

Lesson Suggestions for Libra

SPIRITUAL KEYWORD — EQUILIBRIUM

GRADE IV — FIRST SUNDAY

KEYWORD—*Judgment*

To our new students: We would have you understand that you're taking a step away from childhood, with its ideas and interests, toward the larger understanding and interests leading to manhood and womanhood.

To our other members: this represents a milestone at which we pause to measure the progress made during the past year and renew the pledge made to the Higher Self to follow the straight path indicated by the central rod of the Caduceus. This renewal of interest and resolve is especially valuable at this time of the year. The new cycle of Christ's work, which begins with the entrance of the Sun into the sign Libra, also marks a renewed "starting point" for us.

The Caduceus gives us a general view, or review, of man's position at the present time, and each one of us is free to make his own choice of the road to be traveled to the wonderful goal that lies ahead.

On the winding road of the Caduceus we find many different kinds of people, including those who are indifferent, scornful, lazy, selfish, and with minds closed to the glorious truths of Life.

On the straight path of the Caduceus we find those who, knowing of God's Plan, have made their choice and are trying to live according to it, working hard to correct their faults and improve their abilities. There are those, too, who, with no definite knowledge of God's Plan and guided by faith alone, are working just as faithfully along the same lines.

Let us think the matter over seriously and decide, each for ourselves, in which class we belong and for which class we would like to qualify. In making such a choice, we are really "tuning in" to the Libra Ray, the Ray that helps us to *weigh* the ideas and suggestions that come to us from every side, and to choose among them those which we judge to be of the greatest value. This is the process that will carry us to the highest quality of Libra, which is Equilibrium, or the *balanced* life.

We suggest the use of the Caduceus as the emblem of our class.

GRADE IV — FIRST SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Matthew 3:1-11

GOD'S MESSENGER

Golden Text—Prepare the way of the Lord: make His paths straight.—*Matt.* 3:3.

John the Baptist called out to the people: "Repent of your sins and be baptized . . . There comes One after me mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire." People came from far and near to hear this strangely dressed young man wearing a camel hair garment with leather girdle. He spoke with great courage and conviction, saying, "You cannot hide your sins from me, nor the Great Teacher soon to be among you."

It mattered not to John the Baptist that he made enemies of the king and church officials when he spoke of their wickedness. Later, they took their revenge by allowing him to be beheaded.

Accorded to John the Baptist was the great privilege of baptizing Jesus and seeing the Holy Spirit descend upon his head in the manner of a dove, while hearing God's voice

announcing, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." Thus, for a brief moment, were united the lives of John the Baptist and Jesus. John's whole life of thirty years was spent in preparation for his six months' spreading of the message of repentance, as a herald of Christ Jesus' coming. His one and only goal was to prepare the way for Christ Jesus, who followed with His wonderful message of God's love for mankind. What tremendous courage John the Baptist displayed, caring not for his own life. He was completely devoted to carrying out his brief but significant share in God's Divine Plan.

It is quite unlikely that we shall be called upon to make so great a sacrifice in carrying out our share in God's Divine Plan, but we may be sure that we shall need courage to do what we know to be right. This we may have by remembering to ask God's help each day and to give thanks for such brave people who made it possible for us to know God's message of love, peace, and joy.

GRADE IV — SECOND SUNDAY

KEYWORD—*Poise*

Today's keyword, *poise*, brings us to the study of our strongest and most bothersome problem: the control of our desires, wishes, and emotions!

We know how upset we can get when we're angry, sad, or even just "jittery." Sometimes we don't know what we're doing on such occasions. Afterwards we're sorry about what we said, or did, or didn't do. At those times, it is best to keep quiet and calm down before attempting any further action or speech.

It is possible, at such a time, to do or say something we might regret for the rest of our lives. Perhaps we don't

realize how much harm such upsets can do to our whole body. It is very unwise to eat or drink anything at such a time, for the stomach is in no condition to receive or take proper care of whatever we may send down to it. In fact, the stomach might just refuse to accept anything, and we know that would make us feel worse than ever.

Our desires, wishes, and emotions may be considered a great source of energy which makes it possible to transmute our thoughts into actions. At our present stage of development, that desire force or energy is what enables us to advance, provided it is *used in the right way*. That is why it is so important to gain and keep control of our feelings and desires—in other words, to get and keep our emotional balance. The quality of *poise*, our keyword for the coming week, is the mark of those who have learned to hold feelings, emotions, and desires in check. The next time we begin to get “bothered” about something, let’s be in full control!

How about working on that this week?

GRADE IV — SECOND SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Matthew 14:22-33

JESUS WALKS ON THE SEA

Golden Text—O thou of little faith, why did you doubt?
—*Matt.* 14:31.

“It is a ghost!” cried the disciples in fear. “Be of good cheer, it is I, be not afraid,” said Christ Jesus as He walked toward them on the Sea of Galilee where the waves were tossing high because of a strong wind.

Peter said, “Lord, if it be You, bid me come to You on the water.” Christ Jesus said, “Come.” Peter stepped out onto the water but, being frightened by the waves, he began

to sink and called, "Lord, save me!" Christ Jesus reached out, catching Peter's hand, saying, "O, thou of little faith, why did you doubt?"

