

Keep Trying.

If boys should get discouraged
At lessons or at work,
And say "There's no use trying,"
And all hard tasks should slink,
And keep on shirking, shirking,
Till the boy becomes a man,
I wonder what the world would do
To carry out its plan?

The coward in the conflict
Gives up at first defeat,
If once repulsed, his courage
Lies shattered at his feet.
The brave heart wins the battle
Because, through thick and thin,
He'll not give up as conquered—
He fights and fights to win

So, boys, don't get disheartened
Because at first you fail;
If you but keep on trying,
At last you will prevail;
Try, try and try again;
The boys who keep on trying,
Have made the world's best men.

—The Advance.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN JEWISH HISTORY.

B.C. 1014] LESSON VIII. [Nov. 24

SOLOMON'S WISE CHOICE.

1 Kings 3. 5-15. Memory verses, 12, 13.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Wisdom is better than rubies. Prov. 8. 11.

OUTLINE.

1. Solomon's Request, v. 5-9.
2. God's Answer, v. 10-15.

TIME.—1014 B.C.

PLACE.—Gibeon.

CONNECTING LINKS.—David is at rest: his noble and enduring lifework ended, while yet he was pondering great things for Zion, and the burden of responsibility is transferred to the shoulders of his great son. There is a momentary uncertainty as to the succession, Adonijah, the oldest surviving son of the king, claiming the throne; but the king himself declares Solomon his heir to the throne, and the people reverence his will. Never made monarch a more notable beginning to a reign. Its manner our lesson describes.

EXPLANATIONS.—*In a dream by night*—The old and well-known method of God's appearance. *And Solomon said*—That is, he dreamed that he said. *A little child*—Not in age: he was at least twenty years of age, but he was raw and inexperienced. *Cannot be numbered*—Of course they could be numbered, but the expression denotes their great prosperity as a people. *The speech pleased the Lord*—Solomon had offered at Gibeon a sacrifice and prayer, and this, doubtless, was the cause of the dream. And the real speech of his uttered prayer was what pleased the Lord.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. *Solomon's request.*
To whose reign have we now come?
Who was Solomon?
How came he to be king instead of David's oldest son?
In what respect did his religious character differ from his father's? ver. 3.
What occurred to him at Gibeon?
What did our last lesson say should be the character of a king? 2 Sam. 23. 3.
What is the character that Solomon as king says he desires?
On what did Solomon base his plea?
For what particular reason did he desire wisdom?
2. *God's Answer.*
Was the nature of Solomon changed by this occurrence?
Was it a real occurrence? ver. 15.
What other instances can you find of God's revelation through dreams? Find five: two in Genesis, one in Judges, two in Matthew.
How much did God promise in the answer?
What should have been the effect in Solomon's life?

Solomon died aged about sixty. What commentary does the fact furnish on ver. 14?

What truth did Solomon experience as the result of his dream? James 1. 5.
What has been the common experience of men who have sought after God? Jer. 29. 12, 13.
What word of the Lord Jesus is like it? John 16. 24.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

God says, "Ask of me and I will give." The world says, "Prayer is only idle words."

God says, "Keep my statutes, I will lengthen thy days." The world says, "Do what you will, you cannot die till your time comes." Solomon began well, he was humble, devout, sincere.

Let us learn the value of right beginnings.

He showed his one weakness at the beginning—the love of display, ver. 4. It was the leak in the dyke.

Let us learn the lesson of self-examination: "for who can understand his errors?"

Let us pray, "Cleanse thou me from secret faults."

HINTS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Study carefully the close of David's life.
2. Study as carefully the beginning of Solomon's reign.
3. Study chapter 4 to see a proof of his wisdom in ruling.
4. Be careful to understand that this wisdom asked and promised was only in one direction, namely, that of government.
5. Find Solomon's age at accession, and such evidences as you are able concerning the number of inhabitants of his kingdom.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Under what circumstances did Solomon have his revelation from God? "While worshipping God at Gibeon." 2. How did God make his revelation? "In a dream by night." 3. What was his command to Solomon? "Ask what I shall give thee." 4. What was his request of God? "To have an understanding heart." 5. What was the effect of his request? "The speech pleased the Lord." 6. What testimony did Solomon give concerning wisdom in after years? "Wisdom is better than rubies."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—True wisdom

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

53. In what else is your soul different from your body?
My soul is that within me which thinks and knows, desires and wills, rejoices and is sorry, which my body cannot do.
54. Is not your soul then of great value? Yes; because it is myself.
What is a man profited, if he gain the whole world, and lose or forfeit his own self?—Luke ix. 25.

