but also everyone in their home, for they had seen for themselves how the child was healed.

Are we ready to stand up for Christ Jesus and listen to the still, small voice deep within us as we daily go about our duties at school, at home, at play, or whatever we may be called upon to do? It takes courage to be ready at all times to listen when the Real YOU prompts doing a brave and courageous act. It is not only by actions, but also by our thoughts that we may chase away all that is not good and true. We know everything starts with a thought, which makes it very important that we let the good thoughts be with us at all times, chasing away all that would be harmful to others as well as ourselves. If we allow wrong thoughts to stay with us, pretty soon we shall be putting them into action and making trouble not only for ourselves but for those around us also.

We can begin something new this week by trying very hard to be on our guard at all times and allowing the Magic Keys of Love, Peace, and Joy to hold more of our thoughts, in that way keeping away the bad thoughts. This will make our days, as well as those of everyone around us, happier.

GRADE III — SECOND SUNDAY

KEYWORD:—Courage.

Remember that our Star Angel this month is Mars, and

his message is "Do it." Last week we were talking about how the Christ has given us, as He does every year, new Life and energy so that we really can do many things. This week we are going to talk about how courage sometimes helps us to do the right things.

There are many kinds of courage. There is the kind of courage that it takes to run into a burning building to rescue somebody. There is the kind of courage you need when you fall down and hurt yourself but then, instead of lying there crying, waiting for someone to help you, you get up and go on, even though your arm or leg may be hurting very much. This kind of courage is called physical courage.

Then there is another kind of courage which we know as moral courage. Suppose some of your friends decided they wanted to take something that didn't belong to them from the teacher's desk. They begged you to help them, but you knew it was not right and refused. Then they began to tease you and say things like, "Sissy," and "Coward," to you, and even said that if you didn't help them they wouldn't go on playing with you. But still, you knew it was the wrong thing to do, and you refused to go along with them. Far from being a coward, you were really very brave to do the right thing when your friends were determined to do the wrong one, and when they teased you and you knew that it might be a long time before they played with you again. It took moral courage to do what you did, and that is a fine trait to have.

Not everyone has both kinds of courage — and some people seem not to have either kind. A man might be a very brave adventurer, going through jungles even when he knows he will face roaring lions and angry elephants; but when it comes to doing things that his conscience tells him are right when his companions urge him to do things that aren't, he may not have the courage at all to say no. Other people may be afraid to do physical things — they may be afraid of the water or of climbing mountains — but have

plenty of courage to refuse to go along with others who are doing wrong.

Now, all of you have probably had some experiences with courage. Maybe you saw someone doing something brave, or maybe you had to use courage yourself. Who can tell us about such an experience? (Discussion, in which children cite examples of both types of courage, tell what kind each is, and how each particular act of bravery was helpful. If there is time, or if discussion lags, children might also be asked to tell of experiences they know of in which courage was not used although, in retrospect, it appears as though it should have been.)

It is sometimes even harder to learn moral courage than physical courage. Let us remember that we need both kinds in order to learn all the lessons in our school of life, and the more we can develop of both kinds of courage, the more we will progress and learn.

GRADE III — SECOND SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Luke 8:22-25

THE TEMPEST STILLED

Golden Text — What manner of man is this? He commands even the winds and the water and they obey Him. —*Luke 8:25.*

Have you ever been in a severe storm where the rain came down in torrents, or out on a lake or river where the waves came up so high it seemed they would not only fill the boat, but even turn it upside down? Everyone, you recall, was fearful and wondered whether the boat would make it to shore, and when it did so, all breathed a deep sigh of relief.

One day Christ Jesus went into a ship with His disciples, saying, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." They set sail and Christ Jesus fell asleep. They had not gone very

far when, suddenly, a windstorm arose, stirring up waves that soon filled the ship with water, making it dangerous for all. The disciples awakened Christ Jesus crying, "Master, Master, we perish!" He arose, rebuking the wind and raging water, and suddenly, all became calm and still once more. He turned to the disciples asking, "Where is your faith?" They didn't answer, but were afraid and wondered, saying one to another, "What kind of man is this? Even the wind and water obey Him."

In one of our earlier lessons we talked about how much of Christ Jesus' teaching was done on or around the water, explaining that there was a special reason for this. Let us talk more about that now. Have you ever noticed, when we lose our tempers, that there seems to rush over us, like a wave, the feeling of warmth or heat so great that we feel we must get rid of it quickly as it seems more than we can bear? In our eagerness to do away with that feeling, we may act roughly or speak unkind words for which we are later sorry, and would give anything to take back if we could. Our actions and words have such strength that we cannot tell where their influence will end, but they do bring results, whether for good or ill.

