

LESSON XI. (September 13.)

DAVID BECOMES KING. 2 Sam. 2. 1-10.

GOLDEN TEXT: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Psa. 133. 1.

Primary Notes.



Approach. Richard, Harry, and Ted were brothers. Generally they were pleasant and kind and had good times together, but one day they had a sad falling out. They disagreed in play and quarreled, and by and by struck each other and said angry words, and then said they would not speak one to the other at all. This went on for nearly a day, and you may know how unhappy it made them to be in the same house, eat at the same table, and yet never say a word to each other. Instead of being like one family, they acted as if they were little savages that belonged far apart. Their hearts were not together, although they were brothers and lived together. At last dear little sister Ruth became a peacemaker and got the boys to come together. She just loved them into being better and kinder, and then they "made up," and before the sun went down they began to love each other again as they should, and that evening they lived as if they were brothers, not strangers or savages. They "dwelt in unity," that is, lived as if they were one—one family, with one heart, just as a unit means one figure. It was love which brought all this about. Teach text and show how brothers ought to live as one, not as if each was an enemy to the other.

King David. Three questions to be asked and answered about this king who took Saul's place, and these are: Who? Where? How?

David is central figure of story. Recall the shepherd boy, on whom Samuel poured the oil, setting him apart to be king in God's time. Bring to mind the fight with the giant, the praises of the people, the envy of Saul, and how David escaped from his enemy. This was the new king, who loved God, whom God loved, and whom the people loved.

Where was he anointed or set apart to be king? In Hebron. The name Hebron means Friendship (explain friendship). This was a good place to come to be made king over those

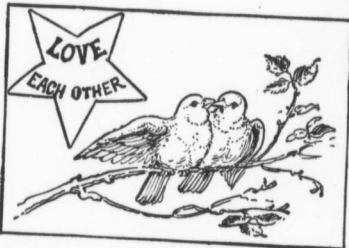
who loved him. How did David know that he ought to go to Hebron? (Show map.) He asked, and God told him. Then he went, as he was told. May we find out in the same way where to go and what to do? Is our Father in heaven just the same now?

How was David made king? The men of Judah, that is, those people whose first father long before was Judah, one of Jacob's sons, came to David, who was of the same family of Judah himself, and so was like one of their brothers—these came and poured oil on David's head and set him apart to be king, because God had chosen him long before.

What do you suppose was the new king's first act? He praised and rewarded those men of Jabesh-gilead who had kindly cared for the dead bodies of Saul and his sons. David loved his brothers, and lived as if he and they were all one, with one heart and one mind, but he also loved his enemies. He was sorry for envious Saul, and he loved Jonathan as a brother. He always wished to live in unity, or peace, with everyone. Are we like David? David was like Jesus our Saviour. Are we like Jesus in wishing always to live in unity, or peace? How many of us ever quarrel with brothers or sisters at home, or playmates anywhere? Is that living as if we were one, or in unity? Is it pleasant then? Can it ever be peaceful and pleasant where selfishness, anger, and quarrels come?

Star Thought: Love Each Other. Impress this thought. We should love not to be exalted, as David was, but because we are really brothers and sisters.

Thought for Teachers. Intimate acquaintance with scholars at home will help to emphasize this lesson. We ought to influence the family life of the little ones. And O, to teach the lesson of loving, the very first lesson of all!



If by any means we can make brothers and sisters dwell in unity, what a gain it will be for life!