When all were in the ship, they worshipped Christ Jesus saying, "Of a truth thou art the Son of God."

The hidden meaning here is that the disciples hadn't gained enough self-control to govern their emotions, because they lacked faith in overcoming fear. Peter was trying, but hadn't quite made it. Only when there is great faith—with right living—can fear be completely overcome. Christ Jesus was teaching His disciples to give all for His sake, in order to reach that goal. It is a great thing to have such control!

We must keep on trying to reach the place where we can say, "None of these things move me." Never to let our emotions, feelings, and desires control us, is our goal. Time and again we may fail, but we must not give up! We must gain the victory if we are ever to become disciples of Christ Jesus, able to carry out our share as workers in His Divine Plan. That is a large assignment, requiring all our will-power, and determination, and God's help.

We can start *now* by learning to keep an *even temper!* Let's work on that!

GRADE IV — THIRD SUNDAY

KEYWORD—*Physiology*

As we investigate the function of the particular organ of the body ruled by the zodiacal sign of each month, we are given the clue as to the spiritual work we should do under that sign.

We find that Libra rules the kidneys, whose work is to preserve the chemical balance in the body.

Our dense physical body is made up of solids, liquids,

and gases. To keep it in good working order, it is necessary that these various elements should be present in just the right amounts with neither too much nor too little of any given substance.

The whole body is really a laboratory in which the chemical substances in the food and drink and air that we take in are converted into cell tissue and usable energy. There is always a great amount of waste material to be dealt with, part of which is produced by the chemical processes themselves and part of which comes from unusable materials in the food we eat. Some of the most wonderful work done in the body is accomplished by the organs of elimination which seek continuously to cleanse our temple of this waste which, when allowed to remain within the body, generates poisons dangerous to the body.

Waste solids are taken care of by the large intestine, waste gases by the lungs, and waste liquids by the kidneys. The skin also plays a vastly important part in this process of purification. The work of the kidneys is unusual because these two little organs not only gather the waste liquids for elimination, but also filter them carefully, holding onto all such materials as the body needs and letting the waste materials go on through to be cast off. That is where we get the clue to the method we are to follow in purifying our characters and our lives in order to attain the balance held before us as the *Libra* ideal.

The Higher Self within us grows and develops through experience, just as the body grows and develops through food. Every day in the process of living we generate the thoughts, feelings, and actions which provide the food of the Higher Self. Some of these are healthful and valuable, and others are useless or poisonous. It is for us to weigh and judge them all at the close of the day as well as at certain periods of the year, so that we may hold firmly to the good, letting the waste and the evil go.

GRADE IV — THIRD SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — I John 4:16-21

LOVE IN ACTION

Golden Text—He who loveth God, (must) love his brother also.—*John 4:21.*

Within every one of us there is a spark of God. Thus we are all united with stronger ties than we can imagine, for we are all sisters and brothers as children of God, our Heavenly Father. Although you may never have thought so, this unity was to be expressed in our families. Perhaps you don't feel strongly that tie of love. It is there, however, when difficulties arise within the family that demand solution.

There is the mother's love for her helpless little one; she does everything possible to make her child comfortable and happy. The father shows his love by providing for the family, oftentimes working long, hard hours at a job perhaps not to his liking. There is more sharing of the family duties now than was formerly the case, by all members of the family, and this shows *loving cooperation*. Unfortunately, nowadays some families are falling apart because of the pressures of new ways of living which are against all that home and family stand for, but we look forward to seeing that corrected. Some years ago we saw a poster of a boy carrying a younger child on his back, below it appearing the words: "He's not heavy, he's my brother."

Today, we extend our thoughts toward others outside the family, building ties of friendship with them. They may be people with the same goals as our own, and we grow to understand their feelings nearly as well as our own feelings. Sometimes, in this way, we come to a better understanding with our families, asking and offering forgiveness, building trust by speaking the truth so far as we know

it, planning together for better things, speaking kindly words and coming closer in harmony.

Christ Jesus exemplified perfect love. He was cursed, but He didn't curse back. Although Christ's love isn't accepted by all, He still loves all mankind, and is ready and willing to forgive whenever we ask that He do so and when we promise to live a better life with His help and guidance.

It is true we still have wars, but today there is a stronger desire for peace than ever before in the world's history. Peace, as a part of love, must begin with us—in our homes, at school, at work, at play, or wherever we come together. In that way, we shall one day achieve the way of life for all mankind in which there will be "Peace on earth, goodwill to men."

Are you willing to have it begin with you?

GRADE IV — FOURTH SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — John 8:3-11

THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

Golden Text—Thou shalt not commit adultery.—*Exodus* 20:14.

"Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Moses, in the law, commanded such a person should be stoned, what do you say?" So spoke some of the Temple leaders who brought the woman before Christ Jesus as He stood inside the Temple grounds. Christ Jesus surprised every one by stooping down and writing in the sand, just as though He hadn't heard what was asked of Him. The accusers continued questioning Him. Finally, He stood up, saying, "He that is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone." Once again He stooped, writing in the

sand. (It has since been discovered that what Christ Jesus wrote was the sins of three of these accusers.) One by one the accusers left until all had gone. When Christ Jesus looked up and saw only the woman, He said to her, "Where are your accusers? Does no one condemn you?" She answered, "No man, Lord." Christ Jesus said to the woman, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and sin no more."

