

try to compel him to accept the crown, and lead them against the Romans. He therefore sent the disciples away, and retired himself to a mountain for prayer. Read the whole narrative in Matt. 14: 22-33; Mark 6: 45-52; John 6: 14-21.

LESSON PLAN. I. Bread that Perishes. vs. 26-29. II. Bread from Heaven. vs. 30-33. III. Bread of Life. vs. 34, 35.

I. BREAD THAT PERISHES. 26. When earnest thou hither? They had seen the disciples go away without him, and there was no other boat (verse 22). They had lingered behind, believing him to be still on the east side. Christ did not satisfy their curiosity.

26. Not because ye saw signs (R. V.)—They followed Jesus, not because they recognized the spiritual meaning of his miracles, and desired healing from sin and nourishment with the Bread of Life, but because He could feed them, and give them free meals, and minister to their temporal need, ease and ambition.

27. Labor not for the meat which perisheth—Food for the body is necessary, and we must work to get it, but we should strive much more earnestly after spiritual food, for through it our immortal nature is nourished for heaven. Which the Son of Man shall give you—Salvation, and all that it includes, is the free gift of Jesus, purchased by his death for all who come to him. (John 6: 54; 4: 24; 3: 16; 10: 28.) Sealed—A seal testifies to the genuineness of a signature. So God had solemnly certified to the divine nature and Messiahship of Jesus, both by the voice at his baptism (Matt. 3: 17; 17: 5; 2 Pet. 1: 17), and by the miracles which he wrought (Acts 2: 22).

28. The works of God—"What must we do in order to obtain from God this Bread of Life?" (Mark 10: 17.)

II. BREAD FROM HEAVEN. 29. Believe—The only "work" that God requires

is faith in Jesus Christ (John 3: 15-18, 36; 5: 24, 40; 1 John 3: 23; Acts 16: 31). The Bread of Life is not to be earned, but accepted.

30. What sign shewest thou?—They wanted some proof to connect Christ with God and heaven. The manna was "bread from heaven," what Jesus gave the multitude was common bread. They did not think it proof enough that Jesus was "come down from heaven," especially since he refused to be made such a king as they expected the Messiah to be. (Matt. 12: 38; 16: 1.) (Ex. 16; Num. 11: 7, 8.) (Neh. 9: 15; 1 Cor. 10: 3; Ps. 78: 24, 25.)

32. It was not Moses (R. V.)—The manna was not the true bread, and Moses was not the giver. True bread—that of which manna was but the type. The real "Bread from heaven." This is now being given ("giveth"). 33.—The distinguishing marks of the bread of God are: (1) it is God's gift; (2) it comes down from heaven; (3) it gives life to the world—is suited to all mankind.

III. BREAD OF LIFE. 34. Evermore give us this bread—They understood the bread, as the Samaritan woman understood the living water (John 4: 15), to be some miraculous kind of food, which would secure eternal blessedness. 35. I am the bread of life—Christ imparts and sustains all spiritual life. Shall never hunger—shall have no unsatisfied longings. Christ meets every want of the soul fully. (John 4: 14; 7: 37.) Read Isa. 55: 1-3.

LESSONS.

1. We should be more anxious about our souls than about our bodies. 2. Our first duty is to believe on Christ. 3. Christ alone can satisfy the soul's hunger. 4. He will give eternal life to every one who asks for it. 5. Those who come to Christ will never want for anything that is good for them.

LESSON IV.—January 27th.

The Great Confession. MATT. 16: 13-23.

(Commit to memory verses 13-16)

GOLDEN TEXT.

"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Matt. 16: 16.

PROVE THAT

Confessing Christ leads to salvation. Rom. 10: 9.

LESSON HYMNS.

CHILDREN'S HYMNAL, Nos. 30, 60, 146, 98.

SHORTER CATECHISM.

Quest. 5. Are there more Gods than one? A. There is but one only, the living and true God. Quest. 6. How many persons are there in the Godhead? A. There are three Persons in the Godhead; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

DAILY PORTIONS. Monday. The Great Confession; Matt. 16: 13-23. Tuesday. Another Confession; John 6: 66-71. Wednesday. The Chief Corner-Stone; 1 Peter 2: