

do all that their commander asked of them. But before this army could do anything another smaller army met them. This was an army of discouragers. All that these men did was to go among the soldiers and tell them how hard was the battle before them, how great the danger was, how strong their enemies were, and how certain to drive them back. This made the hearts of the soldiers weak, although their arms were as strong, their guns as good as ever. When the heart is weak one is weak all over. A discourager is one who looks at the worst and darkest side and makes others feel faint and afraid. A discourager can do great harm, just as an encourager who is brave and full of hope can do great good. Our lesson to-day is about some discouragers, and what harm they did to a great army.

Lesson story. The second word in the lesson title is "Report." Explain this. Once some men wished to build a college out on a Western prairie and begin a new city. They sent some of their number to find a good place. They came back with the report, that is, the story of what they did, what they saw, and the place they thought would do. After this report the rest knew how to act. The lesson tells of the spies. A spy is one who watches, who looks, who finds out without others knowing it.

Describe the choice and the sending out of spies to find out about the Promised Land without being caught by the strange people who lived in the country, who would not like their coming.

The lesson may be put on board and divided thus:

THE SENDING SEARCH OF THE SPIES, AND THE RETURN REPORT.

Picture the coming back, bearing the wonderful Eshcol cluster of grapes. Tell the story



of the goodly land they saw. But most of the spies were discouragers. Repeat their story of giants and difficulties, and the effort of Caleb

and Joshua to quiet the fears of the people and to encourage them to think that with God's help they were well able to fight all the battles and take the land as God meant them to do. So two men gave a good report and ten gave a bad report. They all gave good report of the country, but ten gave a discouraging report of the dangers in the way.

Memory thought: Trust and try. The trouble with those discouragers was that they did not trust God and were not willing to try to obey him and go forward. Therefore they reported all the difficulties and dangers.

Are we like the ten or the two?

LESSON IX. (August 31.)

THE BRAZEN SERPENT. Num. 21. 1-9.

GOLDEN TEXT: "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." John 3. 14, 15.

Primary Notes.



Introductory. Point of contact, childish illnesses. Talk about suffering and relief. There must be medicine, and some one to give it who knows both disease and remedy. Unless we trust the doctor we will not take his

medicine as we should. Unless we take what he gives us, if he knows best, how can we hope to get well? Impress these points: Sickness, medicine, the doctor, the need of the doctor's knowing, and of our trusting him to do what is best and following his directions.

Lesson story. There are three parts to this: The sin, the serpents, the salvation. The sin was discontent and grumbling at God and at the leaders God had given the people. The serpents were sent to punish them by their fiery and poisonous bite, and the salvation was the healing of the poison by a simple look at the brass serpent.

The people were ungrateful. Show how. The heavenly Father loved them so much that he would not let them go on grumbling and sinning without showing them how wicked it was and how surely sin brings pain and punishment. The serpents were poisonous, and their bite meant death. But God's love was so great that he gave them a chance to get well. It