There are many Bible references against adultery (improper sex relations). Such actions were punishable, in ancient times, by death, and are condemned in the New Testament.

There is a good reason for this commandment, which is as follows: In each human being there is a power called the creative force. This power is a very wonderful force, aptly named. It is what makes us able to create, both physically and mentally—to write and paint and compose music. It is what enables people to become good doctors and lawyers and teachers, or whatever they wish to be. If we write a good composition at school or work up an experiment in chemistry, or even baby-sit and dream up something new and interesting for the children to do, we use the creative force. It is what Einstein and Michaelangelo and Ford and everyone else who ever did anything constructive for the world used to do it with. No one can do anything original or worthwhile without using it.

This creative force is also called sex force, and is used when people want to have children. It is perfectly all right to use the force for child-bearing. It is very wrong, however, to use it for sexual pleasure. This is because it is really being wasted when it is used for sexual pleasure, and we have less of it to use in creating with our minds and unfolding our higher powers. We are all destined to be creative beings like God some day, and create in the way He does, but we will never accomplish that unless we develop our own creative force enough to be like Him. That is

why the creative force is so sacred, and why it is a sin to waste it for sexual pleasure.

Under the Law of Consequence, if we do use the creative force for this kind of pleasure, we will have to suffer for it sooner or later. Medical authorities and scientists are learning more and more that improper sex relations lead to illness and infection. Many people who have terrible diseases have them because they misused their creative force in previous lifetimes. In other words, that kind of pleasure now will only bring us pain later on.

We can do much for ourselves, and others, if we use the creative force the right way, and so much harm if we use it in the wrong way. If we start out using the creative force mentally and emotionally while we are young, it will be much easier to keep on using it that way. We can then shape really creative, useful, and satisfying lives for ourselves, and do so many helpful things for other people.

The FOURTH SUNDAY is also SERVICE SUNDAY for discussions on the Libra keywords of *Equilibrium*, *Judgment*, and *Poise* in relation to the service we were able to give during the past month.

GRADE IV — FIFTH SUNDAY: REVIEW

Lesson Suggestions for Scorpio

SPIRITUAL KEYWORD — POWER

GRADE IV — FIRST SUNDAY

KEYWORD—*Intensity*

The new planetary influence for this solar month of Scorpio comes to us from our spiritual keyword, Power. All that we call energy, or force, is a part of the great stream

of Life pouring out from God and flowing through everything in the Universe, from the greatest suns and planets to the smallest grain of sand in this physical world.

The difference between the mineral and man is that the mineral has only one way of using that power while man has several ways of using power to enable him, as he grows in understanding, to use more and more of this mighty power. With it he may ferret or dig out all the secrets of Nature and accomplish any heroic thing he may will to do.

Just as the engineer, who builds a power house for lighting the city, must know the laws governing electricity and must understand the machinery he uses, so we, if we want to use the living power that flows out from God, must know the laws that govern it and must understand the living machinery we possess. Our dense physical body has no more life than any other combination of solids, liquids, and gases, but when we take up the higher life, represented by the straight rod of the Caduceus, and begin to change our habits, we have taken a great step forward.

Thoughts and actions, repeated constantly, make grooves in the physical brain; the grooves then become the channels through which the Life stream flows, and we say "a habit has been formed." When we try to break an old habit, and put a new and better one in its place, we must block up the old channel in the brain by stopping the thoughts and actions that made it. At the same time, we dig a new channel by turning the power onto a new set of thoughts and actions, until they have made their groove in the brain, and the new and better habit has been established. This calls for all the intelligence and will power we possess. *Intensity of purpose* is necessary to accomplish it, and *intensity of purpose* is the keyword for the coming week.

Each one of us can do our very best to break an old habit by substituting a new set of thoughts and actions. Will you do that?

GRADE IV — FIRST SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Luke 7:36-50; John 12:1-8

ANOINTING OF CHRIST JESUS

Golden Text—Your sins are forgiven . . . Your faith has saved you; go in peace.—*Luke 7:48, 50.*

It may seem strange, when you think of it, that Christ Jesus, an invited guest, was not extended the courtesy of having His feet washed when He entered the house, as was the custom in those days. This neglect was due to Simon, the Pharisee, a member of a group very strict in following all regulation as to cleanliness. We aren't given the reason, but perhaps it was because a more important event was intended to serve as a lesson for everyone present. Christ Jesus' feet were anointed by a sinful woman who showed sorrow for her sins by washing His feet with her tears, her repentance by drying them with her hair, and her love by covering them with an ointment she brought with her. All of this she did in faith, hoping to receive forgiveness for her wrong doing, and this He understood. That is why He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven . . . Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Can you imagine what love, what peace, and what joy were hers, to know that her sins were forgiven and that she could now make a fresh start, that ahead of her was a whole new life, without any guilt feelings over sins of the past?

Christ Jesus received His second anointing from another woman whose name was Mary, the sister of Lazarus and Martha. All three were His dear friends. As they sat at supper, Mary took a pound of expensive fragrant spikenard ointment and poured it on His feet. Then she dried them with her hair. When one disciple objected, Christ Jesus said, "Let Mary alone; she has done this before my bur-

ial. The poor you have with you always, but not Me.”

