

**THE GUIDE: A  
SERVICE BOOK FOR  
SUNDAY SCHOOLS**

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The Guide: A Service Book for Sunday Schools by William S. Johnson

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## PREFACE.

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One object in preparing this book was to provide a form of service in which the several departments of the school would have a part, and at the same time make it instructive and interesting, as well as more formal than the forms usually followed. Another object was to furnish a service which would give prominence to some of our distinctive doctrines, and make clear portions of Scriptures which are often misunderstood and misapplied. It is true the necessity for this is not so apparent as it once was, yet it will not do to remain altogether silent. Although our views are not so openly and frequently attacked in these days as in the time of our fathers, yet the creeds remain the same, and the same Scriptures are used to sustain them. Hence the necessity of introducing into our services such lessons as will prevent our children from growing up in ignorance of our interpretation of God's holy Word. To meet this need, not only have many of the services in this book been prepared, but in the opening service for every Sunday, God's impartial grace and saving power and purpose are clearly indicated, so that no scholar of ordinary mind can attend a school for six months where these services are used, without knowing something of the grounds of our Faith. It was not at first in the thought of the author of *The Guide* to make a new book, entirely, but rather to select from other books such services as could be found to answer his purpose, and add to these such

others as were needed to carry out his idea. At the suggestion of others, however, it was decided to make it in the main a new book. Thus it is that, with the exception of some of the additional prayers, all the matter has been specially prepared for this book. The prayers for Easter, Childen's Sunday, All Souls, and Christmas, were kindly contributed by Rev. H. W. Rugg; those for Memorial Sunday, and for the Death of a Teacher and the Death of a Scholar, by Rev. H. I. Cushman; and the one for Educational Sunday, by Rev. E. H. Capen, D. D. The prayers for Opening were made up from Rev. James Lombard's Sunday School Liturgy, and those for the Sickness of a Teacher, and also for a Scholar, were taken from Rev. Henry Bacon's Service Book. The author also gratefully acknowledges his indebtedness to Charles E. Carpenter, Esq., the long-time Superintendent of the First Universalist Sunday School in Providence, R. I., and to Henry B. Metcalf, Esq., superintendent of the Pawtucket school and a well-known Sabbath school worker, for valuable suggestions in preparing this work, and which have made it of greater worth.

The plan of the Guide is to have an established Order of Service for every Sabbath, and for this purpose three have been prepared. The first is substantially what has been used in the Church of the Mediator School for the past six years, and which has received the hearty approval of many clergymen who in this time have visited the school. It is an elaborate service, and intended only for large schools. To carry it out in full, it is necessary, as, indeed, it is desirable, that all the departments of the school should be together at the opening. The second "Order" is shorter and will better suit some schools.



The third "Order" is quite brief, and may be used in the smallest schools, or in any school, if desired. In each "Order" the time required is indicated at the right of the numbers, and different times are given for different hours of meeting, to wit: forenoon, noon, and afternoon. If the school meets at any other hour, the time can be easily calculated from the examples given. In the absence of the pastor at No. 6, (First Order) instead of the invocation by him, the superintendent may use one of the prayers for "Opening," or his own. At No. 10 all should bow the head, and after a few moments of silent prayer, the superintendent will follow with No. 11. Music for No. 14 will be found on page 7, and the chant for the Lord's Prayer, (No. 24) on page 8. At No. 27 let the school read in concert the study lesson for the day, where lesson papers are used. If the uniform lessons are not used, this number can be omitted. Following the study lesson, the Golden Text is to be repeated. At No. 30 the superintendent will announce the service from The Guide. These services consist of Scripture selections, to be read by the superintendent, and a brief explanatory comment thereon, which may be used or not as he may elect. In some of the services, such as "The Second Coming of Christ," "The End of the World," and "Eternal Life," some explanation is necessary lest the children imbibe the popular idea concerning these topics. It was because of this seeming necessity that in some cases comments are added, and for the sake of uniformity the others were provided. Next come the Responses, and Prayer, which is followed by singing; the opening service closing with No. 34. This will have occupied about twenty minutes, which will leave from twenty-five to thirty minutes for the teacher's work in his class. Previous to this he

should take up his collection, (No. 35) that it may be ready when the collector calls for it. After the lesson instruction is finished, the time may be used by singing, or in a review of the lesson by the pastor or superintendent. After which the library books are to be distributed. Then a closing hymn is sung, followed by silent prayer, and the "Benediction" or "Parting Invocation."

The time required for the entire service is one hour and a quarter. As all schools are supposed to have a singing book, it was thought best to omit hymns and leave each school to select its own music. Although three forms of service are provided, it is, of course, optional for any school to use either one, or any other form it may choose to adopt; or either may be contracted or enlarged in any way that may be thought best. And if the pastor or superintendent should at any time prefer to pray himself, nothing here need prevent him, though to the author it seems desirable that as a rule the school should repeat a prayer in concert. In all prayers the children should be taught to at least bow the head. If in addition to this the eyes be covered with the hand it will be still better.

## HYMN FOR PRIMARY CLASS.

Jesus said of little children, "Suffer them to come to me."

Yes, we hear thee,            And we come, dear Lord, to thee,  
blessed Saviour,

Singing, singing with the angels, Hallelujah! praise the Lord,

Singing, singing with the angels, Hallelujah! praise the Lord.