

with him afterward. So we are witnesses for him. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God hath made that same Jesus whom ye have crucified both Lord and Christ."

When they heard Peter's words many of them were very sorry for what they had done, and said: "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Peter said if they were truly sorry and would be baptized that God would forgive them and send his Spirit to help them. A great many were glad to do what Peter said, so that on that one day [give the number according to the size of your church] times as many people as our church will hold became followers of Jesus.

Special Primary Suggestions.

GOLDEN TEXT: "The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." Acts 2. 47.

Introductory. Point to emphasize: The thought of beginnings. Children are interested in seeds and growths. Show some tiny seeds, and draw out what needs to be done with them, and what will come from them if rightly treated. Tell how Jesus taught that great things could grow from little seeds. A mustard seed was the tiniest of all, yet it grew, when planted, to be a tree, and birds built nests in it. But seeds are not the only things that grow from little beginnings. A child gave a penny, which bought a little leaflet—a few pages of printing—which told of Jesus, and this led a heathen chief to Christ. He built a church, and many came there to pray. Was not that a great thing to grow from a little one? To-day we learn about some beginnings and how they grew.

Lesson story. Gather this story about the lesson title. Explain that "Early" means at the beginning, that "Christian" means belonging to Christ, and that "Church" is not only the place where people pray, sing, and listen to preaching, but that the people who belong to Christ are called his Church. If all the buildings were to burn there would still be a Church made up of people. At first, when Jesus was on earth, his twelve friends were all who belonged to his Church, but he prayed for more, and prayed for all who should believe what his friends should teach. We see how his prayer was answered. Points to impress: Peter's sermon, the number of those who believed, how they shared all they had, how happy they were, and how the Church grew. [Drill upon Golden Text in this last connection.]

Make clear that repentance is being sorry enough for sin to give it up, and that people must do something to show that they wish to belong to Christ's Church, and to show that their sins

are taken away. Explain baptism, which shows, as a picture makes things plain, that Jesus makes our hearts clean, as water makes our bodies clean. Grown persons who can make promises for themselves come and stand before the church people and are baptized, and promise to do as Jesus would have them. Parents who want to give their children to God very early bring them to be baptized, and so give them to him. These children are *baby members of the church*. Their names are written down in the church books. As soon as old enough to understand, and to show that they know what it means, they should come and make promises for themselves. As children so often see infant baptism, it should be explained to them.

Lead on from the beginning of the early Church, and the need of many more Christians now, to the

Prayer thought: *Pray for the church.* Teach the children to pray for their own pastor and the people who meet in God's house, also for those who do not come, that they may be saved—made free from sin and learn to love Christ. Carefully appeal to those whose near friends may not be Christians or churchgoers, to bring them to church as well as pray for them.

Thought for teachers. Ought we not to teach the baptized children of the church that they have been given to God in a special way, and should remember promises made for them? We must be very wise, and not seem to leave out those not baptized, but lead them to give themselves to Jesus, guarding against making either too much or too little of the ordinance.

LESSON IV. (January 26.)

THE LAME MAN HEALED. Acts 3. 1-10.

GOLDEN TEXT: "The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation." Exod. 15. 2.

Primary Notes.

Truth. Those who love Jesus will be kind to sick people.

Impression. I can do something for people who need help.

Expression. Loving deeds.

Point of contact. Boys helping an old lady who is in trouble.

Approach. Recalling the way in which Jesus helped the sick. His miraculous power.

Lesson story. Can be told almost in the Bible language and made very impressive.

