

## LESSON II—January 12th, 1896.

### The Boy Jesus. LUKE 2 : 40-52.

(Commit to memory verses 51 and 52).

**GOLDEN TEXT:** "Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." Luke 2 : 52.

**PROVE THAT—**We should obey our parents. Eph. 6 : 1.

**SHORTER CATECHISM.** Quest. 40. *What did God at first reveal to man for the rule of his obedience?* A. The rule which God at first revealed to man for his obedience was the moral law.

**LESSON HYMNS.** *Children's Hymnal.* Nos. 33, 232, 215, 207.

**DAILY PORTIONS.** *Monday.* The Boy Jesus. Luke 2 : 40-52. *Tuesday.* The Passover feast. Deut. 16 : 1-8. *Wednesday.* Youthful piety. 2 Cor. 34 : 1-7. *Thursday.* Seeking after wisdom. Prov. 4 : 1-13. *Friday.* The Father's business. John 5 : 17-24. *Saturday.* The best knowledge. 2 Tim. 3 : 10-17. *Sabbath.* Growing in grace. 2 Pet. 3 : 11-18. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

### EXPOSITORY NOTES.

**INTRODUCTORY.** The incident of our lesson marks Christ's coming of legal age and his entrance upon Jewish citizenship. With his first passover he assumed the duties of a full member of the Jewish church. Of the preceding years since the return to Nazareth we know nothing. Nor have we any information of the next eighteen. This is the solitary notice of the life of our Lord between the return from Egypt and his baptism at the age of thirty. It was a memorable crisis in his religious life and the story should be full of instruction to those especially who have passed the age of twelve and have not yet taken their places at the Christian Passover, the Lord's Supper.

**LESSON PLAN.** I. Jesus at the Feast. vs. 40-45. II. Jesus in the Temple. vs. 46-50. III. Jesus at Nazareth. vs. 51-52.

**I. JESUS AT THE FEAST. 40.** And the child grew and waxed strong in spirit (R. V. omits "in spirit"), filled with wisdom—He developed in body, mind and soul like any other child. The literal rendering, "becoming full of wisdom," suggests a process, a gradual maturing of the faculties. It is impossible for us to conceive of this growth correctly for it must have involved a clearer and clearer consciousness of his true nature, along with the changes common to all men. This single sentence sums up all we know of the first twelve years and a similar verse at the end of our lesson describes the remainder of his life up to his baptism. Scripture reverently conceals what it would not profit us to know, or might be beyond our comprehension. The attempt to penetrate this mystery must be futile. It has been the source of many heresies and is not without danger in the present day. And the grace of God was upon him—Here for the first time upon earth we have a human child whose growth in mind or body is not warped by sin. In him God sees his creative ideal realized. (Godet). "The grace of God," the favor and blessing of God (Matt. 3 : 17; Ps. 5 : 12; 30 : 5; 106 : 4; Isa. 11 : 2, 3; John 1 : 14). "Upon him" marks the energy with which the grace of God rested on the child, penetrating his entire being. (Godet).

**41.** Now his parents—Joseph would be reputed to be his father and spoken of as such. Mary so speaks in verse 48. The law did not require women to go up to the three great feasts (Ex. 23 : 15-17; 34 : 23; Deut. 16 : 1, 16).

Mary probably made the journey because of her piety. (Compare Hannah 1 Sam. 1 : 7). Went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover—The words imply that it was their habitual custom. The law was strictly observed in that home at Nazareth. For an account of the institution see Ex. 12.

**42.** And when he was twelve years old—"The stages of Jewish childhood are marked as follows:—At three the boy was weaned and wore for the first time the fringed or tasselled garment prescribed by Num. 15 : 38-41; and Deut. 22 : 12. His education began at first under the mother's care. At five he was to learn the law, at first by extracts, written on scrolls, of the more important passages, the Shema, or creed of Deut. 2 : 4, the Hallel, or festival Psalms (114-118, 136), and by catechetical teaching in school. At twelve he was more directly responsible for his obedience to the law, and on the day when he attained the age of thirteen, put on for the first time the phylacteries which were worn at the recital of his daily prayer." (Ellicott). They went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast—R. V. omits "to Jerusalem." It cannot be inferred from this narrative, that it was the first time the Holy Child had accompanied them to the passover. (Alford).

**43.** And when they had fulfilled the days—The feast lasted seven days (Ex. 12 : 15, 17). They were not in duty bound to stay so long; they might have gone back sooner without blame. But devout people, as they were, do not consider how little of their time they can give to God without doing wrong,