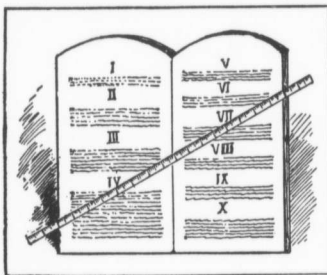


about mamma's wishes. We must pay attention to God's word whenever we hear it.

*The people were obedient.* When they found that it was their duty to help each other, and send good things to those who had nothing, they obeyed. Hear and do is a good rule. How will anyone know you have heard if you do nothing? "I've told you how, now do the work," said mamma to Nell; "try it, and you will learn how." So it is.

*The people were glad.* At first, when they found from hearing the law how they had broken it, they mourned and wept. You find out how crooked your line is by measuring by a straight rule; so, from hearing God's word, these people found out how sinful and far away they were. But Nehemiah told them not to be sorry. It was God's day, and he was good. They must be glad in him. "The joy of the Lord is your strength," he said. When we are sorry we are weak. When we are joyful we feel strong and able to do much. "I'm glad, and joyful, and happy," wrote a little eight-year-old Indian girl who had learned of Jesus in a mission school. Love Jesus, trust him, be glad, and you will be strong.



### Kindergarten Hints.

**GOLDEN TEXT:** "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, but the word of our God shall stand forever." Isa. 40. 8. "He that is of God heareth God's words." John 8. 47.

### LESSON STORY.

It was decided that the first public gathering after the walls were rebuilt should be for the reading of the Bible. This gathering would have to be something like our camp meetings, where we live in tents and go to church out of doors.

After reviewing the lesson on rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem: People had been careless

about going to church, and careless about celebrating a certain feast which they used to hold, something as we do at harvest time. We can hardly imagine how anyone could forget thanksgiving time, but when we recall the trouble they had with their heathen neighbors, and the years they spent in a heathen land, and the rebuilding of their walls against such odds, we think it not so strange. Now that they could settle down to regular work at home, they began to think of the Bible, and that they must celebrate God's goodness to them in giving them a home in a walled city. It was part of Nehemiah's mission to tell these people that if they had remembered God's word in stormy times, and not waited till all was safe and quiet, they would have been spared great troubles.

The children remember the name "Ezra," and recall something of our lessons about him. Ezra was to read the Bible at this out-of-door gathering. Early in the morning came the people bringing all their children, and ranging themselves before the wooden platform on which Ezra was to read the Bible. Their Bible was like this. [Show model of "Book and Roll," Milton Bradley Co., Springfield, Mass. Price, 10 cents.] The chapter chosen was that giving God's command spoken to their fathers from a mountain. The people listened to the reading and explanation with uncovered heads. The lesson showed them how much they had forgotten and neglected God's word, and they began to feel badly, and to confess their wrong. Ezra told them to "stop!" "It is a day," said Ezra, "for giving thanks and praise to God, and for remembering the poor."

This holiday was called "the feast of trumpet blowing," and must be kept holy like the Sabbath, but they must be sure to leave gleanings of their harvests in the fields for the poor and for strangers among them, as God commanded.

The next day the Bible reading reminded the people how their fathers, on this very day, used to hold a feast which we would think something like our camp meeting. They decided to keep it now exactly as had been their habit before soldiers carried them into a heathen country. Let us follow them, in thought, and see how they celebrate.

They go up on the hills exactly as did their fathers in times almost forgotten, and they gather great branches of olive, and palms like giant ferns. Bringing these branches to the city, they build tents and bowers with them, setting up some in the field outside the new wall, others are put up in the narrow city streets, and some are built on the house tops. [Show model of