

**LIVES WORTH LIVING: STUDIES OF
WOMEN, BIBLICAL AND MODERN,
ESPECIALLY ADAPTED FOR
GROUPS OF YOUNG WOMEN IN
CHURCHES AND CLUBS**

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Lives Worth Living: Studies of Women, Biblical and Modern, Especially Adapted for Groups of Young Women in Churches and Clubs by Emily Clough Peabody

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EMILY CLOUGH PEABODY

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TO THE
SUNDAY-SCHOOL CLASS OF YOUNG WOMEN
OF SOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, CHICAGO
WHO FIRST USED THESE LESSONS

EDITORS' PREFACE

The present volume is a departure in some respects from the type represented by most of the books of this series, but in a direction already in part forecast by Mr. Johnson's *Problems of Boyhood*. It finds its motive and unity, not in that it deals with a single book of the Bible or a certain period of biblical history, but in that, like Mr. Johnson's book, it seeks to meet the needs of a special class in the community. It draws the material with which to meet these needs partly from the Bible, but partly also from the experiences of those who have lived in later than biblical times. It is based on the belief that God is the God of all ages and lands, and that all human experience has lessons of wisdom to teach those who have eyes to perceive them.

But it is especially characteristic of the book that it aims to bring the young women who study it face to face with the actual conditions of the present-day world in which they live, and to help them to think through some of the pressing questions with which they and their sisters have to deal today. This it does, not simply by way of illustration or incidental application of biblical teaching, but as a vital and central part of the

study. It recognizes the transcendent value of our sacred Scriptures for instruction and inspiration, but it also takes account of the necessity that we should know the world in which we live in order to know how to conduct ourselves in it. Ignorance, not simply of biblical teachings and moral principles, but of present-day facts, is the mother of much suffering on our part, and of much cruelty to others.

If ever we have half-consciously cherished the thought that such studies are fitted for the masculine but not for the feminine mind, we can think so no longer. The world is woman's as truly as man's, and women are claiming their undoubted right to think as earnestly and seriously about that world and its problems as their brothers.

Mrs. Peabody has put her book to the practical test of actual use with a class of young women in a city Sunday school. It is confidently believed that it will be found adapted to use by teachers in other schools and by leaders of other groups of young women. The attention of all such teachers and leaders is called to the "Suggestions to Teachers" contained in the appendix.