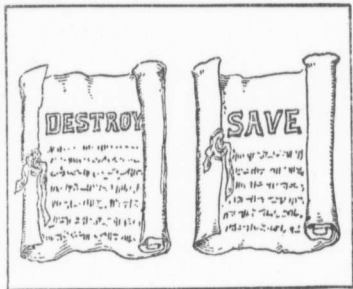


decay was sure to die then, he thought, if all were killed. O, the poor people! Let us think about

*Who were against them?* Proud and powerful Haman and all his money, the king, with all his power, and the soldiers and people, who would as soon as not have them killed.

*Who was for them?* The great God was on their side, no matter who was against them. God is stronger than kings and captains and rich, proud men. God is stronger than soldiers, and money has no power against him. The king and Haman thought nothing of all this. They only looked at the poor captives, and thought how easy it would be to put them out of the way. But it will not do



to forget God and his power. Next week we will see how it all came out. As we learn in this lesson that, if God is for us, no one can really be against us to hurt us, let us make up our minds to trust our Father as never before. But

*We must be on God's side.* Then he will be for us, and strong men cannot harm us, sin cannot, Satan cannot, nothing can hurt us. We may suffer, but it will not make us any the worse; it will make us better if we trust Jesus to bring it out all right. But we must be sure to be on God's side. A runaway soldier who will not stay in his place and do his duty cannot expect the captain to be on his side, to take care of him and to give him a high place, honor and love, can he? Of course not.

Hymn verse for closing. (Tune, Playel's Hymn.)

Jesus, Saviour, teach thou me  
Holy lessons from thy word,  
Make me more and more like thee,  
Since my heart thy voice hath heard.

#### Kindergarten Hints.

**GOLDEN TEXT:** "For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish." Psa. 1. 6.

#### HINTS ON METHOD.

Our lesson text leaves the story with a threatened tragedy. We want every primary lesson to be a complete whole, so that our little transients and others who may be with us for the last time shall carry away with them a note of hope and joy. Those who are to remain with us should also be left with lessons which inspire them with ambition and hope, rather than a sad story which seems to them to end nowhere in particular, and, in consequence, leaves the class quite indifferent as to the outcome of a dangerous situation in ages remote. Thus we avoid a sad Bible story unless we can add to it a joyous climax. We had better do this to-day by borrowing from next Sunday's lesson material.

#### LESSON DEVELOPED.

We get our central thought from Psalm 1. A good man (or woman) is like a tree planted by a river, bringing forth much fruit in its season. Bad people are like the chaff which the wind blows away. Their plots for mischief are scattered like chaff by good people who give their whole souls to the undoing of the wrong.

If you or I knew of a man in our city who was planning a hurt to all the French or German people in our land, we should feel distressed. We should want our Premier, whom we always look upon as "the father of our country," to know of this man's plan in order to stop it at once. We would want, and our Premier would want, that these strangers in our midst should find home and protection in our land. If we heard that our Premier's wife had taken a good deal of risk to save these foreigners, we should honor her, and her prayers of thankfulness in our churches when she succeeded in saving the people. Our pastor would teach, "The Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish!"

Something like this happened (teaching by likeness and difference) many years ago. A bad man was planning a hurt to all the Jews in his country. Jesus was a Jew; but this happened before Jesus came, and while many of the Jews were living in that heathen land to which they had been carried captive [a review thought].

They were right in expecting that the king who ruled over the country should be a father of that country; but a heathen king has his own way too much, and gets flattered and spoiled. This king knew that a bad man had planned a hurt to the trustful strangers in their midst; but he was careless and neglectful about stopping the wrong. He did not know that his beautiful wife was of this race.

Esther's cousin, a leader among the strangers,