Mary and her brother and sister were disciples of Christ Jesus. Mary lived a good life, doing her very best in spreading His teachings and dedicating her life to carrying out His will in pure love and selfless service. In so doing she had reached a very high level of spiritual development.

What we notice about both of these women is their transmutation—or conversion—as a result of having come in contact with Christ and His teachings. This completely changed their lives, enabling them to climb higher on the Ladder of Life. The important thing was that they were climbing to ever greater unselfish service, and both were completely dedicated to spreading the teachings of Christ Jesus.

We, too, have the opportunity of becoming better people by reviewing every night, upon retiring, the day's events in reverse order, starting with the *last* one, going back over each one until we reach the very first happening of morning. While doing this, we take ourselves to task for the mistakes we've made, and praise ourselves for what was done rightly. The next day, so far as possible, we correct the mistakes of the day before. As we continue faithfully with this exercise, we shall find ourselves better able to give a good account of ourselves at all times. At the same time, we're enabled to overcome temptations more readily and meet tests far more easily. We will develop a more kindly understanding of others and their needs, so that our thoughts toward everyone will be filled with Love, Peace, and Joy, and with brotherly love to all people regardless of race, color, or creed.

This is a tremendous challenge and a high ideal—are we willing to meet it?

GRADE IV — SECOND SUNDAY

KEYWORD—*Transmutation*

Were you able to get an old habit erased during the past

week? Are you happier with the new habit which is gradually taking its place?

Our keyword for the coming week, *Transmutation*, is very closely connected with today's lesson. Transmutation is the most thrilling evolutionary venture at our present stage of development, involving all our motives for action, as well as the power to move and act. It is in the intensive work of transmutation that we, as modern Knights of the Holy Grail, meet and conquer the dragons of wrong feelings and wrong desires. Wrong is simply that which is not in line with our advancement, and right that which is in line with our advancement. This whole process of cleansing makes for a healthier and more efficient dense body. (The effect on the mind will be studied next month under Sagittarius).

As this harmonizing and cleansing progresses, the Path becomes increasingly glorious, and God's power flows through us in ever greater volume to accomplish things which, at present, would seem to be absolutely impossible. The work of transmutation is a *joyful* pushing forward from one victory to another. To worry over failures is a loss of time and energy; actually, a failure should make us put forth greater effort.

Let us all continue to develop that new habit we worked on last week, making it grow in strength and power. In so doing, we are using our keyword, transmutation.

GRADE IV — SECOND SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Luke 13:20-21

THE LEAVEN PARABLE

Golden Text—Behold, all things are become new.—II Corinthians 5:17.

In this parable Christ Jesus explains how the great power of transmutation—change or conversion—works. We notice that in all of His parables Christ Jesus referred to things people knew something about. In this story, with its hidden meaning, it was the bread they ate every day and generally made at home. There weren't many places where bread might have been purchased, as is the case today.

If you've ever seen bread or rolls made, you've probably noticed that a small quantity of yeast—that is what leaven really is—was mixed with flour, salt, and water. The mixture was placed in a pan, covered, and set aside in a warm place to increase in size, then followed a kneading down process, after which the procedure was repeated. The mixture afterwards was formed into loaves and baked into bread.

We may compare the above with an idea or thought allowed to remain in our minds. It makes no difference whether it is good or bad, as long as we permit it to stay in our minds it will increase or expand until we feel forced to do something about it. If the idea is a good one, we've perhaps benefited others as well as ourselves by putting it into action. If not, there's no telling what harm may be done.

Likewise, the spark of God within everyone of us, if allowed to grow while we sincerely pray to God in our search for truth and understanding of His will, awakens within our hearts a sympathy for, and a realization of, others' needs. When this happens, we learn how to develop an unselfish spirit of brotherhood in our daily communication with others. At times we may stumble, but we still must keep on trying again and again to increase in honesty, unselfishness, and purity of love. Thus we endeavor to make this familiar song a part of our daily lives: "Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me."

As we continue in our efforts we shall be hastening the time when all nations will have fellowship together, and peace will become the new way of life.

GRADE IV — THIRD SUNDAY

KEYWORDS—*Physiology—Generative System*

The part of the power stream we use for creation is called the Creative Fire; it has been likened to a stream of liquid fire.

This creative fire centers, in most of us, at the base of the spine. From there we can send it into the organ of sex to create a new body for some friend who is coming back to Earth; we can send it upward to the brain to create new ideas or to put more power into old ideas that we are working on. We can send it out in speech to convey a thought or a picture to some other mind, or we can send it out through the whole body in physical exercise or manual work.

Because the sign Scorpio rules the organ in our body whose function it is to produce children, we consider today that phase of our creative work.

The use of the creative force for parenthood is a most sacred privilege, because the process of bringing to birth a living being is one of the holiest and deepest mysteries of life. For ages we have used this sacred fire carelessly and wrongly, however, and, as a result, we meet with many temptations to mis-use it. Gradually, as we learn to understand and reverence it as the power of God in us, these temptations will fall away. Let us not only strive for clean-mindedness and purity, but let us also watch for every opportunity to forward the cause of clean thinking, clean speech, and clean living among our friends, both boys and girls. Each must support the other in these ideals if the race is to be lifted to its proper level.

