

The Golden Text is chosen from the last verse of the lesson : Be not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good.

VI. SUGGESTIVE STEPS IN TEACHING THE LESSON :

1. Have the Golden Text printed on the blackboard beforehand, in the form suggested in the cut.

2. Begin the lesson with the Golden Text. Suppose a boy treats us badly, how ought we to treat him?—Badly? What does the Golden Text say? Which is the best way to get rid of enemies? Get some answers from the children, and then suggest—make them friends, and then they will not be enemies any longer. How can we do this? Our Golden Text answers, "Overcome evil with good."

3. Tell the story of Joseph, as found in Genesis, chapters 37 and following. Although he was treated so badly by his brothers, he forgave them, and overcame evil with good.

4. Tell the story of David and Saul.—I. Sam. 24th chapter. Although Saul followed David and tried again and again to kill him, yet David had the forgiving spirit and again and again forgave him. He could easily have killed Saul; but he overcame evil with good. God had filled his heart with the forgiving spirit. He will fill ours with the same spirit if we are truly his children. If we have this spirit we will be able to do as Paul tells us in this lesson. "Bless them which persecute you; bless, and curse not." And, again, "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves; but, rather, give place unto wrath. If thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink; for in so doing thou shalt keep coals of fire on his head."

Joseph overcame evil with good. David overcame evil with good. Paul says, overcome evil with good; but what about Jesus; did He do so? When He was betrayed he could have called twelve legions (72,000) of angels, and they would have killed all his enemies. When He was being tried, and they mocked Him and spat upon Him, and struck Him with their hands, He answered not a word. When they were nailing Him to the cross He said: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." He could easily have freed himself; for if He could raise the dead He could easily have got away from those who were treating Him badly; but He did not, because He wanted to show His great love for us, and provide a salvation even for those who were thus evil-treating Him.

Jesus overcame evil with good. Who will be like Him? How will you do it?

LESSON XII—September 19th, 1897.

Paul's Address to the Ephesian Elders. ACTS 20 : 22-35.

I. GOLDEN TEXT: Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."—Acts 20 : 35.

II. PREVIEW THOUGHT FOR THE QUARTER: God's word giveth light.

III. PREVIEW THOUGHT FOR TO DAY'S LESSON: God's word teaches us TO BE KIND.

IV. REVIEW:

1. What was last Sunday's Golden Text?
2. What does it mean to overcome evil with good?
3. How did Jesus say we should treat our enemies?
4. How did Jesus overcome evil with good?

V. SYNOPSIS OF LESSON: Our lesson to-day returns again to the book of "The Acts." The third missionary journey of Paul was drawing to its close and he was on his way to Jerusalem with the money he had collected from the Gentile churches for the poor of Judea. The ship in which he sailed stopped at Miletus, thirty miles south of Ephesus, and Paul was enabled to have a conference with the Elders of the church of Ephesus. Not knowing how long the ship would stay, the Elders went to Paul, rather than have him go to Ephesus. The record of Paul's words to his brethren, which forms our lesson to-day, gives us one of the most touching and beautiful addresses found among the writings of the Apostle.