

flicts of nations, and the calamities which overtake the faithful." This has an application to the present world-conflict.

For Teachers of the Senior Scholars

Remind the class that we have here one of the most familiar of all the Bible stories, one which we learned in early childhood from the best of all teachers. It is an old, old story, but it never loses its interest. The childhood associations make it all the dearer to us. Daniel is now sixty or seventy years older than when we met him as a boy, who had formed a noble purpose in his heart not to defile himself. He is now an old man, who occupies the highest position in the gift of the king, and enjoys the king's confidence in a remarkable degree; but he is bitterly disliked by the jealous, corrupt, native princes. The lesson may be dealt with in the following way:

1. *The Plot that Succeeded*, vs. 10-17. Question the class about this plot to have Daniel cast into the den of lions. Show what a splendid testimony to Daniel's character we have in the failure of his enemies to find any fault in him, v. 4. Of what great statesman to-day can this be said? Emphasize that Daniel's religious convictions were as well known to his enemies as his political integrity, v. 5. He was not ashamed of his religion and even his enemies could not help but admire him for it. The boys in the army who have religion enough to read their Bibles and pray before their comrades win the respect even of the godless. Show how everything seemed to work out in favor of Daniel's enemies,—the king granted their request, and Daniel continued to pray as before, and in spite of the king's regrets Daniel was cast into the den of lions, and his enemies gloated over the success of their plot.

2. *The Plot that Failed*, vs. 18-23. Question the class about that night in the palace and that night in the den,—sorrow in the palace and joy in the den—and about what took place the next morning. Point out Daniel's interpretation of his deliverance from the lions. The plot that succeeded in getting Daniel into the lions' den completely failed in its object. The evil-doers had not taken God into consideration, had never

thought about the influence of an angel over the wild beasts. Remind the class that it is infinitely worth while to love and serve God, and that nothing else is worth while.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

Last Sunday's lesson told us the story of the faithfulness of three young men. To-day we have the record of the courage and faithfulness of an old man, for Daniel must have been nearly 80 years of age when he was thrown to the lions. The centre of the lesson is in "the open window;" the interpretation of Daniel's life is there. The scholars will tell you that plants grown in the sunshine are better than those in continual shade; that trees growing in the open meadows are stronger than those in a dense forest. The strongest life is not that developed in the darkness of sin, nor in the half light of nominal adherence to the right. It is the life which looks heavenward, dependent upon the grace, mercy and love of God.

1. What great changes Daniel saw in the world during his long life! The rise of Babylonia; the deportation of the Jews, the destruction of Jerusalem; the development of Babylon into the metropolis of the world, the centre of commerce, art, learning and wealth; the death of Nebuchadnezzar; the reign of Belshazzar; the capture of Babylon by Cyrus the Persian, who placed Darius the Mede upon the throne. Help the scholars to realize the magnitude of these events.

2. Bring out clearly, however, that despite these changing conditions of his life, the centre of Daniel's life never shifted. He prayed daily with his window open towards Jerusalem. The scholars will tell you that, to Daniel, Jerusalem meant God and his love. He never forgot he was an exile; he yearned after Jehovah and his earthly habitation in the temple.

3. What were the results of Daniel's daily devotion to God? The scholars will tell you, with illustrations from to-day's lesson, that among them was the development in Daniel of: (a) Moral integrity, vs. 4, 5. (b) Great wisdom and faithfulness, vs. 1, 2. Although a minister of the kings of Babylon, he was made chief minister under Darius.