Let us think of ourselves as a secret band of Crusaders

in this great work, and let our emblem, the Caduceus, remind us that each of us is pledged to do his part in helping humanity to find, through purity, the straight path symbolized by the shaft of the Caduceus. We can count upon plenty of help from the Great Ones who watch from behind the scenes, and the influence such a group as theirs can have along this line can hardly be measured.

Boys, as secret Crusaders, a part of your work is to protect, in every possible way, the purity of the girls with whom you associate, because the girls are to be the mothers of the next generation.

Girls, to be in full control of the great power you possess requires your dedication in doing and being your best at all times. The wonder of your motherhood is a great privilege, but also a great responsibility. You are the custodians of the ideals *for the human race*. You, as mothers, and teachers, will mold the character of the children. Therefore, it is necessary to become fully aware of the importance of keeping your bodies clean and pure so as to be better enabled to do all humanly possible to provide the best opportunity for the new bodies of the Egos who will be returning to Earth through you, as mothers. In addition, your influence over the boys with whom you associate plays a far greater part than you may realize in helping them to keep to the straight, clean path.

Boys and girls, always keep the ideal of the creative force within yourselves away from every ugly expression—away from unclean thoughts, words, or feelings, such as jealousy, anger, resentment, and all else of a disagreeable nature. Instead, use this Mars force to make yourselves, and the lives of those around you, rich and beautiful.

We shall be glad to answer, after class, any questions you care to ask, since the lesson time is too short to cover fully this most important subject.

NOTE TO TEACHERS—It would be well to become acquainted with the best books on the subject of sex for the adolescent so as to be fully informed for adequate discussion. The local librarian will be glad to assist in selecting books for your reference.

GRADE IV — THIRD SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Mark 11:15-17

CLEANSING THE TEMPLE

Golden Text—You are the temple of the Living God.
—II *Corinthians* 6:16.

This is one of the greatest teachings of Christ Jesus and therefore was included in the Gospels by the four disciples, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Christ Jesus drove out the people who were buying and selling in the Temple at Jerusalem, because they had turned it into a market while it was intended as a house of prayer. Just imagine all the noise and confusion while people were trying to pray!

We have so often spoken of that Divine Spark within every one, but did you ever think of your body as a temple for God? That is what the Divine Spark within can make it. We see those who treat their bodies badly by using alcohol, drugs, tobacco, and wrong foods, and by doing wrong actions, all of which later cause pains, illness, suffering, and sadness. In addition to that, our thoughts are every bit as important for the well-being of our bodies, because thoughts lead to actions, good or bad, which help or harm others as well as ourselves. This depends upon the kind of thoughts we permit to stay in our minds. A violent reaction may follow a bad thought, causing untold suffering for others and ourselves as well. An unkind thought of

others comes back to us, bringing problems into our lives. When we, by thinking thoughts of good-will for all people and by doing kindly deeds, endeavor to make our bodies fit dwelling places for the Divine Sparks, we shall grow, day by day, into better people. One day, when we shall have gained greater understanding of the wonderful Rosicrucian Teachings, they will lead us ever onward and upward into an undreamed of realization of what God has in store for those who love and serve Him unselfishly and give Him first place in their lives.

It may seem, right now, that we can't do very much, but it matters not how small our efforts may appear. Little by little we gradually build better bodies, fit dwelling places for God's Divine Sparks. He will then guide us into all truth.

How may we, right now, make of ourselves better people—physically, mentally, and spiritually?

GRADE IV — FOURTH SUNDAY

Bible Lesson—Ephesians 4:28

THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

Golden Text—Thou shalt not steal.—*Exodus* 20:15.

We all know that stealing means taking something that doesn't belong to us. This commandment refers however, not only to *material* things, such as someone else's jewelry or car or record player, but to other things which cannot be seen but are very real.

In one of his plays, the great dramatist, Shakespeare, said: "He that filches from me my good name robs me of that which not enriches him and makes me poor indeed." A person's good name is his reputation—that is, the way

other people think about him. Someone who is known to be kind, thoughtful, honest, and upright has a good reputation. Someone who is believed to be dishonest, or cruel, or greedy, or domineering, is said to have a bad reputation.

We can steal a person's reputation—his good name—by saying malicious and false things about him and causing other people to start believing them. We can repeat false gossip about him, or blame him for things he did not do or was not responsible for. We can even make complimentary suggestions about him of which we have no proof, such as, "I'll bet he'd do that if he got a chance," when we don't know at all whether he would or not. Other people hear these things and may believe them or repeat them, even if they are not sure they are true. In this way, the person's reputation may become a bad reputation. We have *stolen* something he had that was good, and we had no right to do so.

In a similar way we can steal someone's friendship from another person. Suppose Jack and John are good friends. If we say bad things about Jack to John, or if we express doubts about him, it could be that John will give up his friendship with Jack and turn to us for friendship. That, however, would be a stolen friendship, based on untruths, and a relationship based on such a false foundation is not a true friendship and cannot last.

