

THE CHIMNEY.

He comes right down the chimney  
When the Christmas bells are rung,  
When little folks are fast asleep,  
And stockings all are hung.  
All loaded down with pretty things,  
With guns and dolls and drums;  
So be sure and hang your stockings  
Where he'll see 'em when he comes.

You might hear him swiftly coming,  
Riding on the winter blast,  
His reindeer-team a-jingling  
And their hoof-beats falling fast,  
His furs are black with chimney soot  
His beard is white with snow,  
His sleigh is full of pretty toys,  
You ought to hear him go!

He lights upon the sleety roof  
And doesn't stop a minute,  
He jumps upon the chimney top  
And down he plumps within it,  
He pauses on the hearthstone  
And he takes a little peep  
To see if all the curly heads  
Are safe in bed asleep.

He goes about on tiptoe,  
Nor makes a bit of noise,  
He fills up all the stockings  
With his sugar-plums and toys;  
And then he gives a little laugh,  
Pops up the chimney quick,  
And off he jingles on the wind,  
The jolly old Saint Nick.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE LIVES OF THE PATRIARCHS.

LESSON XI. [Dec. 15.]

THE PASSOVER.

Exod. 12. 3-14. Memory verses, 12-14.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.—1 Cor. 5. 7.

THE LESSON STORY.

This is the story of the beginning of the passover feast. The Jews kept the passover every year, in the month *Nisan*, which is the same as March with us, to help them remember God's goodness in passing over the houses of the Israelites on the night when all the firstborn of the Egyptians were killed. Do you remember how the angel of destruction could know which were the houses of the Israelites? The people had a part to do in this. The Lord told Moses and Aaron what to tell the people to do. Each head of a house must kill a lamb and dip a plant of hyssop in its blood. With this he must make three marks of blood outside his door, and when the death angel came and saw these marks he would pass over the house.

But in all the houses not marked with blood the firstborn was slain.

Notice how the passover was eaten, and remember that the Lord's children in this world are "pilgrims and strangers," and that they are "seeking a better country," as were these Israelites. And never forget that Christ is our Passover Lamb, and that we are saved only through his precious blood.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Who took the Israelites out of Egypt? The Lord.

By whom did he lead them? By Moses and Aaron.

Who wanted to keep them? Pharaoh. What would he not do? Obey God.

How did God punish him? By sending plagues.

What was the last one? The slaying of the firstborn.

Were all the firstborn slain? Only the firstborn of the Egyptians.

Who slew them at midnight? The death angel.

Which houses did he pass over? Those marked with blood.

What blood was used? The blood of a lamb.

Who is our Passover Lamb? Jesus.

How are we saved? By his precious blood.

LESSON XII. [Dec. 22.]

THE PASSAGE OF THE RED SEA.

Exod. 14. 19-27. Memory verses, 13-16.

GOLDEN TEXT.

I will sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously.—Exod. 15. 1.

THE LESSON STORY.

Now the Israelites were on their way to the land of Canaan, led by Moses and Aaron. Pharaoh was afraid to keep them longer after that night of the passover, and he gladly let them go. The Lord let Moses and Aaron be the leaders whom the people could see, but he himself was the real Leader, for he told Moses and Aaron what to say and where to go. Somewhat in this way God gives you your parents, your teachers, and your pastors to lead you, but he is your real leader all the time.

Find the Red Sea on the map, and try to imagine the dismay of the Israelites when they found that Pharaoh was coming up behind them with his army, and the Red Sea was just before them. There seemed to be no way out of their trouble, but the Lord found a way. He who made the sea can make a way through it, and he who made this great world can make a safe way through it for his children. Notice that to outward eyes it was Moses' hand outstretched that caused the waters to roll back, but it was God's hand all the time. When the Israelites saw how the Lord worked for them, they believed on him, and on Moses his servant.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Who let the Israelites go? Pharaoh.

Why did he do so? He was afraid.

Where were they going? To Canaan.

By what way? The way of the Red Sea.

Who led them? The Lord, by Moses.

Who followed them? Pharaoh's army.

What for? To bring them back.

Where did the people come? To the Red Sea.

What was behind them? Pharaoh's army.

Who helped them? God.

What did he do? He made a path through the sea.

What can God do for us? Save us in danger.

JOHNNY CLEBURNE.

One cold Sunday in December a Sunday-school teacher picked from the sidewalk a dried oleander branch. Putting it in her muff, she began to muse about this branch thrown out to be trodden under foot of man. She had taught in mission schools, and the stick reminded her of Johnny Cleburne. Today, when she watered her thriving, red oleander, she thought of the day that she put it in her muff, laid it on her table in the Sunday-school room, and afterwards put it in a glass of water, and placed it in the sunshine in her living room; then, after a time, putting the roots in clean sand, and seeing the plant grow.

Johnny Cleburne's teacher could do nothing with him. Johnny was motherless, fatherless, and loveless. The teacher who picked up the oleander stick asked to have Johnny come into her class. She put him in the sunshine of her love.

It was never words for the sake of words; she loved Johnny. He is now one of the brightest boys in his college, and a straightforward Christian young man.

Sometimes it seems as if there were no "sticks" in the world, but every one is a living branch or vine. If they are left to die because no one cares to stop and lift them up, who will at the last bear the responsibility? It will be useless to ask: "When saw we thee naked, cold, hungry, homeless, friendless?"—*Sunday-School Classmate.*

A GOOD MOTTO.

Two children once took this for their motto: "What would Jesus do?" When they were tempted to be cross or selfish, they would think of their motto question; when they wanted to disobey, this question would ask itself in their hearts. They listened, and so they always heard it; and they tried to obey what the Voice said. Do you think that they grew to be good children? Indeed, they did; and so will all children who adopt this motto, and in every temptation ask themselves the question: "What would Jesus do?"