

the people, and for many years he had been trying to turn them away from the false gods, v. 3.

Golden Text—Print and repeat Golden Text. The Israelites put away the false gods, and served the true God only, v. 4.

A Great Prayer Meeting—Do you ever go to prayer meetings with father and mother? (Ask them to take you sometimes.) We are going to hear about a great big prayer meeting that Samuel gathered at Mizpeh. Describe the pouring out of the water in token of confession of sin—telling God they were sorry for their sins. The people fasted (explain), and Samuel prayed.

Prayer Answered—While they were praying, the Philistines came near to fight them; but God sent a great storm of thunder and

lightning and frightened them, so that they turned and ran away, and the Israelites ran after them and defeated them.

Ebenezer—Samuel sets up a "Remember Stone". We'll sketch a stone, and print, "HITHERTO, etc." (v. 12). Let us remember that God has heard, and will hear our prayers. For whom can we pray?—Print FATHER, MOTHER, etc., SICK ONES, etc., HEATHEN CHILDREN.

Sing—Hymn 565, Book of Praise.

A little girl prays :

"God bless all the sick people;
God bless all the sad people;
God bless all the lonely people;
God bless all the bad people".

Something to Think About—I should pray for others.

FROM THE PLATFORM

ISRAEL'S OUR SAVIOUR

At this Christmas season, the thoughts of all are turned to the coming of the world's SAVIOUR (Print). The Lesson for the day, in regular course, shows us One who came to ISRAEL as their Saviour in days of old. Turn the conversation, first, to the great gathering of God's people at Mizpeh, their sincere and hearty confession of their sin, Samuel's prayer for them, the attack of the Philistines, the dreadful thunderstorm, the terror of the invaders, and their flight before Israel. It was God, the scholars will tell you, who proved Himself the Saviour of His people. Now print OUR Saviour. Who is this? None other, all gladly respond, than the blessed Christ. And in the Golden Text of the Christmas Lesson, he is called the Lord. Bring out the truth, that Israel's Saviour and ours is the same, only now God has appeared in the likeness of man. How sure we may be that the strong Son of God can conquer all our foes! Sing Hymn 100, Book of Praise.

CHRISTMAS LESSON—An Alternative Lesson

Matt. 2 : 1-12. Commit to memory vs. 10-12.

GOLDEN TEXT—For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.—
Luke 2 : 11.

Time and Place—Perhaps B. C. 5, possibly as early as B. C. 6 or 7; Jerusalem, the capital of Judea, and Bethlehem, a village 6 miles south of that city.

Lesson Setting—Jesus was born in Bethlehem, his parents, Joseph and Mary, having journeyed thither, in accordance with the

Emperor's decree, to have their names registered, Luke 2 : 1-7. There the Saviour was born in a stable, and there He received the worship of the shepherds, Luke 2 : 8-20. On the eighth day after His birth He was circumcised, and His name given Him, which is the same as Joshua, the name of