

Illustrations on the S. S. Lessons.

The Death of Elisha.

2 Kings xiii. 14-25.

ELISHA the prophet, is now an old man and very sick, and must soon die. While he was lying sick King Joash called to see him. He knew that Elisha had saved the land from its enemies, and now that he was dying, he felt that he was losing his strongest helper.

Elisha wished to show him that God would still take care of Israel, even though he were taken away. He said: "Take bow and arrows."

Then Elisha put his dying hands on the hands of the King, as they held the bow, and said: "Open the window toward Syria and shoot!" As the arrows flew out of the window Elisha said: "The arrow of the Lord's deliverance from Syria. You shall have victory over the Syrians and shall destroy them!"

"Now," said Elisha, "take the arrows and strike them on the ground." The king took the arrows, and with them struck the ground three times. Then he stopped, and Elisha said: "You ought to have struck five or six times, then you would have beaten the Syrians over and over and conquered them; and now you shall beat them only three times!"

A little after this Elisha died. The next year they were burying a man near the same place, when a band of enemies suddenly was seen. They thrust the dead body into the cave where the body of Elisha was lying. As soon as the corpse touched the body of Elisha, the man lived again and stood upon his feet. So Elisha had power, even after he was dead.

The secret of all Elisha's power was, that he *knew* God, and kept so near to him that God could talk to him and use him to do these great things for him. God wants his holy, useful life to be an example to you. It may be he intends to make some of you to be great—to use you in advancing His kingdom on earth, and bring glory to His name. Surely He wants you all to be true, noble men and women, and do a great deal of good in *your* place; and you cannot, unless you get acquainted with God, as Elisha did. Will you begin to know Him now?

The Story of Jonah.

Jonah i. 1-17.

THERE was once a very great and very wicked city called Nineveh. Its people worshipped idols, and knew nothing of God.

God spoke to a prophet whose name was Jonah: "Arise, and go to Nineveh, and preach to its people." But Jonah did not want to go. He tried to escape from doing God's will, and went down to Joppa on the sea-shore, where he found a ship about to sail to a land far away in the opposite direction from Nineveh. He paid the fare, and went on board and set sail.

But God sent a storm upon the ship, and it was in great danger. The sailors did not know the true God, and each one called upon his idol-god to help them. Jonah was sleeping in the hold, when the

captain came and said: "Why are you sleeping in such a time as this? Rise up and call upon your God to save us!" The men on the ship said: "There is some wicked man on board, and this storm is on his account. Let us cast lots and see who it is. They cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. He then told them how he had disobeyed God.

They said:—"What shall we do to stop the raging of the sea?" Jonah answered: "Throw

me out into the sea and then it will be quiet." When the men had rowed hard, but found they could not get away from the storm, they took up Jonah, and threw him overboard. At once the sea was quiet, and the sailors saw that this was God's work, so they gave God thanks and worshipped.

Now the Lord had made ready a great fish to swallow up Jonah. Jonah was living inside the fish for three days and three nights. Then the fish threw Jonah up upon the dry land.

Thus you see that it is a dangerous thing *not* to obey God. How many of you will say: "When the Saviour speaks to *me*, I will obey him cheerfully?" Remember that Jesus will help you, and that with His grace in your heart you will love to obey.



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