

THE CHILD'S BELIEF.

We believe in God the Father,
Who made us every one,
Who made the earth and heaven,
The moon and stars and sun;
And all that we have, each day,
By him to us is given,
We call him, when we pray,
"Our Father in heaven"

We believe in Jesus Christ,
"The Father's only Son,"
Who came to us from heaven
And loved us, every one.
He taught us to be holy,
Till on the cross he died,
And now we call him "Saviour,"
And "Christ the crucified."

We believe God's Holy Spirit
Is with us every day;
And, if we do not grieve him,
Will never go away.
From heaven upon Jesus
He descended like a dove,
And he dwelleth ever with us
To fill our hearts with love.

LESSON NOTES.

B.C. 536.] LESSON VIII. Feb. 21.

THE SECOND TEMPLE.

Ezra 1. 1-4, & 3. 8-11. Commit to memory vs. 2-4.

GOLDEN TEXT.

They praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. *Ezra 3. 11.*

OUTLINE.

1. A Charge to Cyrus, v. 1, 2.
2. A Call to Israel, v. 3, 4.
3. A Thanksgiving to God, v. 8-13.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

What came from the Lord to King Cyrus? Word to build the house of the Lord at Jerusalem.

What notice did the king give throughout the kingdom? That all the Jews were free.

What did he charge them to do? To go up to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple.

What was his command to his own people? That they help the poor Jews to go with the rest.

How were they to help them? With money, cattle, and goods.

What was given the Jews for the temple? A free-will offering from the king.

What was that offering? The gold and silver vessels that *Nebuchadnezzar* carried away from the temple.

Who led the Jews back to their own land? Zerubbabel, chief ruler, and Jeshua, high-priest.

What was first rebuilt? The altar of sacrifice.

What was offered unto the Lord? Sacrifices and burnt offerings.

When were the foundations of the temple laid? In the second year of their freedom.

Who were gathered together at that time? The priests, the Levites, and the people.

How did they praise God for his goodness? With songs and music.

What did the people do? They shouted with joy. (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

Who wept and mourned? Many of the priests and the old men.

For what did they weep? For the lost glory of the temple and of Israel.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

God was watching those lowly, sorry captives all the time, and as soon as he knew it was best, he heard their prayer for forgiveness and set them free. They were so glad to get home and begin again, that they sang songs and fairly shouted for joy. When they commenced to build their temple again, how did they feel? See GOLDEN TEXT.

No temple was ever built that God so loved to come and stay in, as in a little clean heart.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The call of the Gospel.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

Who was Caiaphas? The high priest who condemned Christ.

Who was Pontius Pilate? The governor of Judea, who delivered up Jesus to be crucified.

B.C. 445.] LESSON IX. [Feb. 28.]

NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER.

Neh. 1. 1-11.

Commit to memory vs. 8, 9.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man. *Psa. 108. 12*

OUTLINE.

1. A People's Need, v. 1-3.
2. A Patriot's Prayer, v. 4-11.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

Who lived in the palace of the king of Persia? Nehemiah, a wise and pious Jew.

Who came to the palace? Some Jews from Jerusalem.

What news did they bring of the Jews there? That they were poor and despised.

What was the state of Jerusalem? It was without wall or gates.

Why was this a disgrace? In those days a city without wall or gates was not considered a city.

How was Nehemiah affected when he heard these things? He sat down and wept.

To whom did he go in his trouble? To the God of Israel. (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

What did he confess? His sins and those of his people.

For what did he ask? For mercy and forgiveness.

What did he pray God to remember? His promise to Moses.

What was that promise? That he would bless the Israelites when they obeyed and worshipped him.

What brought all their trouble upon them? Forsaking God.

What had brought them prosperity? Obedience to God.

How is it with us to-day? The same—"The word of the Lord standeth forever."

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

The dearest mother, father, or friend in all the world cannot help us as Jesus can. Kind and willing as they are they cannot always and every-where be near to help us. But we can never be where God cannot and will not help.

"Praying is but telling Jesus
All our want and all our woe;
None but Jesus can relieve us,
None but Jesus loves us so.

And to Jesus
Every one is free to go."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The nature of prayer.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

Who was Joseph of Arimathea? A rich man who buried Jesus in his own tomb.

Who were the Four Evangelists? St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke, and St. John; who wrote the Four Gospels.

NOT OUR OWN.

A LITTLE boy was debating what to do with some money his uncle had given him. He wanted to buy candy with it, but felt that he ought to give a part of it for the missionary society of which he was a member. At last he said, "I guess it is mine, and I can do as I please with it." "No," said his brother, "you can not do as you please, for you are not your own; I heard our minister say that we were all bought with the blood of Christ. If he has bought us, we are his, and the missionaries are his, and we must please him, not ourselves."