

HOME STUDY LEAFLET.

LESSON 8.

FEBRUARY 25th, 1894.

1st QUARTER.

Trial of Abraham's Faith. Gen. 22: 1-13.

GOLDEN TEXT: "By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac." Heb. 11: 17.

COMMIT TO MEMORY verses 11-13. LESSON HYMNS, 58, 26, 144, 86.

PROVE THAT—Faith subdues difficulties. Matt. 21: 21.

SHORTER CATECHISM—Quest. 90. How is the word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation.

DAILY PORTIONS.

(The Selections of the International Bible Reading Association.)

MONDAY.	TUESDAY.	WEDNESDAY.	THURSDAY.	FRIDAY.	SATURDAY.	SABBATH
Gen. 22: 1-13	Gen. 22: 14-19	Jas. 1: 1-12	1 Pet. 4: 12-19	Jas. 2: 17-23	Phil. 3: 7-14	Heb. 11: 13-19

To the Teacher—Do not credit any Scholar with having prepared the lesson who does not at least try to answer the questions. Take the leaflet home and assign a value to each answer, announcing the result on the following Sabbath. Take, or send, the Leaflet to absent scholars.

Always bring your Bible and Shorter Catechism to the Sabbath School.

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY.—More than twenty-five years had passed since our last lesson, during which Abraham's life had been, on the whole, peaceful and prosperous. He was recognized as a "mighty prince" by the peoples amongst whom he dwelt. Abimelech was his sworn friend, and Beersheba was his favorite residence. He seems also to have had a home at Hebron amongst the Hittites, by whom he was regarded with much respect. It was in the midst of this happiness that the message came with which our lesson opens.

LESSON PLAN. I. Faith Proved. vs. 1, 2. II. Faith Triumphant. vs. 3-10. III. Faith Rewarded. vs. 11-13.

I. FAITH PROVED. 1. God did prove Abraham (R. V.)—God does not "tempt" anyone in the sense of trying to make him commit sin. (Jas. 1: 12-14). Abraham's faith was tested, or tried (Heb. 11: 17). God wished to bring out for his own "praise and honor and glory" (1 Pet. 1: 7), the boundless confidence which his "friend" placed in his promises. It was never God's intention that Isaac should be slain. Said to him—in some way that made it perfectly clear, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that it was God that spoke. 2. Thine only—Isaac was the only one left after Ishmael was sent away. Moriah—Solomon's temple was afterwards built upon this mountain (2 Chr. 3: 1). How every word must have gone to Abraham's heart like a knife. God wished him to fully count the cost, before he decided to obey. Read John 3: 16, and tell the resemblance between Isaac and Christ. A burnt offering—Human sacrifices were common amongst the heathen in Abraham's time, and such a command would not seem so monstrous to him as it does to us. God wanted to try whether Abraham was willing to give up his dearest treasure if he asked it, and also whether he could still believe in the fulfilment of the promise. "In Isaac shall thy seed be called" (21: 12), even although Isaac should die. God asks the same faith from us—to be willing to give up all for him, and to trust his promises in spite of difficulties.

II. FAITH TRIUMPHANT. 3. Early in the morning—He obeyed promptly, and from the minute carefulness of his preparations we see that he must have pictured to his mind everything he would have to do in carrying out the command. He reached

Published weekly at 5 cents a year, for the Sabbath School Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, by Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, M. A., Convener, St. John, N. B.