Cheating on tests is another way of stealing, although you may not have thought of it that way. We are really stealing another person's knowledge or ideas when we copy from him. This is recognized in the adult world, where patent laws and copyright laws prevent people stealing from inventions and publications already on the market and presenting these ideas as their own.

Thus we see that stealing means far more than robbing a person of material things. Naturally, we should never

do that. However, there is much even more important, although intangible, "property" that also belongs to every one of us. This "property", too, we must not steal.

The FOURTH SUNDAY is also SERVICE SUNDAY for discussions of Scorpio keywords of *Power*, *Intensity* and *Transmutation* in relation to the service we were able to give during the past month.

Lesson Suggestions for Sagittarius

SPIRITUAL KEYWORD — ASPIRATION

GRADE IV — FIRST SUNDAY

KEYWORD—*Scope*

Scope is not a trait, as is courage, sympathy, or constancy. Instead, scope indicates the strength or bigness of traits. Scope can be broad or narrow, high or low. If a person's scope is narrow—that is, the range of his outlook on life is set and limited—all of his character traits are restrained and undeveloped. If a person's scope is broad, high, and expansive, his character traits develop accordingly, and he can soar to grand and glorious spiritual heights.

The narrow-minded person lacks scope; the idealist abounds in it. The scope of the idealist leads him out of the so-called "ugliness" of the material world and into comprehension of what *really is* and what *can be*. Broad and high scope can be compared to the telescope which shows the astronomer the wonders of space. Without the telescope, there would be no Moon walks or space stations. Without a wide latitude of scope, expansiveness, man would have no inkling of the wonderful things in store for him; he would not see the magnificent possibilities awaiting him.

Let us think about ourselves for a moment. Are we real-

ly joyful, eager to be about the business of living? Abraham Lincoln once said that most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be. He was a wise man who understood human nature. He knew that man is truly happy only when he has a worthwhile objective and is progressing toward it at an acceptable rate.

Broadness of scope helps to bring about the inner peace that passes understanding, which was referred to by the apostle Paul. The secret is to aim as high as we can see, and then set out to reach that goal by putting one foot in front of the other—mentally, as we do physically. That is all it takes: "one foot in front of the other."

You are young now and cannot see very far ahead, but you can aim just the same. Anything, really anything, can be yours if you put one foot in front of the other in the search for it. The world is waiting for young people like yourselves to aim high and pull the rest along with you. What is the greatest thing you can think of doing? The very *greatest*? Well, why not go out and do it? It needs to be done and YOU can do it? What ever you can think up you can do! Decide what needs to be done in this world, then set "one foot in front of the other" without stopping until you do it!

The hope of the world is in youths like yourselves. On with it!

GRADE IV — FIRST SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Matthew 25:31-46

THE JUDGMENT

Golden Text—Be you transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.—*Romans* 12:2.

In this biblical passage, Christ Jesus explained that we

are all held accountable for our deeds, and the extent of our loving service to others will determine our own future. The actions judged in the parable were: feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, making strangers welcome, clothing the naked, and visiting prisoners and the sick.

The people who did these things no doubt also served in many other ways not mentioned by Christ Jesus. Certainly they also showed understanding of peoples' needs and encouraged them to carry on in spite of trouble. This work was done in the spirit of loving kindness and helpfulness. We often overlook such actions in our everyday lives.

Christ Jesus placed great importance upon our daily actions as we communicate and associate with people. He said, "By their fruits you shall know them." "Fruits" means actions, and the results of actions. Our actions speak far louder than any words we utter.

We should keep our minds constantly on thoughts of the good, the true, and the beautiful, because such thoughts lead to good actions, like those Christ Jesus spoke of. There are always "little things" we can do which mean so much to other people. Perhaps a schoolmate is ill. We may be able to visit him, and we can always pray for him. If someone is discouraged or unhappy, we can speak encouraging words. Even a friendly smile helps. We can welcome a newcomer to our midst. As we keep on the lookout for possibilities, we learn more of what can be done. These attempts to be of service, along with our other regular activities, will keep us too busy to have much time for falling into temptation.

The evening exercise of reviewing the day's activities when we retire enables us to keep a constant check upon our actions. Even if our review of the day's activities shows that we do care about our neighbors, we can always do even better the next day.

The power of the mind may be likened to a seed planted in the earth—at first nothing seems to be happening, but finally a tiny, tender blade breaks through the soil toward the sunlight. A small beginning, it is true, but gradually the tiny blade grows stronger, eventually becoming ripe fruit or grain. So do our actions come from tiny thoughts planted in our minds. Thus we come to understand how important is every single thing we *think, do, and say* if we are to become real helpers in carrying out God's will.

Don't you think we need to be constantly on watch as to what thoughts are made welcome in our minds?

GRADE IV — SECOND SUNDAY

KEYWORD—*Reverence*

It has been said that reverence is the highest, most sublime feeling that man is capable of expressing. It is a holy feeling which is a mixture of respect, devotion, awe, and perhaps a little fear. So powerful is it that the average person cannot maintain a state of reverence for longer than a few moments at a time. He who cultivates reverence, however, is greatly blessed, for his life will never be dull or wearisome.

