

A PROGRAM FOR THANKSGIVING OR HARVEST SUNDAY.

All gifts of fruit, vegetables, flowers, etc., are brought to the school-room on the day before. These, with quantities of bright leaves and berries, are arranged in groups to decorate the room in the most effective style. Conspicuously at one side is placed a great sheaf of wheat or barley, with a sickle. Beside these lie a bag of flour and a loaf of bread. High above all, in plain lettering, hangs the motto, "Give thanks unto the Lord."

Quieting Exercises.—These are sometimes useful for the little children after a march or

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physical expression. The following is one appropriate for the summer time: Let the fingers of one hand represent a flower, and those of the other hand a bee flying from flower to flower gathering nectar. Accompany the exercise with a low humming and let the humming die away gradually, as though the bees had ceased work and gone to sleep for the night. (Selected.)

It may be well, sometimes, after the story expression, to have a few minutes of absolute quiet and rest, when all the children hide their faces and make believe that they are asleep.

5. **Story Time.**—The lesson story is taken from Jane Andrews' "Seven Little Sisters," and is intended with the others of its series to be an introductory course for missionary lessons later on in the Primary Department. This is the story of the little Brown Baby. It is a fascinating one, all about the baby with the brown face and straight black hair, who lives among the birds and flowers and plays all day in the long, soft grass. She is put to bed at night by her mother in a little swinging cradle in a tree; the wind rocks her to sleep and the stars keep watch over her all the night until the rosy dawn breaks, when she tumbles out of bed into her mother's arms. Her mother dips her in the running brook for a bath, and then she is ready to play again with her brothers and sisters, the birds and flowers.

6. **Lesson Illustration.**—A picture of the Brown Baby, a colored one, if possible, is shown.

7. **Lesson Expression.**—Now the children and leader gather around the large sand-tray, and together picture out the scene of the story—the home of the Brown Baby. Bits of leafy twigs are put in for trees, small flowers are planted profusely, a brook is made, and the swinging cradle is swung in a tree. When all is complete, the children form the circle once more.

8. **Lesson Prayer.**—Now all the heads are bowed and the following prayer is offered. (This prayer should be used throughout the whole course of lessons on the little sisters.)

"Lord, bless the little children,
Wherever they may be,
Far out on the silent prairie,
Down by the sounding sea,
Like flowers in the crowded city,
Like birds in the forest free,
Lord, bless the little children,
Wherever they may be."

3. **Lesson.**—The story time (about ten minutes) comes next. The children listen to it, still seated in a ring on the floor. The story is one of a group illustrating how God provides a winter rest for some animals—the story of the dormouse. The children learn how the dormouse lives in the summer time; how it stores up food for the winter; how, when at last the cold weather comes, it curls up in its hole for the long winter rest, only waking up occasionally to take a bite to eat.

4. **Nature Illustration of the Story.**—A small cage containing a dormouse fast asleep in the straw in the little loft at the top is now shown the children. They see on a little shelf below the loft a nibbled apple, which the dormouse has fed upon at night. The teacher tells them that if they can be quite, quite still, so that the dormouse will not be disturbed, they may have a peep at it. She then lifts the cover and gently takes out in the palm of her hand the little round ball of fur, holding it so that all may see. (This can be done quite easily without waking the dormouse if care is taken, and will serve to show

how very fast asleep the tiny creature is.) After putting it gently back the teacher allows the children to help her open the lower door of the cage, brush out the floor and the shelf, take away the old food and substitute fresh.

5. **Physical Expression of the Story.**—When the cage is safely back in its place the teacher and children decide that they, too, will be dormice. She allows them to scamper away to different parts of the room and curl up by themselves for a long winter sleep. Now for a little while, save for an occasional gentle disturbance, when some little dormouse awakens up to have a bite of food, there is perfect stillness in the room.

6. **Lesson Prayer.**—When the dormice have turned back into children, the ring is formed once more. All the hands are folded and the heads bowed while the children repeat after the teacher:

"Loving Father, hear our prayer,
Keep within Thy loving care
All the animals that sleep
In their soft beds snug and deep.
Shelter from the winter storm
All the dormice; keep them warm."

(Adapted from Miss Wilse's winter prayer.)

