

CROSSING THE JORDAN.

25 August.

Les. Josh. 3 : 5-17
Mem. v. 17.

Gol. Text, Is. 43 : 2.
Catechism Q. 34.

HOME READINGS.

- M. Num. 27 : 12-23.....*The appointment of Joshua.*
- T. Deut. 31 : 7-23.....*The Charge to Joshua.*
- W. Deut. 33 : 1-29.....*The Blessing of Moses.*
- Th. Deut. 31 : 1-15.....*The Death of Moses.*
- F. Josh 1 : 1-18.....*Joshua Succeeds Moses.*
- S. Joann. 2 : 1-24.....*Messengers Sent to Jericho.*
- S. Josh. 3 : 1:15.....*Crossing the Jordan.*

LESSON PLAN.

- I. Preparation for Crossing, vs. 5-8.
- II. Promise of an Open Way, vs. 9-13.
- III. Passage of the River, vs. 14-17.

Time.—B. C. 1451, the tenth of Nisan—early in April.

Place.—The east bank of Jordan, opposite Jericho.

BETWEEN THE LESSONS.

While the Israelites were encamped east of the Jordan, opposite Jericho, in the eleventh month of the fortieth year, Moses rehearsed to them the whole law (Deut. 1 : 3), including the promise of a prophet like unto him Deut. 18 : 18. He gave a charge to Joshua as his successor, delivered the book of law to the Levites to be kept in the side of the ark of the covenant (Deut. 31 : 24-26), pronounced a blessing upon the several tribes (Deut. 33), and went up Mount Nebo to the top of Pisgah, where the Lord showed him all the promised land. Here Moses died, aged one hundred and twenty. The book of Joshua continues the history of the Israelites from this time.

HELPS IN STUDYING.

5. *Sanctify yourselves*—by prayer and outward cleansing. Ex. 19 : 16. 6. *The ark*—the symbol of Jehovah's presence, by which the people were led 7. *Magnify thee*—make thee great, and honor thee. 10. *Hereby* by these signs. *The living God*—the God of life and power, able to take care of you and to destroy your enemies. *Canaanites*—seven tribes are here mentioned, all descended from Canaan, the son of Ham. 11. *Passeth over*—showing God's purpose and making a path through the river. 16. *Oversfloweth all his banks*—the Jordan has two, and in some places three, series of banks. *Time of harvest*—the barley harvest, April and May. The river is then unfordable. 16. *Stood and rose up*—stopped in their course. *Adam*—twenty or thirty miles above. It was as if a dam had been built across the river; the water below was drained off.

LIFE TEACHINGS.

- 1. The Lord honors his faithful servants.
- 2. His service requires personal consecration, clean hands, and a pure heart.
- 3. He opens a way for his people and guards them in it.
- 4. We should follow Christ though the way seem impassable.
- 5. He will protect his people and lead them to the heavenly Canaan.

The whole sum of life is service. Service to others and not to self. Self is a narrow space. I wish to speak to the young men who have just opened the door of life and to the old men who are just before the door that opens to the life beyond. Life is not an existence for self. It is this service that is the grand exponent of a successful life. To determine what success a life may attain is to see how much a life may accomplish for the bettering of humanity.

THE FALL OF JERICHO.

1 September.

Les. Josh. 6 : 8-20
Mem. vs. 15. 16.

Gol. Text, Heb. 11 : 30.
Catechism Q. 35.

HOME READINGS.

- M. Josh 4 : 1-24*The Stones of Memorial.*
- T. Josh. 5 : 10-6 : 5.....*The Captain's Instructions.*
- W. Josh. 6 : 6-27.....*The Fall of Jericho.*
- Th. Heb. 11 : 30-40.....*Faith Ponderful and Prevalent.*
- F. Isa. 25 : 1-12.....*A Defenced City a Ruin.*
- S. Luko 18 : 35 19 : 10.....*Jesus at Jericho.*
- S. Acts 16 : 16-40*Prison Doors Opened.*

LESSON PLAN.

- I. The Besieging of the City, vs. 8-11.
- II. The Marching About the Walls, vs. 12-16.
- III. The Devotement to the Lord, vs. 17-20.

Time—April, B. C. 1451, soon after the last lesson.

Place—Jericho, about six miles west of the Jordan, and north of the Dead Sea.

BETWEEN THE LESSONS.

When the people had crossed the Jordan, the priests brought up the ark from the river's channel. Twelve men preceded it, bearing from the river-bed twelve stones which were placed upon the bank as a memorial. The Israelites encamped at Gilgal. The rite of circumcision, omitted during the forty years' wandering, was renewed. The passover, which had not been observed since the departure from Sinai (Num. 9 : 1), was celebrated at the appointed time. The Captain of the host of the Lord (Josh. 5 : 13-15) gave Joshua his special orders with regard to the siege of Jericho, vs. 1-5. For six days they were to march round the city once each day—with the sound of trumpets, but without a voice. On the seventh day they were to march seven times round the city, and then a long blast of the trumpets was to be accompanied by a shout from the whole army, when the walls should fall. Joshua strictly obeyed these orders.

HELPS IN STUDYING.

8. *Before the Lord*—before the ark of the Lord. 11. *Compassed the city*—making no attack and with no show of arms. 12, 14. In all respects the same arrangements were followed during six days. 15. *The seventh*—Jewish writers say that this was the Sabbath. 16. *Shout; for the Lord hath given you the city*—Joshua seems not to have told the people how they were to overcome the city. 17. *Accursed*—doomed to utter destruction. *Only Rahab*—see ch. 2. 18. *In any wise*—by all means, carefully.

LIFE TEACHINGS.

- 1. The Lord rewards those who care for his servants.
- 2. He chooses weak things to confound the mighty.
- 3. We must reverence Christ as our Leader and Lord, obeying his commands, though we may not understand the reasons for them.
- 4. Faith in Christ will make us able to pull down the strongholds of sin.

Losing the temper takes all the sweet pure feeling out of life. You may get up in the morning with a clean heart, full of song, and start out as happy as a bird, and the moment you are crossed and you give way to your temper, the clean feeling vanishes and a load as heavy as lead is rolled upon the heart, and you go through the rest of the day feeling like a culprit. And any one who has experienced the feeling knows that it cannot be shaken off, but must be prayed off.—*St. Louis Republic.*