

April 20.

JOSEPH FORGIVING HIS BRETHREN.

Les. Gen. 45 : 1-15. Gol. Text, Luke 17 : 3.
Mem. vs. 3-5. Catechism Q. 100.

HOME READINGS.

M. Gen. 42 : 1-20..... Joseph's Brethren in Egypt
T. Gen. 42 : 21-38..... Their Return Home.
W. Gen. 43 : 1-14..... Their Second Visit.
Th. Gen. 43 : 15-34..... The Dinner with Joseph.
F. Gen. 44 : 1-34..... The Brethren Tested.
S. Gen. 45 : 1-15..... Joseph Forgiving His Brethren.
S. Matt. 18 : 21-35..... Forgiveness Enjoined.

Time—B. C. 1707, two years after the famine began; Joseph in Egypt twenty-two years, and chief ruler nine years.

Place—Heliopolis, also called On.

Opening words—After the seven years of plenty came the years of famine predicted by Joseph. (See Home Readings.) The leading events between the lessons are (1) The first visit of Joseph's brethren; (2) Their second visit; (3) The charge against Benjamin; (4) Judah's intercession in his behalf.

Helps in Studying.—1. *Joseph could not refrain himself* could not conceal his feelings. (3) *I am Joseph* he owns them as his brothers, though they had treated him so cruelly. (Compare Heb. 2 : 11.) *Troubled*—filled with fear. 5. *God did send me*—overruling their wickedness to work good. 6. *Earing*—ploughing. 7. *To preserve you a posterity*—and thus bring about a fulfillment of God's promises. Gen. 15 : 5; 17 : 6; 21 : 7. etc. 8. *Not you* God had used their sin. But still they were guilty. 10. *Goshen*—a part of Egypt bordering on the Delta of the Nile. 11. *His brother Benjamin*—the son of his own mother. 15. *All his brethren*—assuring them of forgiveness.

QUESTIONS.

Introductory.—What took Joseph's brethren to Egypt? What happened on their first visit? Whom did they take with them on their second visit? What took place at this visit? Why did Judah so plead for Benjamin? Title? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? Time? Place? Memory verses? Catechism?

I. *Making himself Known*. vs. 1-1.—How did Judah's plea affect Joseph? What did he command? How did he make himself known? Why could his brothers not answer him? What did he say to them?

II. *Comforting his Brothers*. vs. 5-8.—How did Joseph comfort his brothers? Who had turned their evil into good? What is said of Joseph in Psalm 105 : 17²²? How should we treat those who injure us?

III. *Sending for his Father*. vs. 9-15.—What message did Joseph send to his father? What promise of support did he give him? What testimony could his brothers give their father about Joseph? What would Joseph have them tell him? How did he show his love for Benjamin? How for his other brothers?

LESSONS.

1. God's providence rules over all.
2. He may bring good out of the wickedness of men.
3. Our wickedness is none the less sinful because God overrules it for good.
4. We should be patient and forgiving under injuries.

May 6.

JOSEPH'S LAST DAYS.

Les. Gen. 50 : 14-26. Gol. Text, Prov. 4 : 18.
Mem. vs. 24-26. Catechism Q. 101.

HOME READINGS.

M. Gen. 45 : 16-23..... The Invitation to Egypt.
T. Gen. 46 : 1-7, 26-34..... The Journey to Egypt.
W. Gen. 47 : 1-12..... Joseph and his Father.
Th. Gen. 47 : 13-27..... The Years of Famine.
F. Gen. 49 : 1-33..... The Death of Jacob.
S. Gen. 50 : 1-13..... The Burial of Jacob.
S. Gen. 50 : 14-26..... Joseph's Last Days.

Time—B. C. 1689-1635, from the death of Jacob to the death of Joseph?

Place—Heliopolis, or perhaps Goshen, where Joseph may have spent his last days.

Opening words.—There is an interval of about eighteen years between the last lesson and this. (See Gen. 45 : 16-50 : 13.) The leading incidents are—Joseph sends for his father; Jacob comes down into Egypt, is met by Joseph, presented to Pharaoh, settles in Goshen, where he lives for seventeen years, dies B. C. 1680, and is buried by his sons in the cave of Machpelah.

Helps in Studying.—14. *Joseph returned*—after he had buried his father. 15. *Peradventure*—"it may be." The guilty conscience causes fear. *Requite*—punish us. 17. *Wept*—touched by their penitence, and hurt also by their doubt of his love. 18. *Fell down*—fulfilling the dream for which they had so bitterly hated him. 19. *Am I in the place of God?*—"am I in the position to interfere in the purposes of God to direct his plans?" 20. *Ye thought evil*—he was too candid to say they had not sinned. *God meant it for good*—God took your sin and used it for your good. 21. *God will surely visit you*—he believed in God's promise. (See chap. 46 : 4.) 25. *Took an Oath*—Jacob took a similar oath from Joseph in regard to his own burial.

QUESTIONS.

Introductory.—How long an interval between the last lesson and this? Give an outline of the events of this interval? Title? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? Time? Place? Memory verses? Catechism?

I. *Shadows of an Old Sin*. vs. 14-18.—Where did Joseph go after burying his father? What did his brothers fear? How did they address Joseph? What prophetic dream did this fulfill? Gen. 37 : 7. How did they press their plea? How did this illustrate Prov. 28 : 13?

II. *Christlike Forgiveness*. vs. 19-21.—How was Joseph affected? Why? What did he say to his brothers? How had God brought good out of their evil? Did this make their conduct any less wicked? What did he promise them? How should we treat those who injure us? What example of forgiveness has Christ given us? What do we pray for in the first petition?

III. *Ending of a Good Life*. vs. 22-26.—To what age did Joseph live? How was he blessed in his old age? How did he show his faith in God's promise? Heb. 11 : 22. What oath did he exact from the Israelites? What was done with his body? How long did it remain unburied in Egypt? Where was it finally buried? Josh 24 : 32

LESSONS.

1. It is good for men to confess their sins.
2. The evil comes from man; the good following it comes from God.
3. Children's children are the joy of old people.
4. Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright; for the end of that man is peace. Ps. 37 : 37.