Let us consider fear, which we have all had at one time or another. We recall it brought over us a cold, clammy feeling. That feeling acted as a wall or barrier, keeping away any helpful thoughts to provide a way out of whatever it was we feared. That is what happened to the disciples and what Christ Jesus meant when He asked, "Where is your faith?" They lacked faith in Him and His teaching. When we have faith that we can do whatever is necessary to bring us out of danger or an unpleasant situation, we shall be able to do so. That is one way of showing courage! Of course we don't always know just what to do, but we can take a moment to ask God's help in finding out.

At times we may have a feeling of love and goodwill to all around us. This also is similar to a wave, but carries with it

the warmth of happiness. It goes out from us as a ray of cheerfulness, reaching far and wide in its benefit and blessing to others.

These different feelings may be likened to waves on the river, lake, or ocean. That is why water has so often been spoken of as being related to our feelings.

Let us try very hard this coming week to show courage by meeting each decision we must make with a prayer for God's help in doing that which is good and true. Thereby we will grow in strength as God's courageous helpers.

GRADE III — THIRD SUNDAY

KEYWORD: The Brain.

Do you know what a power station is? Every city has one — or maybe more. That is the place where the flow of electricity all around the city is controlled. If it were not controlled, some people in the city might never have electricity for their lights and washing machines and ovens, and in other houses far too much electricity might flow in when someone turned a switch and the place might even catch fire. Factories, where they use heavy machinery, need a greater supply of electricity than do the houses where our families live, and all this is controlled from the power station. The manager of the power station has to decide how much electricity to send out, where to send it, when to turn it off, and what to do when there is a storm and the wires through which the electricity goes are knocked down.

Our brains are power stations, too, and the Life Spark, the part of God that is each one of us, is the manager of the power station that is our brain. It is this True Self that makes our decisions every day, that decides whether to get up or roll over and sleep some more, whether to put on new

shoes or old shoes, whether to study or play, and all the other decisions we make. Then our True Self tells the brain what to do, and the brain sends out little impulses to the muscles — just as electricity is sent from the power station — that makes us jump out of bed or roll over, reach for the old shoes or the new shoes, or get our book or our baseball glove.

Now just imagine what would happen at a power station if a stranger, who didn't know very much about electricity but decided he wanted things his way, pushed the manager aside and said, "I'm going to control the electricity the way *I* want to — it doesn't matter about anybody else." Pretty soon everything in the city would be going wrong; some people's lights wouldn't work, washing machines wouldn't work, elevators would stop running; and other people might have too much electricity so that it would be dangerous for them to turn their lights on. Everything would be in chaos — just because a man who had no business in the power station drove the manager out.

This is just what happens to our brains when our desire bodies try to push our True Selves out as managers. The desire body is that part of a person that wants to do things, or to have things, because they seem to be fun, or comfortable, or pretty, or something else that seems pleasant, and it doesn't always matter if they are good things or not. Our True Self always knows whether it is good to do or get a particular thing or not, just as the power station manager knows whether it is good to send lots of electricity to a certain place or not. But then the desire body pushes in, just as the stranger did in the power station, and if our True Self lets the desire body push him out, just the way the power station manager let the stranger push him out, then the desire body will tell the brain (or mind) what to do and there is likely to be all kinds of trouble.

Suppose the day before you are to have a test at school, your True Self knows that you had better do some studying. Then your desire body says, "Oh, I don't want to study.

I'd rather watch TV, or play." So your desire body pushes your True Self aside, and instead of your True Self telling your brain to send out impulses to your muscles to pick up the book and start studying, your desire body tells your brain to send out impulses to the muscles to turn on the TV, or go over to your friend's house and play. Then the next day, you do badly on the test, and your teacher and your parents are disappointed, and you don't feel very good either. All because your True Self let your desire body push it around!

Maybe somebody can tell us of an experience he had when he let his desire body push his True Self around. (Discussion.)

So you see how important it is that we all make sure that our True Selves control our desire bodies all the time. Whenever our desire bodies want something that isn't good, and manage to push our True Selves aside and tell our brain what to do, there is going to be trouble. The stronger our True Selves are, and the more they can say "No!" to our desire bodies when they have to, the more successful our lives will be, and the more we will be able to learn our lessons and help in God's great work.

GRADE III — THIRD SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Luke 7:1-10

THE CENTURION'S SERVANT HEALED

Golden Text — I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.—*Luke 7:9.*

"I am not worthy to have you enter my home." This is the message sent by the centurion with his friends who were going to meet Christ Jesus coming to his home.

The officer was greatly concerned about his servant's illness, fearful that he might not live. Remember, we talked about fear last Sunday, and about how it can prevent us from

knowing the right action to follow. Here we find the officer doing what he believed would help his servant. It was a brave and daring action, but the man was eager to have his servant healed and willing to take such an untried way of bringing it about. Let us see what happened.

