

**BIBLE STUDIES FOR NORMAL
CLASSES, ASSEMBLIES, BIBLE
STUDENTS, & SUNDAY-
SCHOOL TEACHERS**

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Bible Studies for Normal Classes, Assemblies, Bible Students, & Sunday-School Teachers by A. E. Dunning

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A. E. DUNNING

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BIBLE STUDIES

FOR

NORMAL CLASSES, ASSEMBLIES, BIBLE STUDENTS, AND
SUNDAY-SCHOOL TEACHERS.

*Albert
E. Dunning* BY
A. E. DUNNING, D.D.

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THE CHAUTAUQUA NORMAL UNION.

VARIOUS schemes for the normal instruction of Sunday-school teachers have been proposed and put in operation during the past twenty-five years; but the first effort in this direction on an extended scale was that of the first session of the Chautauqua Sunday-school Assembly, under the leadership of Dr. J. H. Vincent and Hon. Lewis Miller, in 1874. The surprising growth of this movement soon led to the formation of the Chautauqua Normal Course, the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle, and the many other schools and lines of study now included in the Chautauqua Assembly and University. But the study of the Bible and of methods and principles of teaching it has been constantly maintained in connection with the Assembly, and has attracted increasing attention among Christian workers. In 1880, at the Sunday-school Centennial in London, at Dr. Vincent's suggestion, a committee was appointed to prepare an international course of normal study. On the issue of the first series of books by this committee an association was formed of Assembly conductors and teachers of normal classes, for the purpose of bringing the normal Sunday-school work throughout the entire country to a common standard. This association was called the Assembly Normal Union. Outline lessons were prepared and a course of reading arranged in connection with them, including the books of the International Normal Committee. This has been extensively adopted in the United States and Canada, and several thousand Sunday-school teachers are using it.

In the summer of 1886 a reorganization was effected, under the name of the Chautauqua Normal Union, making it a department of the Chautauqua University. It proposes to furnish to Sunday-school teachers, to those who may become teachers, and to Bible students, direction in study along the two lines of Bible knowledge and Sunday-school work; outline lessons and text-books which may be used either

in individual study or in classes; examinations to be conducted either by correspondence, by leaders of local classes, or at Sunday-school Assemblies; and diplomas to those who successfully pass the examinations.

The plan includes five courses:—

1. Eight lessons on the Bible—its geography, history, structure, contents, and use.
2. Eight lessons on principles and methods of teaching.
3. Four lessons on the Sunday-school.
4. Four lessons on the teachings in the Old Testament, and on principles and methods of teaching as illustrated by God's revelations of himself to men.
5. Six lessons on the New Testament treated in a similar manner.

This book contains the outlines for the last two courses. One book, on an average, is to be read with each course.

Any one may become a member of the Chautauqua Normal Union, by sending name and address with 50 cents to the Principal, Secretary, or Treasurer. For this he will receive a certificate of membership, and examination questions on all the courses. Circulars containing full particulars will be sent on application to

A. E. DUNNING, Principal, 1 Somerset St., Boston.
J. L. HURLBUT, Secretary, 805 Broadway, N. Y.

INTRODUCTION.

THESE lessons have been prepared for Sunday-school teachers who have completed the first four courses of studies of the Chautauqua Normal Union. They presuppose a knowledge of the land in which the revelations of God to men are made ; of the historic periods in which these revelations were successively given, with increasing distinctness and added meanings ; of the growth of the Bible from the first commanded record to the completion of the sixty-six books and their collection into one volume ; of the main facts in the history of this completed book to the Revised Version so recently offered to the public ; of the evidences by which we are assured that this book represents to us the character and thoughts of God and his plan of redemption ; and of a brief summary of its teachings.

These lessons also presuppose a knowledge of the rudiments of Sunday-school science ; of the history, nature, and objects of the Sunday-school ; its organization and management ; the qualifications of officers and teachers ; the principles and methods of teaching. In respect to progress in comprehending the laws which govern the communication of knowledge, past time is to this generation what the Old Testament is to the New, where in the compass of one lifetime, life and immortality, which had struggled for decades of centuries against the darkness of the ignorance and sinfulness of the race, were brought to light. No study is more fascinating, and none brings richer rewards than the study of minds in the light of these later discoveries, with a view to enlighten them with the truth revealed from heaven, and to bring them completely under its control. Such books as the