

## THE "GOODEST" MOTHER.

Evening was falling, cold and dark,  
And people hurried along the way,  
As if they were longing soon to mark  
Their own home candle's cheering ray.

Before me toiled in the whirling wind,  
A woman with bundles great and small,  
And after her tugged, a step behind,  
The bundle she loved the best of all.

A dear little roly-poly boy,  
With rosy cheeks and a jacket blue,  
Laughing and chattering, full of joy;  
And here's what he said—I tell you true:

"You're the goodest mother that ever was,"

A voice as clear as a forest bird's;  
And I'm sure the glad young heart had cause

To utter the sweet and lovely words.

Oh, once in a while just stop and say,  
In task or play, for a moment's pause,  
To mamma, in a sweet and winning way,  
"You're the goodest mother that ever was."

## LESSON NOTES.

## FIRST QUARTER.

WORDS AND WORKS OF JESUS AS RECORDED  
IN THE GOSPELS.

## LESSON VI.—FEBRUARY 11.

## JESUS CALLING FISHERMEN.

Luke 5. 1-11. Memorize verses 5, 6.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

Be ye, therefore, followers of God, as dear children.—Eph. 5. 1.

## THE LESSON STORY.

Jesus was on the shore of the beautiful blue Sea of Galilee, and around him had gathered a crowd. They had heard of some of the wonderful things he had done. How he had turned water into wine, and had healed the sick, and they were anxious to have him teach them. As they pressed upon him so closely he had to move out from shore a little bit in a boat so that all could hear him.

After Jesus had finished speaking to the people he turned to the owner of the boat, Simon Peter, and told him to sail out into the lake, and let down his nets. He replied that he and his companions had fished all night but had caught nothing, but if Jesus wished it, he would try again. What was their joy to find the nets full to overflowing, and they knew it was Jesus' power that had filled their nets.

Then was it Jesus told them that he would make them fishers of men, if they would be willing to do what he wished them to.

They were to give up their boats and nets, and all they had, and devote themselves to the grand work of saving men from their sins.

It was their entire faith in Jesus enabled them to do this.

## QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

1. Who surrounded Jesus? Great crowds.
2. Why did they gather? Because they had heard of his wonderful works.
3. What were some of these? Turning water into wine and healing the sick.
4. Why did he remove to a boat? So all could hear better.
5. After he had taught the crowd to whom did he turn? To Simon Peter.
6. What did he tell him to do? To sail out to the deep and cast down his nets.
7. What happened? The nets were full of fish.
8. What did Jesus then say? He would make them fishers of men.
9. What were they to do? Leave all and follow him.

## LESSON VII.—FEBRUARY 18.

## A DAY OF MIRACLES IN CAPERNAUM.

Mark 1. 21-34. Memory verses, 33, 34.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

He healed many that were sick.—Mark 1. 34.

## THE LESSON STORY.

After Jesus had spent the whole week preaching to the people on the shores of Lake Galilee, and helping them in body and soul, on the Sabbath day he went to the city of Capernaum. As was his habit he went to the synagogue or church, and there he again preached to the people. They were astonished at his teachings, and felt that his words were as if God had given him power. There was present a poor man with an unclean spirit, who cried out: "Let us alone." "Thou art come to destroy us; Thou art the Holy One of God." Sure enough Jesus was, and he had come to destroy the wickedness in man. So he bade the evil spirit to leave the man.

Later in the day Jesus went to Simon Peter's house, where he found Simon's wife's mother ill of a fever. But when Jesus took her by the hand all the fever left her, and in her joy and thankfulness she turned and ministered to him. At eventide many poor sick and helpless ones were brought to Jesus, and he did them all good. How beautiful are these stories of our dear Lord's love and sympathy for the people. He never spared himself, and was often worn out attending to the care of others.

## QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

1. Where did Jesus go on Sunday? To the synagogue.
2. How did he astonish the people? With the power of his words.

3. What called out to him? An evil spirit.

4. What did it say? "Thou art the Holy One of God."

5. How did Jesus answer it? By proving that he was, and commanding it to come out.

6. Whom did he next heal? Simon's wife's mother, who had a fever.

7. In the evening who came to him? All who were diseased or were sinful, and Jesus helped them all.

## THE TEMPTATION.

She was only a wee bit of a girlie, but she was fighting a hard battle.

She was very fond of cherries, as every little girl or boy is, and there was a whole basketful of them upon the kitchen table. No one was in the kitchen but herself.

How much she did want some of those cherries! She climbed upon a chair and leaned way over upon the table. She could reach them as well as not, and they did look so good. But mamma had said only that morning, "I am sorry, Gracie, but you cannot have even one cherry. You have been sick, you know, and doctor-papa said when he saw I was going to can cherries, 'Better water, Grace. She mustn't have even one cherry;' but I shall not watch you, little sweetheart. I am going to trust you. You know I would give them to you if you were quite well, and I am very sorry you must not now eat any."

Mamma trusted Gracie, and yet here she was almost upon the table. Would she yield to the temptation? Mamma was looking at her through the crack of the door, and she was saying to herself, "She is such a baby! Will she be able to resist the temptation?"

Gracie reached out her hand, and then drew it quickly back. "My! I almost took one. I dess I'd better run away quick, and not look aden."

Off she slid from the chair and ran out into the croquet ground; and she never once came to the kitchen again until the cherries were all done and in their glass jars upon the closet shelf.

"My brave little Gracie," said mamma, that night. "So I can trust her."

"Yes!" said Gracie, "but I had to run away."

Not every little girl would have run away from temptation.

## THE BIBLE ON THE CHAIR.

A boat's crew from a ship wrecked off one of the Fiji islands were afraid for their lives. On reaching land they dispersed in different directions. Two of them found a cottage, and crept into it, and as they lay there wondering what would become of them, one suddenly called to his friend, "All right, Jack, there is a Bible on the chair! no fear now!"