First of all, the centurion spoke with the church leaders, requesting, "Please go to your Teacher and beg of Him to come and heal my sick servant." This the elders did, saying, "Master, the centurion is worthy that you do this for him, for he loves his servant. The officer loves our nation; he even built us a church." Christ Jesus went with them.

As they walked toward the officer's home, he sent friends to meet them with this message: "Just say the word and my servant shall be healed. For when I tell my man, 'Go,' he goes; and to another, 'Come,' he comes; or to my servant, 'Do this,' he does it." Christ Jesus was surprised that the officer had such great faith in what He could do. He spoke to those behind Him, using the words of our Golden Text. Do you remember them?

When the friends reached the officer's home, they found the servant healed, and this made them all very happy. Do we have enough faith and courage to believe that God, through his Son, Christ Jesus, will lead and guide us into the way to carry out His commandment, "Love one another as I have loved you?" Would we be brave enough to follow Him?

We know Christ Jesus gave His life for all mankind, showing us the way to go. While we may not be called upon to give our lives for another, we are asked to love all mankind, which is a great task. That means not just for a few minutes, a week, or a month, but all the time. Also, we may not always like what others do, or think it is right, but we must still love them. You see, it is not an easy commandment we have been given. Of ourselves we cannot accomplish this high goal, but with God's help and guidance we can and will. Let us be willing to ask His help in loving and understanding

one another. We are all God's children, which makes us brothers and sisters, doesn't it? We shall talk more about this next Sunday.

(Change above sentence if Easter came earlier this year.)

GRADE III — FOURTH SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — John 20:1-20

THE RESURRECTION

Golden Text — He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come see the place where the Lord lay.—*Matthew* 28:6.

Again we are at the time of Easter when all living things burst forth with new life after the long, dark days of winter when everything seemed to be standing still. We notice plants put out new leaves, and some flowers begin to form.

At the same time, there is an unseen activity, too. In fact, it has been going on ever since our celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmastime, leading up to this very Eastertime with gradual, increasing growth even though we could not see any sign of it. The tiny seed seems to be only a piece of hardened grain, but actually inside there is a spark of life. That seed is waiting to be put into the right soil and given some water. Otherwise, it will not grow. It is amazing to realize that within even the tiniest pebble exists a spark of life — in each stone and rock. Mankind has not yet learned all there is to know about that spark of life. We do know that we are all climbing the Ladder of Life (see booklet of diagrams), and while there are those below us on that ladder, there are others on higher rungs of it. This makes us all related, one to another, with God as our Father. He loved us so much that He sent His only Son, Christ Jesus, to show us the way we must live to grow into better people before we can reach the highest step possible for each one of us on the Ladder of Life.

We find many places in the Bible making mention of Christ Jesus going away alone to pray, and there surely were a number of other times not recorded. If He, great as He is, felt the need to pray to God, His Father and our Father, how much more often ought we also to pray for guidance and help in becoming better people day by day. In that way, our climbing the Ladder of Life may be accomplished with fewer of the mistakes which bring unhappiness to all of us.

We know there are times when we rush into doing and saying things we shouldn't, just because we don't stop to say a little prayer asking for help in doing what is right. If we do say a prayer, the still, small voice, which is the real YOU, leads us in the correct way. It may not always be easy to follow the right way, but in the end we shall find it the best for everyone.

Christ Jesus was given a very difficult work by His Father, our God and His God, but He prayed that God's will might be done. This gave Him the strength to follow the path leading to His crucifixion (crossing the bridge from sorrow into the higher life), in that way showing us the way back to God. Mankind had gone so far away from God's commandments that the spark of life from this Earth became more dim day by day. That is why it became known as the Sorrowful Star among all the planets in the whole Universe. Christ Jesus came to make the Earth stronger once again — to make the spark of life in the Earth glow brighter by the additional power He gave it. He died on the Cross, was buried, and rose again the third day, appearing early Easter morning to Mary Magdalene in the garden near the tomb inside of which He had been laid after being taken down from the Cross. Later, in the evening of Easter Day, He suddenly appeared in the midst of the ten disciples, privately assembled in a room away from all people, saying, "Peace be unto you." He showed them the nail marks in His hands and His pierced side. They were glad to have Him with them once again.

In this way, Christ Jesus brought us closer to God, our Father, that we might receive greater help in becoming the best possible children of God. That help is ours for the asking, but that is the important thing: we must ask for His help. That is why we keep mentioning the importance of prayer each and every day, and in between times when there is felt the need for extra help in a hurry.

GRADE III — Fifth Sunday — Review.

LESSON SUGGESTIONS FOR TAURUS

GRADE III — FIRST SUNDAY

KEYWORD: Determination.

Our new Star Angel this month is Venus, and the message is "Children, love one another."

