

GOLDEN TEXT

Ps. 32: 1. Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

DAILY READINGS

M. — Psalm 32.	David's joy over forgiveness.
T. — Psalm 130.	A prayer of hope,
W. — Psalm 103: 1-18.	A merciful God,
Th. — 1 John, ch. 1.	Confession and cleansing.
F. — Heb. 9: 6-15.	Eternal redemption.
S. — Rom. 4: 1-8.	Blessing of forgiveness.
S. — Psalm 85.	Peace.

CATECHISM

Q. 99. What rule hath God given for our direction in prayer?

A. The whole word of God is of use to direct us in prayer; but the special rule of direction is that form of prayer which Christ taught his disciples, commonly called *The Lord's prayer*.

TIME AND PLACE

About 1034 B.C., soon after the writing of the fifty-first psalm, and nearly a year after David's great sin; the king's palace in Jerusalem, where David had received the message brought from the Lord by Nathan the prophet.

LESSON PLAN

- I. The Way of Forgiveness, 1-5.
Through the humble confession of sin.
- II. The Offer of Forgiveness, 6.
Made freely to every sinner.
- III. The Results of Forgiveness, 7-9.
The protection and guidance of God.
- IV. The Joy of Forgiveness, 10, 11.
In which all are invited to join.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise, 152; 161: 24 (Ps. Sel.); 217; 457; 533.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—For how long did David refuse to confess his sin? Which psalm contains his confession? What promise did he make in that psalm? How does he fulfil this promise?

1-5 Who is here called "blessed"? What words stand for sin? For forgiveness? To what is the misery of sin likened? What words describe confession? What parable of Jesus shows how to get forgiveness? (Luke 15: 11-32.) Who is meant by the "godly"? For what is he to pray?

6 What encouragement have we to pray? When? What is the best time to find God? (Prov. 8: 17.) Why do all need forgiveness? (Rom. 3: 23; 1 John 1: 8.)

7-9 Who is our Protector? How can we obtain His care? (Isa. 26: 3.) Who is the Speaker in v. 8? What does He promise? Against what does He warn?

10, 11 What does wickedness bring? What is the opposite of wickedness? What is its reward? Who have true joy? Who gives joy to His people? (John 15: 11.)

Seniors and the Home Department—Under what circumstances was this psalm written? In what psalm is the blessedness of the righteous man described? (Ps. 1.) Whose blessedness is described in this psalm?

1-5 Explain each of the words used for forgiveness? Who can forgive sins? (Mark 2: 7, 10.) What is the condition of forgiveness? (Prov. 28: 13.) How should David's forgiveness influence us?

6 Why is delay in seeking God dangerous? (Luke

25: 1-13.) What promise here? Where have we a similar promise? (Isa. 43: 2.)

7-9 What do the pronouns in v. 7 shew? How does the Lord guide us? (Acts 13: 1; Ps. 119: 105, 67; Acts 11: 32.) What kind of persons are compared to the horse and mule? How does God bring them to Himself?

10, 11 What New Testament command as to rejoicing? (Phil. 4: 4.) Who rejoice over the repentance of sinners? (Luke 15: 7, 12.) Where is there fulness of joy? (Ps. 16: 11.)

Prove from Scripture—That the Lord guides His people.

Practical Points—1. None of us can have the blessedness of the sinless, but all of us may have the blessedness of the forgiven.

2. Our sin was placed to the account of the Saviour that His righteousness might be placed to our account.

3. It is a good thing that sin makes us suffer. For the suffering leads us to hate sin and turn from it.

4. When the Lord is seeking the sinner and the sinner is seeking the Lord, there is sure to be a happy meeting.

5. Henry Van Dyke in "The Swiss Guide," gives this condensed advice to those who would scale lofty Alpine summits—(1) Get a guide; (2) Get the best guide; (3) Get a guide who has been tried; (4) Trust him unreservedly; do exactly what he tells you; do as he does, stop when he stops, go on when he goes.

6. God's mercy is a door into which the penitent sinner may enter, and a wall to keep out his enemies.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. Explain the descriptions of forgiveness in vs. 1-3.

2. What blessings go along with forgiveness?

3. Why are afflictions often needed to bring us to God?