

This diagram represents the two ways as pointed out to the people by Samuel. At the starting-point stands the great word "IF." Great because it is so often in the way. Here it is the conditional word. If you take one path it is perilous, and the hand of the Lord is against you. If you take the other path, then you will continue to follow the Lord in safety.

APPLICATION. There are some who are yet hesitating behind the "IF," and have not yet decided to enter the right path. To them the warning is given as plainly as to the children of Israel, and now is the time to discard the "if" and substitute "I will." The "if" of the prophet was a word of warning; the "if" of the hesitating one is a word of doubt.

IF I WILL NOT
 FEAR | THE LORD | WITH ALL
 SERVE | | MYHEART,
 WHAT THEN ?

Make an application by showing that a choice must be made. The IF will have to be erased, and the declaration stand I WILL, or I WILL NOT. Question the school as to the results.

Lesson Word-Pictures.

A great gathering of Israel all around one man, white-haired, venerable, and he is talking. It is an impressive occasion when, at the close of a long, public life, an old servant of the people turns once more to them, making some manly defence of his course, and uttering some wise word for the future. Memorable scene, that multitude around the aged speaker! Overhead swept the hot, dry sky peculiar to the season of wheat-harvest. All around them may have been the yellow grain through which murmured the wind in its low monotone. Some insect's shrill cry is heard as if piping for rain, and on whirring wing a bird flies by, anxiously seeking water for its young. The people listen attentively to Samuel. But what is he saying? That they had done wrong in seeking a king, and that he would prove it by calling "unto the Lord, and he shall send thunder and rain!" "He is in his dotage," thinks a man before Samuel, "to expect rain in wheat-harvest!" But Samuel prays. No sound, beside his voice is heard save the insect still piping for rain and the bird still seeking for water. Three are begging for water. If God notices insects and birds, will he not hear the panting cry of his children? "Hark!" says some one. "What is that?" Boom-m-m-m! Was that thunder? A louder menace is heard. There is a startling, echoing, crashing roar! A

black cloud overspreads the sky. And now the rain sweeps down in long, gray lines, rattles against the dry grain-stalks, and gives drink to bird and insect. Soon did the shower grow to a tempest, earth and sky darkening as if in terror! Tremblingly the people cry, "Pray for thy servants unto the Lord thy God, that we die not!" If they had only said that before they asked for a king, praying that they might not be led into sin rather than to be led out of it!

Primary and Intermediate.

BY M. V. M.

LESSON THOUGHT. Safety in obedience.

INTRODUCTORY. Point out Gilgal on the map, and tell why Samuel called all the people to this place. A victory over God's enemies is something to give thanks for. The Israelites, under King Saul, had just won such a victory. Tell what some of the enemies are which fight against us, teaching that all the praise belongs to God when we conquer them. Teach that there are always enemies just ahead, and so Samuel warned the Israelites against them. Question about Samuel, leading children to see that his good, true life gave him the right to warn and advise.

THE LORD'S HAND FOR US.

Why did God give the Israelites a king? They were not satisfied to have God as their king, and so he let them have King Saul. Show a gold piece and a copper cent. Talk about the value of the gold, what it will buy, etc., and show of how little value is the cent compared with it. Ask children which they would choose, and show that the Israelites, in choosing a man to be their king instead of God, were like children who should choose the copper instead of the gold piece. Print words in the hand, and ask who it is that promises to guide, and let children tell what the path will be like into which the Lord leads. Show that it is sin which makes trouble, and that if we let God lead us, he will lead us into his ways which are "pleasantness," and his paths which are "peace."

THE LORD'S HAND AGAINST US.

Recall some of the troubles of the Israelites, the plagues sent upon them, their captivity in Egypt, etc., and tell that all these things came from their refusing to obey God. God loves his children even when they forsake him, but if he did not punish sin they would never learn how dreadful it is. So he has to turn his hand against our sin, and that makes trouble for us. Print above the hand on the board, "Blessings," and let children name the blessings that follow those who obey the Lord, making list on the board. Ask which is better, to have God's hand for