We have all, at some time in our lives, experienced reverence. If we think back to when we were very young, still completely honest in our feelings and not yet worried about what someone else might think of us, we might remember times of spontaneous reverence. Perhaps we felt it in church, or when meeting a famous person, or when we saw an animal being born. We might also be able to imagine the reverence we would feel if at this very moment we were to see the Christ appearing in the heavens amid shafts of beautifully colored light.

The more we can express reverence, the more content we will be. Reverence, however, should be expressed only for something that is worthy. All life is worthy of reverence, but inanimate objects should not be revered. They may be respected, perhaps, but not revered. Reverence may be expressed whenever we think of Deity—whenever, as in prayer, we come into the presence of God. Reverence may be expressed with regard to the Divine Spark of God that is in every person we meet.

Reverence may be expressed when we see God working through another person, in deeds of great kindness, or, perhaps, in a stirring performance of a musical composition. Reverent thankfulness may—and should—be expressed at mealtimes, or whenever we stop to consider the many blessings which are ours.

The more we can attune ourselves to the divinity that is everywhere, the more we shall be able to feel the reverence that this sublime Force invites. Goodness (God) is everywhere. Look for it; learn to see it.

GRADE IV — SECOND SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Matt. 22:2-14

THE GOLDEN WEDDING GARMENT

Golden Text—Friend, how came you in here not having a wedding garment?—*Matt. 22:12.*

One day when Christ Jesus was teaching, He told a story that is very important for all of us to know. It was about a king whose son was going to be married. The king wanted to have a party for his son, and sent out his servants to invite his friends. The people who were invited, however, wouldn't come!

One said he had to go to work, another said that she had too much to do at home, someone else said he had an-

other party to go to, and so it went. Some of the people, instead of being happy the king had invited them to his party, and thanking the servants for the invitation, even attacked them and beat them instead.

Of course, the king was upset, because he had been looking forward so much to having all these people, who he thought were his friends, with him on such a happy day. Still he wanted to have a party, so he asked his servant to go out again and, this time, invite strangers—just people whom they saw out on the streets. We would not think of having a party and inviting strangers to it, but the king wanted so much to have the party that he did.

Many strangers did come; some were good people, and some were people who weren't so good; but on the day of the party, the king's house was full of guests. They were all sitting around enjoying themselves when the king came in. He greeted them all, shaking hands with each one, but when he came to one guest, he suddenly did a very strange thing. He looked very hard at the guest and asked him why he didn't have on the right clothes. We know, when we go to a party, that we put on clean clothes and try to look our best. This one guest at the king's party didn't seem to know that, however, and he had on old, dirty clothes and didn't look nice at all. It's probably no wonder that the king asked him why he wasn't wearing the right garment. The right garment the guest should have had on for this particular party—which all the other guests did have on—was called a "wedding garment."

The guest was so surprised at the king's question that he stared at the king and couldn't say a word. For some reason, he did not seem to know that he should have worn a wedding garment to the party, and couldn't imagine why the king was asking such a question.

Then the king said that the guest could not stay at the

party without the proper clothes, and that he had to leave right then and there. However, he could come back when he had put on his wedding garment, but the sad fact was that the guest didn't have a wedding garment because he never knew he should have gotten one.

This is a symbolical story. The king represents Christ Jesus Himself, and the party refers to the time when Christ will come back to Earth to set up His Kingdom. Then He will remain with us and be our Ruler, and we shall be able to see Him.

But—and this is very important—only those people will be admitted to Christ's Kingdom who have on the right clothes, just as it was in the story. However, the clothes we must wear to get into Christ's Kingdom aren't made of cloth, and we certainly won't be able to buy them in a store or make them on a sewing machine.

Every one of us must have a wedding garment to get into Christ's Kingdom, and the only way to get one is to make it ourselves. *No one* can make it for us, or give it to us. The only way to get this wonderful garment is to live as good and helpful a life as we possibly can. We must think good thoughts, be kind and loving, and most important of all, take every opportunity to be of service to our fellow men.

You may think this is a most unusual way of making clothes, but the wedding garment is not an ordinary garment. When it is finished it is not going to look like a dress or suit or anything else ever worn before. It will, in fact, be made of ether—the two highest ethers of the vital body, which we call the light and reflecting ethers. The more of purity, compassion, selfless service, and general "right living" we are able to inject into our lives now, the stronger do these two ethers of the vital body become. In time, they will then form the luminous soul body, or golden wedding

garment, in which all who are to enter Christ's Kingdom at the time of the Second Coming will be clad.

Every thought, word, and deed of kindness which we are now able to generate contributes just a little more to the wedding garment that we are in process of "sewing" for ourselves. Every unworthy thought, word, and deed "tears a hole," as it were, into the garment—a hole which we will have to "re-weave" before the garment can be finished.

It is well, then, to bear this parable in mind as we go about our daily business. Conscious awareness of the fact that we *are*, or should be, working on the completion of this wedding garment will help us further in remaining true to our ideals and principles.

GRADE IV — THIRD SUNDAY

KEYWORD—*Motion—Hips and Thighs*

The femur, in the thigh, is the body's largest bone. Together with powerful muscles, it forms one of the pillars of the body which enable us to walk upright. It compares with the bone in the upper arm. There is also a similarity between the hip joint and the shoulder joint in that both actually are sockets. Arm movements are made close to the trunk of the body, while those of the thigh enable us to walk about and cover larger areas. Generally, however, we make these motions with little thought of their importance to us. Long steps cover the ground quickly, and may be compared to the Jupiter qualities of aspiration, broad-mindedness, and reverence by means of which we go upward on our evolutionary path. Our thoughts follow the same pattern, but we must keep only those necessary to the course we have in mind.

