

HEAR THY CHILDREN, GENTLE JESUS.

Hear thy children, gentle Jesus,
While we breathe our evening prayer;
Save us from all harm and danger,
Take us 'neath thy sheltering care.

Shield us from the wiles of Satan,
From the perils of this night;
Safely may thy guardian angels
Keep us in their watchful sight.

Gentle Jesus! look in pity
From thy glorious throne above;
Though we sleep, thy heart is wakeful
Still for us it beats with love.

Shades of evening fast are falling,
Day is falling into gloom!
When our earthly life is ended,
Lead thy ransomed children home.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL BY JOHN.

LESSON V. [Jan. 29.]

CHRIST AT JACOB'S WELL.

John 4. 5-15. Memory verses, 13 15.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst.—John 4. 14.

A LESSON TALK.

If you look on the map you will see that Samaria lies between Judea and Galilee. So as Jesus went from Jerusalem to Galilee he passed through Samaria. Weary with his journey, he sat one day to rest on Jacob's well, while the disciples went into the city to buy food. The well is near Sychar, and is called by Jacob's name because it is supposed that Jacob himself dug it out more than three thousand years ago.

The Samaritans were descended from heathen people who married among the Jews. They had their own temple in Mount Gerizim. [Read verse 20.] The Jews despised the Samaritans and would not speak to them if they could help it. How surprised the Samaritan woman was when Jesus spoke to her. Jesus knew that she was a wicked woman, but that did not stop his speaking to her. He came to help and bless sinners.

Do you know what Jesus meant by "living water"? He meant the Holy Spirit, without which our souls would perish as surely as our bodies would suffer and die without cool, fresh water. Only the Holy Spirit or "living water" can cleanse and save the immortal spirit.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Where is Jacob's well? In Samaria.
Near what village is it? Near Sychar.

Who stopped to rest there? Jesus
Where was he going? To Galilee.
Who came to draw water at the well?
A Samaritan woman.

Why was she surprised when Jesus spoke to her? Because he was a Jew
What did the Jews think? That they were better than the Samaritans.

What did Jesus say he could give to the woman? "Living water."

What did he mean by this? His Holy Spirit.

What did Jesus know? That the woman was a sinner.

What did he teach her? The lesson of love.

What did he tell her? That he was the Christ.

LESSON VI. [Feb. 5.]

THE NOBLEMAN'S SON HEALED.

John 4. 43-54. Memory verses, 49-51.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Jesus saith unto him, Thy son liveth: and himself believed, and his whole house.—John 4. 53.

A LESSON TALK.

Up among the hills of Galilee lay the little city of Cana, the same in which Jesus made the water wine. The map shows that it was north of Nazareth, the village home of our Saviour.

For a year now Jesus had been teaching and working miracles in Judea. The people of Galilee were eager to have him come to his own country, and when he came to Cana the news quickly spread abroad that he was there. A nobleman at Capernaum heard of it and took an all-day journey over the mountain roads to get Jesus to come and heal his son. He thought Jesus might be a healer, but he did not know that he was a Saviour. Notice how Jesus taught him that the soul is worth more than the body! He had first a little belief, which grew into faith as he looked into the face of the Lord and heard his calm words of power. Think what a glad house it must have been when the little boy suddenly became better! Then the story came how the Lord had said, "Thy son liveth;" and we do not wonder that all the family believed! How wise it is to believe the word that Jesus speaks!

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Where did Jesus go from Samaria?
Into Galilee.

What city did he visit? Cana.

Who came there to see him? A nobleman.

What trouble was he in? His little son was dying at Capernaum.

What did he ask Jesus to do? To cure his son.

What did Jesus tell him? That his son would live.

What did the nobleman do? He believed Jesus' word.

What did his servants come to tell him?
That his son was well again
When did he begin to get well? At the hour that Jesus spoke the word
What is such a work as this called? A miracle.

Who only can do miracles? God.
What followed this miracle? The nobleman and all his family believed.

SOME BOYS IN FOOC'HOW

A missionary in Foochow, China, has about one hundred Chinese boys in his school every Sunday, where he teaches them to sing and pray, and tells them about Jesus.

One day the mother of some of the boys took them to the temple and made them kneel and pray to the Mother Goddess, the special goddess for children. While they were kneeling the some of the other boys belonging to the school came in and were very angry, and, seizing the praying boys by their queues, pulled them from their knees, saying:

"Why do you worship and pray here? Didn't the teacher tell us that these idols were nothing but earth and wood, and could neither see nor hear?"

When the boys who had been praying were once outside of the temple they said to the other boys:

"We only knelt because we were made to. We were praying to the true God in our hearts all the time. Our mothers are like tigers, and we can't do as we please."

The next day the "tiger-like" mothers went to the houses of the parents of the boys who had caused the trouble and demanded they should give the boys a severe whipping for what they had done, and each of the boys received the whipping with true heroism.

ESSAY OF A CHINESE SCHOOL-GIRL.

An English magazine tells about a mission school in Amoy, China. There are thirty-six children in it, all girls, and, with one exception, over twelve years of age.

The teacher says, "A nicer set of girls no one could have to teach;" and then she gives a funny little essay written by one of these girls who had been in the school only a short time. The subject given out was "The Earth," and here is the essay:

"The earth has mountains and houses and trees. It has also men and Bibles to look at. It has also water and girls' schools. It has birds and umbrellas, and chairs to sit in. It has seas and churches and boats and clocks to look at, and gardens to play in, and geography and organs and fields. It has serpents and dogs and pigs, and clothes to wear. The earth has pomegranates, and the earth has lamps and stoves and leaves and tables and streets and grass and graves and sheep and fruit and hymns to sing and potatoes."