

(Outline palace or show picture.) To-day we are going to make a "mind visit" to another room in the palace of the king of Persia. It is the great hall or banquet room. (Some one may point out the room.) All sorts of gold and silver dishes are on the table and all sorts of good things to eat.

Lesson—The king and queen are seated at the table. See! the cupbearer is bringing in the wine. We know who he is. Can you tell me his name? How very sad he looks! We know why. One of you may tell me why his face is so sorrowful. But the king does not know this. Nehemiah had always been pleasant and happy, for it was a rule in the king's court that nobody should be sad in the presence of the king.

"Why are you looking sad, seeing you are not sick? It is sorrow of the heart that makes you sad," the king said as he took the wine cup, which Nehemiah handed him.

Nehemiah was afraid the king would be angry at him for looking sad in his presence. (Tell v. 3.)

Then the king said, "What do you want to ask me to do?" (Oh how Nehemiah prayed in his heart then that God would make the king kind to him and willing to help him!) He tells the king what he wants, v. 5. The queen liked good Nehemiah and perhaps whispered, "Please let him go," for after asking some questions (v. 6), the king told Nehemiah he might go to help his people in Jerusalem. How glad and thankful Nehemiah felt!

Then Nehemiah asked the king to give him letters to the governors of the countries through which he would have to pass, telling them to help him to get through safely. Also a letter to the keeper of the king's forest,

telling him to give Nehemiah timber, etc. (tell v. 8). (Show letters or outlines.) God put it into the heart of the king to do all that Nehemiah wished him to do. The king even sent a bodyguard of horsemen and soldiers with Nehemiah (marks),

and at last they reached Jerusalem in safety.

Golden Text—Repeat.

Answered Prayer—Jack found the parcels he was carrying from the grocer's very heavy indeed. He put them down and sat down beside them and began to think what he could do. "I'll ask God to help me," he said, and after he had just whispered in his heart, "Please, God, help me," he jumped up and gathered up the parcels and started towards home. He had only gone a few steps when some one behind him called out, "Wait, Jack, I'll give you a hand with those parcels."

God always sends help to those who pray and then "get up and go at" the things they have to do. Nehemiah prayed and then worked. Some one print PRAY and another print WORK. All repeat these words.

A Message for All—Andrew Murray's last message to God's children: "Tell them to pray. There is nothing too small for his love—nothing too great for his power."

What the Lesson Teaches Me—GOD ANSWERS PRAYER.

FROM THE PLATFORM

Ask the class who the chief person in the lesson is. (Print NEHEMIAH.) Get the class to tell you how Nehemiah is represented as feeling in the opening verses of the lesson (Print THE SAD). Bring out the reasons for the sadness of Nehemiah,—the distressing news which had come to him from Jerusalem. Get the scholars to tell you how the sadness of Nehemiah was noticed by King Artaxerxes. Question about the king's inquiries of his courtier and cup-

