

International S. S. Lessons.

Adapted from the Westminster Question Book.

12 August.

The Temptation of Jesus.

Les. Matt. 4 : 1-11. Gol. Text, Heb. 4 : 15.
Mem. vs. 1-4. Catechism Q. 88.

Time—A. D. 26, July to January; Tiberius Cæsar Emperor of Rome; Pontius Pilate Governor of Judea; Herod Antipas governor of Galilee and Perea.

Place—The wilderness of Judea, bordering on the Dead Sea and the Jordan.

Helps in Studying.—1. "Then"—immediately after his baptism. "The Spirit"—the Holy Spirit. "Wilderness"—the wild country near Jericho. "To be tempted"—to be tried and proved. "The devil"—the same fallen spirit that tempted our first parents. 2. "Forty days"—all this time he was tempted by the devil. 3. The first temptation—an appeal to appetite and to distrust the word of God. 4. "It is written"—Deut. 8:3. "By every word"—the command of God can supply every need. 5. "The holy city"—Jerusalem. "Pinnacle"—Herod's portico, overhanging the Kidron valley, three hundred feet above the ground below. 6. "Cast thyself down"—a temptation to presume upon God's saving him from danger into which he had needlessly gone. "It is written"—in Psalm 91: 11. The devil quotes Scripture, but perverts it. 7. "Written again"—Deut 6: 16. "Tempt the Lord"—trifle with his loving care. "High Mountain"—perhaps Misphah. "Sheweth him"—by a vision. Luke 4: 5. 9. "Will I give thee"—a temptation to ambition, yielding up God and the saving of men for an outward success. "Worship"—honor me as your superior. 10. "It is written"—Deut: 6: 13.

Introductory.—What do you know of John the Baptist? What took place at the baptism of Jesus? Title? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? Time? Place? Memory verses? Catechism?

I. The Temptation of Hunger. vs. 1-4.—Where was Jesus tempted? By whom? Why was Jesus tempted? Heb. 2: 18; 4: 15. What was the first temptation? How could this tempt him? Why was it wrong? How did Jesus meet it? What food do we need besides bread?

II. The Temptation of Presumption. vs. 5-7.—What was the second temptation? Why should this tempt him? Why was this wrong? What Scripture did Satan quote? How did Jesus meet this temptation? Of what temptation to us is this a type?

III. The Temptation of Power. vs. 8-11.—What was the third temptation? How could Satan give these things to Jesus? What was there in this to tempt Jesus? Why was it wrong? How did Jesus meet this temptation? How are we tempted like this? What did the devil then do? How did Jesus get the victory over the tempter? How may we triumph over temptation? Who came and ministered to Jesus?

LESSONS.

1. The devil is a crafty, malicious enemy.
2. We may expect him to tempt us and try to lead us into sin.
3. If we look to Jesus he will help us to overcome temptation.
4. As soon as we know a thing to be wrong we should say to it, "Begone!"
5. Our tempter, Satan, can never overcome our Intercessor, Christ.

19 August.

First Disciples of Jesus.

Les. John 1 : 35-49. Golden Text, John 1 : 41.
Mem. vs. 40-42. Catechism Q. 89.

HOME READINGS.

M. John 1 : 19-34..... John's Testimony.
T. John 1 : 35-49..... First Disciples of Jesus.
W. 1 Pat. 1 : 19-25..... The Lamb Without Blemish.
Th. Luke 5 : 27-33..... Leaving All to Follow Christ.
R. Mark 8 : 27-33..... Taking Up the Cross.
S. Luke 9 : 51-62..... Unconditional Following.
S. Matt. 18 : 16-30..... Foraking All to Follow Christ.

Time.—A. D. 27, February; Tiberius Cæsar Emperor of Rome; Pontius Pilate Governor of Judea; Herod Antipas, Governor of Galilee and Perea.

Place.—Bethabara, or Bethany, at a ford of the Jordan, nearly opposite Jericho.

Helps in Studying.—35. "The next day"—after John's testimony (vs. 29-34), and two days after the visit of priests and Levites from Jerusalem. "Two of his disciples"—Andrew (vs. 40), and probably John. 36. "The Lamb of God"—the great Sacrificer for sin prefigured by the Lamb in the Jewish sacrifices. 39. "The tenth hour"—ten o'clock in the morning, according to the Roman reckoning of time which John uses. 41. "He findeth his own brother"—so anxious was he that his brother might come to Jesus. 42. "He brought him"—so we should bring our friends to Jesus. "Thou shalt be called Cephas"—Revised Version, (which is, by interpretation, Peter). 43. "Galilee"—the most northern of the three provinces into which Palestine was then divided. 44. "Bethsaida"—a village on the north-western side of the Sea of Galilee. 46. "Can there any good thing"—Nazareth had a bad name and was an insignificant place. "Come and see"—the remedy for prejudice. 47. "An Israelite indeed"—a true child of God. 48. "I saw thee"—Jesus sees us in every secret place.

Introductory.—For what purpose were priests and Levites sent from Jerusalem to John? How did he answer them? What did John say to the multitude when he saw Jesus coming to him? Title? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? Time? Place? Memory verses? Catechism?

I. Disciples Pointed to Jesus. vs. 35-39.—What took place the next day? What did John say? Why is Jesus called the *Lamb of God*? How can your sins be taken away? What did the two disciples do? What invitation did Jesus give them? How long did they remain with Jesus? How are we pointed to Jesus? What ought we to do?

II. Disciples Brought to Jesus. vs. 40-42.—Who was one of these disciples? Who was probably the other? Whom did Andrew find? What did he say to Simon? To whom did Andrew bring his brother? What did Jesus say to Simon? How may we bring disciples to Jesus?

III. Disciples Found by Jesus. vs. 43-49.—What took place the next day? Whom did Philip find? What did Philip say to Nathanael? What did Nathanael reply? How did Philip answer him? What did Jesus say when he saw Nathanael? How did Jesus know this? What did Nathanael ask Jesus? What was our Lord's reply? What did Nathanael then say? For what purpose did Jesus come into the world?

LESSONS.

1. Jesus came into the world to save sinners.
2. The true way to treat the gospel is to "come and see."—Try it.
3. Jesus will be found of all who seek him.
4. We should bring our friends to Jesus.