

etc. They ask for some wonderful work to convince them that he was God's messenger, perhaps by feeding them with food from heaven, as the Messiah was expected to do (see Ex. 16 : 4-15 ; Ps. 78 : 24), and not merely with bread of the ordinary sort, as in the miracle of the 5,000. Moses gave you not that bread. It was God who gave the manna, and he now gives the true bread from heaven, of which the manna was merely a picture. Cometh down from heaven ; as God's best gift to men. Giveth life ; life for the soul, which shall endure forever (see John 3 : 16). Unto the world ; not to a mere multitude, or to one nation.

III. AN EASY CONDITION.—34-37. Lord, evermore give us this bread. It would be a fine thing, they thought, to have plenty to eat coming from heaven with no need of their working for it. I am the bread of life ; that is, "the Bread which gives life." The manna could satisfy only the body, and that only for a time. Jesus can satisfy the soul, and that forever. He that cometh to me . . . believeth on me. These two expressions both mean trusting in Jesus. Never hunger . . . never thirst ; be satisfied fully, and forever. Seen me . . . believe not. They were so eager for outward good things, that they had no eyes for spiritual blessings. All that the Father giveth, etc. Jesus knew that his work for men would not be wholly in vain. He had received some followers as a gift from the Father ; these would certainly come to him. Him that cometh . . . in no wise cast out. We are free to come or not to come ; but Jesus will surely welcome all who come.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



THE LAND OF GENNESARET (see Matt. 14 : 34 ; Mark 6 : 53) was a fertile plain on the west shore of the Lake of Galilee. The historian Josephus says that it had "soil so fruitful, that all sorts of trees would grow upon it, for the temper of the air is so well blended, that it suits these many sorts, especially walnuts, which require the colder air, and flourish there in great plenty. There are palm trees also,

fig trees, also olives, grow near them, which require an air more temperate."

LESSON QUESTIONS

- 24, 25 Who followed Jesus to Capernaum ? Why did they wonder at his being there ?
- 26 What was the miracle of the loaves and fishes meant to be ? What did the multitude desire in coming to Jesus ?
- 27-29 Why is food for the soul of more importance than food for the body ? Who is the giver of food for the soul ? What sign of his authority and power had he given ? What must we do to please God ? Quote similar teaching from the Epistle to the Hebrews ? (Heb. 11 : 5, 6.)
- 30-33 What proof that Jesus was God's messenger did the people ask for ? To what Old Testament miracle did they point ? Who did Jesus say really gave the manna ? Of what was it a picture ?
- 34-37 What request did the people make ? What did they mean by this request ? What does Jesus require us to do ? What does he promise ? Who are they who come to him ? With what reception do they meet ?

FOR DISCUSSION

- 1. Should we expect Jesus to supply us with food for the body ?
- 2. How can we feed upon Christ ?

A PRAYER

We are filled with wonder and adoration, Lord Jesus, when we think of thy life on earth. We praise thee for the knowledge that thou didst endure temptation and that thou didst bear with the people when they would not understand. Give us an understanding heart that we may know thee, a loving heart that we may receive thee, a willing heart that we may serve thee. Teach us how to find thee ourselves, and how to invite others to come to thee that they may have life eternal. For thy name's sake. Amen.

Prove from Scripture—That we need food from heaven.

Shorter Catechism—Review Questions 12-20.

The Question on Missions—10. What is done for them ? As they enter the free dispensary, they are heartily welcomed by a missionary, speaking their own language, who listens to the story of their troubles and interprets their ailments to a sympathetic doctor. The doctor gives them all necessary advice, treatment and medicine, while at hand ready to care for them, is a nurse, who also attends to them afterwards, if necessary, in their homes.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

- 1. What is Christ's definition of "the Bread of God ?" .....
- .....
- 2. What must we do in order to have everlasting life ? .....
- .....

SIGN NAME HERE .....