Mankind travels the road leading upward to God. Most

people use the spiral path as shown in the Caduceus, but there are some of us who follow the straight central Path in climbing the Ladder of Life to God. People who take that direct Path are tested frequently to determine their sincerity in doing what is right. They do well if they have strong will power and are motivated to good deeds. As we tread the Path onward and upward, we come to realize that we may not judge "the often unprepossessing exteriors of our brothers," but rather try to contact the Divine Spark of God hidden within.

Our future is determined by the way we meet daily events or happenings. By aiming to resolve each situation for the greatest good of all concerned we are developing abilities we may not know we have.

We need to be considerate of others in our personal contacts, giving credit where credit is due, willing to help where necessary and doing our work as best we know how. In so doing, we're not only helping ourselves but also bringing out the best in others through gratitude and friendship. In that way, we're aiming for the Brotherhood of Man, for, "If we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, we have Fellowship one with another."

GRADE IV — THIRD SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Matt. 6:5-15

THE DISCIPLES LEARN TO PRAY

Golden Text — In everything by prayer . . . with Thanksgiving let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.—*Phil.* 4:67.

"Lord, teach us to pray," said one of the disciples to Christ Jesus. He answered, "When you pray, enter into

your closet, and when you have shut the door, pray to your Father in secret, and your Father who sees in secret, shall reward you openly." After that Christ Jesus taught them what we know today as the Lord's Prayer. It is also called the law of prayer. Let us look into the meanings of the words it contains:

Our Father who art in heaven—salutation or greeting.

Hallowed be Thy Name—The Human Spirit lifts in devotion to the Holy Spirit (Jehovah), its parent aspect.

Thy Kingdom come—the Life Spirit raises itself on the wings of love, praying to the source of its being, the Son (Christ).

Thy will be done—here the Divine Spirit soars to its fountain head, the Father, from whence it sprang at the dawn of time, thus showing confidence in Him.

Give us this day our daily bread—the Divine Spirit prays to the Father for the needs of the dense physical body.

Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us—the Life Spirit prays to the Son, for its lower nature, the vital body. In other words we pray to be forgiven as we forgive others.

Lead us not into temptation, or, do not let us enter into temptation—the Human Spirit offers its prayer to the lowest aspect of Deity for the highest of the threefold bodies, the desire body (storehouse of energy). As we learn to control our desire nature, our temper, we will more harmoniously follow the laws of God and man.

Deliver us from evil—all three aspects of the threefold Spirit (Human, Life, and Divine) in man, join in the most important of prayers, the petition with regard to the mind.

Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, forever. Amen—a fitting prayer of adoration of the threefold Spirit as it closes its direct petition to the Deity.

Thus do the various parts of the Lord's Prayer concern themselves with the needs of all our vehicles. Christ Jesus, in His great wisdom made this very simple prayer complete in every possible respect.

We need to make this Prayer a part of our daily lives, being sure that we pray thoughtfully and sincerely. There is a great difference between just repeating the words and really putting our heart and mind into its words.

Do you know the Lord's Prayer from memory? If not, will you learn to pray it every single day?

GRADE IV — FOURTH SUNDAY

Bible Lesson—Proverbs 12:17-22

NINTH COMMANDMENT

Golden Text—Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.—*Exodus* 20:16.

"I will return to my father saying, 'I have sinned against you and am not worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired servants,'" said the Prodigal Son. When he was a long way off, his father saw him, ran to meet him, and embraced him with great rejoicing because his son now realized how wrong and foolish he had been, and was changing his life.

All this came about because the son had taken his inheritance and gone into a far country, spending every bit of it in wrong living. He was forced to take a job tending pigs and was so hungry he could have eaten the pigs' food. That was when he decided to go back home.

This parable Christ Jesus told the people as an example of how our Heavenly Father is ready to forgive us when

we are sorry for the wrong things we've done and want to do right with His help.

As we work at our share in God's Divine Plan, we find He gives us the materials with which to work, and the power to do so, but He never does our jobs for us. Every single person has a particular task to do, and must overcome certain conditions in order to make progress in his present life.

This commandment brings out a very important part of that work we must all be very careful about: being truthful at all times. That means we will not lie about others or ourselves, or anything else. When we in this way play fair with others, we retain a happy, peaceful frame of mind. We will do our work without complaints, while we look at the bright side of things, knowing that "all things work together for good to those who love the Lord."

It is most helpful to memorize and remember these words always: "This above all: to yourself be true, and it must follow as the night the day, you cannot then be false to any man." As we make them a part of our daily life, we can lift our hearts in love to God, our Heavenly Father, whose outstretched arms, through Christ Jesus, will carry us into the higher realms where all is Love, Peace, and Joy.

The FOURTH SUNDAY is also SERVICE SUNDAY for discussions on the Sagittarius keywords of *Aspiration*, *Scope*, and *Reverence* in relation to service we were able to give during the past month.