

Notes on the S. S. Lessons.

Feeding the Five Thousand.

John 6 : 1-21.

JESUS had gone away into the hill country, to rest amid the green fields ; for "desert" here means lonely, not barren. But crowds of people followed Him, and so all day Jesus talked to them about loving God and doing right, and after that you read how He cared for their tired, hungry bodies? I wonder if the little boy had kept close to Jesus all day, listening to every word. Suppose he had stayed down by the lake, skipping stones, or playing marbles, and had eaten the little barley-loaves himself. We should never have heard of the "little lad," who helped Jesus to feed the multitudes that day. How do you suppose he felt when he saw all those thousands of people sitting down on the grass, and had heard Jesus thanking God for that little bit of food, —just what was in his basket, hardly a crumb apiece. But there was more than enough for all. How glad he must have been that he had it to give to Jesus.

But the people could not eat all the bread. There was more than enough ; a great deal was left lying upon the grass.

What was done with it? Jesus would not let it be wasted : He told His friends to take some baskets and to gather up the bits of bread and fish. Twelve baskets were filled with these bits.

Jesus the Bread of Life.

John 6 : 22-40.

SOMETIMES boys and girls who are seldom seen in the Sunday-school, begin to go steadily just before a picnic or a Christmas tree. They want the good times and the pretty gifts,—that is all. Many of the people who crowded around Jesus were like these children. They wanted the loaves and fishes, but they did not want to be told they were sinners. Jesus knew this, and He tried to teach them how much their souls needed the bread of life. But alas ! when they said, "Lord, give us this bread," they were thinking of earthly food, something they could get

without any trouble, and which would keep away hunger and death. When Jesus told them He was the bread of life, and believing His word, taking it into their hearts, and obeying it, would make their souls well, and glad, and strong, just as food did their bodies, they were offended, and went away.

Jesus the Christ.

John 7 : 37-52.

THE most joyous of the Jewish feasts was the Feast of Tabernacles. For a whole week they lived in little green tents, or arbors, made of branches of trees. Every day there was a procession of priests marched out to the pool of Siloam, and drew water in a golden pitcher, which they brought

back, amid shouting and singing, and poured around the altar. This was to show that God had given them water when they were thirsty in the wilderness ; and also to give thanks for plenty of water now. Read in Num. 20 : 1-13 how God had given them drink when they were in the desert.

It was the last day of the feast. Crowds of people had been watching the priest as he poured out the water. Suddenly



"They .. found Him on the other side of the sea."—John 6 : 25.



"They .. took shipping and came to Capernaum, seeking for Jesus."—John 6 : 24.

a clear voice rang through the temple courts, crying, "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink." It was Jesus, who knew how much their souls needed pardon, and goodness, and love. So He offered them the living water, just as He had to the woman at the well. But instead of believing, as she did, they fell to disputing who this man was, and ended by rejecting Him altogether. Can you sing—

"Christ is my Prophet, Priest and King ;
My Prophet full of light,
My Great High Priest, my Sacrifice,
My King of heavenly might.
Christ gives me living waters free,
Christ, my Saviour, died for me."

"OUR YOUNG PEOPLE."

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