Last month we talked about how important physical and moral courage are in learning our lessons here on Earth. Today we are going to talk about something else very important, that goes hand-in-hand with courage, and that is determination. Determination really means to make up your mind to do something, and then stick to it. If we are not determined, we are not going to learn. Sometimes it is very difficult to do what we have to do, or to do something we know is right, and if we aren't very determined we don't do it, and then we have trouble.

Let's say our teacher gives some very hard arithmetic problems for homework. We work on them for a little while, but they are hard and we don't want to concentrate on them. It would be so easy now to say, "Oh, I can't do these," put the homework aside, and turn on the television or go outside and play. But that's not being determined, and tomorrow, when the teacher asks for our homework, we'd simply have to say we didn't do it, and we won't understand that arith-

metic. But let's try being determined and see what happens. First of all, we have to think a little bit. Instead of putting the problems aside, we concentrate on them, one at a time, and instead of working ten minutes, we might work half an hour. If the problem doesn't come out the first time, we try it again, and *again*. Certainly we may make mistakes, and we may not understand the work completely even after we do concentrate hard on it. But we will certainly know more about those problems than if we had simply said, "Oh, I give up," and it will be much easier for us to understand, the next day, when the teacher explains the problems in class. Besides that, we will have the very good, satisfied feeling inside that comes when we know that we were determined and did our very, very best. Certainly that is much better than giving up.

Maybe some of you can tell us about some experiences you had when you were determined to do something you had to do, even if it was hard, and about how you felt after you had finished. (Discussion. Try to get children to discuss not only "physical" determination, but also "moral" determination such as supporting a maligned friend, or refusing to participate with friends in a piece of mischief and ignoring their consequent taunts.)

Let's remember, then, always to be determined in doing the right thing, even if it is hard, or not much fun, or interferes with something else we'd rather do. If we remember this, we will learn many lessons, get many important things done, and we will always know that we have done our very best, no matter what the work or the problem.

GRADE III — FIRST SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Genesis 1

THE CREATION

Golden Text — In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.—*John* 1:1.

Do you ever wonder about how our Earth and all the stars we see, the birds, animals, flowers and trees, and even ourselves, came to be? Many people have asked that question, and many of them have had a very hard time trying to figure out the answer, but it is really surprisingly simple.

The Bible tells us that, "In the beginning was the Word." What that means is simply this:

Long, long ago — billions and billions of years ago — everything was dark. There were no sun and stars, no trees and flowers, no birds and animals, and no people. But there was *something* in all that darkness — it wasn't just nothing, the way some people think. In all the darkness there was something called the Cosmic Root Substance.

You can't see Cosmic Root Substance, but it is made up of millions of tiny atoms that are just waiting to be formed into shapes and things, people and planets, and all the other things we see around us, as well as all the things in the heaven worlds we don't see. In a way, it is like the clay that you mold with. When you get the clay it is one big blob and usually doesn't look like anything. Then you have to shape it, mold it, and make whatever it is that you are going to make.

But when you work with Cosmic Root Substance you don't mold it with your hands or hammer it into shape with tools. You have to do something entirely different — something that God did when, all those billions of years ago, He decided that He wanted to create our solar system. He said a word, just as the Bible tells us: "In the beginning was the Word."

But this word was not what we think of as a word, like *come* or *go* or *cat* or *dog*. This word was really a musical tone, a very beautiful musical tone, like nothing we have ever heard here on Earth. It was more like a musical chord, with many different notes in it. Really it was as if God were singing.

What happened when God sang this musical tone, or chord, which was called the Word? Well, millions of those little atoms in the Cosmic Root Substance began to move toward other atoms and they held tight to each other, and pretty soon, just because the atoms *were* holding tight to each other, different things began to take shape.

That is really how the things we see, and the things we don't see, all came to be. God spoke, or sang, the Word, and when He did, the little atoms in the Cosmic Root Substance began to move around and form themselves into all kinds of different shapes and things.

But there are other things about this Word that you must understand. In the first place, God didn't just sing His Word once and then stop. Not at all. During the billions of years that have gone by since He first sang the Word He has *never* stopped. He is singing right now, and not just the same musical chord either. The music changes, and when it does, something new and different is made each time.

That brings us to the next very important thing we must understand. It took a very long time for the things that we know and see around us now to come into being. When God first sang His Word, and the first things began to appear, they didn't look like anything we see around us now. It took many millions of years for our Earth to be made, and even then it didn't look the least bit the way it does now. It took many more millions of years, and many more changes in God's music, before our world, as we know it today, came to be. The last important thing to remember about the Word is something else the Bible tells us: the Bible says that *nothing* was made without the Word. This means that every single thing in our solar system was created by the Word of God — or, if you would like to think of it as music, which it really is, by the song of God. Nothing was made without this wonderful song, which is still going on.