B.C. 1004] LESSON IX. [Dec. 1

THE TEMPLE DEDICATED.

1 Kings 8. 54-63. Memory verses, 62, 63.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The Lord is in his holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before him. Hab. 2. 20.

OUTLINE.

1. Thanksgiving, v. 54-56.
2. Prayer, v. 57-61.
3. Sacrifice, v. 62, 63.

TIME.—1004 B.C.

PLACE.—Jerusalem.

CONNECTING LINKS.—As we have learned, David early in his reign desired to build a house for the worship of the Lord, but was forbidden by Nathan. In the last years of his reign he had, however, collected a vast store of material for the purpose, and had laid solemn injunctions on Solomon to carry out his plans. This work the new king had faithfully done, as detailed in the chapters since our last lesson, and now we come to the service of dedication.

EXPLANATIONS.—*All this prayer*—This is the prayer recorded in vers. 23-53 of this chapter. Vers. 55-61 seem to be a benediction upon the people at the close of the prayer. *The king . . . offered sacrifice*—This was the regular burnt-offering with its accompaniments. It was consumed by fire from heaven. 2 Chron. 7. 1. *A sacrifice of peace offerings*—These afforded the people opportunity for festive enjoyment. The vast number of animals strikes us with

wonder: but classical records furnish parallels on a great scale, though not equal to this.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. *Thanksgiving.*
What was the occasion of this prayer of thanksgiving?
What was the temple?
What had led Solomon to build it? 1 Kings 5. 5.
How long had he been occupied therewith? 1 Kings 6. 38.
To what historic facts did the king allude in his thanksgiving? Deut. 12. 10, 11.
What solemn services had already occurred this day? Chap. 8. 1-11, 12-21, 22-53.
In what quarter of Jerusalem had this temple been built? 2 Chron. 3. 1.
In what part of the city was the tabernacle of David which contained the ark? Chap. 8. 1.
2. *Prayer.*
What was the nature of this second prayer?
What does the first petition of this prayer mean?
On what condition only had God been with their fathers?
Does the prayer (ver. 58) open the way for escape from personal seeking after God?
In what way does the prayer throw the responsibility upon the people as well?
What must we be willing to do, when we offer prayer, if God is to answer?

3. *Sacrifice.*

- What tendency to display was shown in Solomon's first sacrifice? Chap. 3. 4.
How has this increased in the king, as here narrated?
What instances of a similar custom do classical literature furnish?
What was the nature of peace-offerings? See Lev. 7. 11, ff., and a commentary.
How much time do you think these festivities required? ver. 65.
What does this magnificence show concerning the wealth of the kingdom?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

The chief teaching here is of God's fidelity to his promises:

Men sin:	God remains pure.
Men forget:	God forgets nothing.
Men fail:	God fulfils every promise.
Men promise:	God receives and blesses.
Men break promises:	God is long-suffering and patient.

The secondary teaching is of man's duty:

Man ought to know that the Lord is God.
He ought to know that there is none else.
He ought to keep his heart pure.
He ought to walk as God orders.
He ought to keep God's laws.

How far short of it we all come! Let us pray Psa. 93. 12.

HINTS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. As to the building of the temple, study chapter 6, and 2 Chron., chapters 3 and 4.
2. As to the wealth of the kingdom which made this possible, study 1 Kings 4. 22-28.
3. As to the preparation made by David for the temple, 1 Chron. 22. 1-5 and 11, and 1 Chron. 28. 11-21, and 29. 1-9.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. For whom was the benediction in our lesson pronounced? "For the congregation of Israel." 2. What was its prayer? "That God should abide with them." 3. Why did the king make this prayer? "That the earth might know God." 4. What was the service in which king and people were engaged? "The dedication of the temple." 5. When the prayer of dedication was done, what happened? "The glory of God filled the house." 6. How does our Golden Text commemorate this fact? "The Lord is in his holy." etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Consecration.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

55. Did God create you?
Yes; he made me, both body and soul.
Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us.—Psalm 100. 3.
Job 10. 11; Numbers 16. 22; Hebrews 12. 9.

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