

for you were taught out of the Holy Bible from the time you were a little child, and the teachings of that Book can make you wise in all you undertake, and show you the way to be saved by believing in Christ Jesus. Indeed, every word in the Bible was sent to us by God Himself, through friends of His who wrote as He told them what to say; and in this Book He shows us what is right, what is wrong, what is good, what is bad, and teaches us how we may follow after the good and the right. Another wise man named David wrote a song or psalm for all the boys and girls in the world, and said, "Boys and girls can learn how to do what is well pleasing to God and to man by reading God's beautiful Book, the Holy Bible, or paying attention when others read it to them."

THINK OF THIS—Can God's Book help you very much unless you read in it or have someone read it to you? If there is a Bible at your house that has been lying on the table unused, will you get someone to read it to you? Will you try to learn one of its sayings this week, that will help you to be like what God would have you be? His book is the letter He has written us telling us what to do to please Him. Let us see if it is really true, when we say, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet."

LESSON XVII.

GOD'S GIFT OF HIS SON, Luke 2 : 1-12.

Golden Text: *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son,* John 3 : 16.

CENTRAL TRUTH The gift of love is the most acceptable gift to God and to man.

POINT OF DEPARTURE A child's interest in, and experience of Christmas.

SPIRITUAL RESULT DESIRED—A thankfulness to God for the gift of His only Son in the form of a baby, that children might understand and love Him.

APPROACH—What beautiful day has just passed? Christmas day. What did you like best about it? The gifts you received, of course. Was it not a happy day? Everybody seemed in good humor, didn't they? We should like to have Christmas every now and then, shouldn't we? Will Mary tell me some present she received on Christmas

day? Will John tell of his? I suppose no family had just one present that was for the whole household, had they? If they had, it must have been a very useful present, to please so many people. I know of a present that was sent to every one in the world one Christmas, and it suited and pleased them all. Shall I tell you about it?

LESSON STORY—Far from here there lived a king who sent out word one day that all his people were to be counted and taxed. Everyone was to go to the city to which his family belonged. Now, there lived in a city called Nazareth two people named Joseph and Mary, and to Mary God had sent an angel to carry her this beautiful message, "Mary, our Father in heaven is going to send His only Son as a present to the people on earth, and He will send Him as a little baby in your care." Mary kept these sayings in her heart, and she knew God would keep His word, as He always does. So when the time came for the people to be taxed, Joseph and Mary had to go to Bethlehem, and it was the very time that God had said the baby was to come in the manger there. When Mary and Joseph came to the city there was no room in the inn, so Mary had to find shelter in the stable. There, in that quiet, lowly place, our Father sent His only Son to Mary, for her to take care of until He was old enough to go about His Father's business. That same night out in the country, shepherds were watching their flocks, and suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and said something like this, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, that shall be to all people. For unto you is born this very night in the City of David, a Saviour, even Christ the Lord, and you will find Him lying in a manger, wrapped in His baby clothes, in the care of Mary, to whom God has sent Him." And this was the first beautiful Christmas night.

THINK OF THIS—Since Jesus came a gift to all people, He is a gift to you and to me.

"God sent us this lovely baby
From His home in heaven above;
He came down to show all people
How to help and how to love."

Will you let His voice speak to your heart and teach you? He came as a present to you