7. **Class Farewell.**—Now all join hands and sing together the class "Good-bye."



THE FOUR YEAR OLD BEGINNERS.

8. BEGINNERS RETURN.

9. SONG. "Can a Little Child Like Me?"*

The chorus and the last two verses of this beautiful hymn may be sung with bowed heads.

NOTE—(If the fruit, vegetables and flowers are to be given away, the children are now told of the plan. If practicable some of the older children should be allowed after school to assist in taking the different gifts to the hospital or the houses of families for whom they are intended.)

10. OFFERING. To music of Handel's March, "The Harmonious Blacksmith,"* after which the children, still standing, softly sing to the closing phrase of the music.

"All things come from Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given unto Thee."

11. BENEDICTION.

"Father, dismiss us with Thy benediction,
Send us with joy unto our homes to-night,
Guard us, we pray Thee, through the hours of darkness,
Keep us till morning light."

12. CLOSING MARCH.

Same as Opening March.

A PROGRAM FOR CHRISTMAS SUNDAY.

The true spirit of Christmas can be promoted among the children by arranging with them some time before Christmas Sunday to bring presents to give to the Christ-child. Suggest—

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tions can be asked from the children as to the best way of giving to Christ. From these the superintendent can lead them to feel that in giving to the needy little ones who otherwise would have no Christmas happiness they are really giving to him.

The Primary Department room is brightly decorated with quantities of holly and evergreen. Over the piano is suspended a group of Christmas bells made out of cardboard and silver or red paper. On the right of the superintendent's desk stands a small Christmas tree. The tree itself is quite bare of ornament, and around its foot, on the floor, is spread a sheet or two of white fluffy cotton wool sprinkled freely with tinsel powder.

1. OPENING MARCH. To the music of "Oh, come, all ye faithful." (If desired, little bells may be rung to the rhythm of the music by one or two of the helpers.)

2. CHRISTMAS GREETING.

Superintendent: "A very merry Christmas to you, children."

Children: "A very merry Christmas to you, Miss ———."

3. A SHORT TALK between the superintendent and children about the pretty decorations, the reason for them, the happiness caused by them, etc. The superintendent then quotes:

14. THE BLESSING. When they have resumed their seats the superintendent and children discuss how they can truly give these gifts to the Christ-child, and forthwith the children are told of the particular plan formed for their distribution. A blessing upon the gifts is now asked of the Heavenly Father.

"Bless, O Lord, the offering
Which thy children lay
At thy feet rejoicing
On this Christmas day.

With each gift we bring thee
Wealth of love untold;
In thy loving service.

Keep us, young and old." (Adapted.)

15. SONG. The Christmas Manger Hymn.*

"Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

"The cattle are lowing, the dear Baby wakes,
But the little Lord Jesus no crying he makes;
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my crib, watching my lullaby."

16. BENEDICTION. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men."

A PROGRAM FOR EASTER SUNDAY.

The Primary Department room is made beautiful with plants and flowers. These are the

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chief features in the decorations, and the predominating colors are white and green, with a touch of gold. The piano is banked around with palms and other green plants, and pots and vases of white flowers are placed in effective positions. There are at least one or two pots of the beautiful scented Easter lily. Green or white crepe paper is very useful for trimming the flower-pots and tables. The children are allowed to help towards this decoration by bringing beforehand all the white flowers they can find, especially the newly-awakened ones. The decoration is completed by the simple motto, "Christ is risen," lettered in gilt and placed high on the wall behind the superintendent's table.

1. OPENING MARCH. The children enter the room to the music of "Christ the Lord is risen to-day."

2. GREETING. After which the superintendent talks with the children about the happy Easter time, and suggests that by-and-by, in the story-time, they shall hear why the Easter time is such a happy one. Now she recites:

"On this happy Easter day,
Little children sing
Joyous songs of love and praise
Unto Christ, the King."

3. EASTER CAROL. The piano chord is struck and the children rise and sing the Easter Carol. "From many a tower both far and near."*

*"Songs for Little People."

FESTIVALS



ARCHITECTURE



THE DORMOUSE STORY



THE BROWN BABY STORY



THE STAR ROLL

THE WEATHER CHART



THE QUIETING EXERCISE