



LESSON II.—JANUARY 14.

The Child Jesus Visits Jerusalem.

Luke II., 41-52. Memory verses 49-52.
Read Matt. II.; Luke II., 21-38.

Daily Readings.

M. Purification. Le. 12: 1-8.
T. Into Egypt. Mt. 2: 13-18.
W. Magi's Visit. Mt. 2: 1-12.
T. Into Egypt. Mt. 2: 12-18.
F. Out Again. Mt. 2: 19-33.
S. Into Galilee. Lk. 2: 33-40.

Golden Text.

'And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.'—Luke II., 52.

Lesson Text.

Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover. (42.) And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. (43.) And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. (44.) But they, supposing him to be in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. (45.) And when they found him not they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him. (46.) And it came to pass that after three days they found him in the temple sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. (47.) And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. (48.) And when they saw him they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. (49.) And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? (50.) And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. (51.) And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. (52.) And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Suggestions.

(From 'Practical Commentary' for 1896.)

Luke ii., 41. His parents went to Jerusalem.—The celebration lasted seven days, from the fifteenth day of Nisan. Every Israelite was bound to be present, except such as were unable to perform the necessary journey, viz., the sick, the aged, and boys under the age of twelve years, who, as well as the blind, the deaf, the lunatic, were permitted to remain at home. Every Jewish child of twelve years old was permitted as 'a son of the law' to take part in the celebration of the sacred festival; women were by no means obliged to go up to the feast.—Lange.

42. He was twelve years old.—At this age he was put under a course of instruction, and trained to fasting and attendance on public worship, besides being set to learn a trade.—J. F. & B. 43. Had fulfilled the days.—Eight days in all: one was the passover, and the other seven the days of unleavened bread. Jesus tarried behind—not because he was loath to go home, or shy of his parents' company, but because he had business to do there, and would let his parents know that he had a Father in heaven of whom he was to be observant, more than of them; and respect to him must not be construed disrespect to them.—Com. Com.

Supposing him to have been in the company.—On these sacred journeys, whole villages and districts travelled in groups together, partly for protection, partly for company.—J. F. & B. went a day's journey.—Expecting that he would join them when they lodged for the night. His mother was accustomed to trust to his obedience and wisdom, and would not think it necessary to watch him. 46. After three days.—We

must allow one day for their departure, vs. 44; one for their return, vs. 45; and the third, vs. 46, for their search; and that they found him in the sanctuary at the close of the latter.—Lange.

In the temple.—Probably in one of the porches of the Court of the women, where the schools of the Rabbis were held, and the law regularly expounded.—Lange. Doctors—teachers of the law. Hearing, asking.—The method of question and answer was the customary form of rabbinical teaching: teacher and learner becoming by turns questioner and answerer.—J. F. & B. Jesus was not only filled with wisdom, but he had a desire to increase it, and a readiness to communicate it.

47. Were astonished.—His wisdom and understanding appeared as much in his questions as his answers. They did not expect so much from a child. 48. They were amazed—to find Jesus among the teachers, and to find he had so much respect shown him. Thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.—Not merely the only possible manner in which Mary could publicly speak to her son of Joseph, but also an indisputable proof of the wisdom with which she brought up the child; a wisdom which taught her to say nothing yet to him of the mystery of his birth, and which had faith enough to wait, until his own consciousness should be fully and clearly awakened to the fact of his being the Son of God. The more surprising therefore, must his answer have seemed to his mother, as containing a hint, intelligible to her alone, that he already knew who his Father was.—Lange.

49. How is it that ye sought me?—He appeared astonished that Mary should think of him as being in any other place, or at any other work, if she understood so well his real relation and mission. Perhaps this very question awakened his intuition that he was the Son of God. About my Father's business—my Father's affairs or interests. In this Jesus declares God to be his Father.

50. They understood not—how Jesus was made aware of his real divinity, since they had not made it known to him, neither had he learned it from the doctors. Neither did they understand why he should be separated from them then. Here their minds were slow to understand the dealings of God. Their minds would picture a different way for the Messiah.

He went down with them. . . and was subject unto them.—This glimpse of his glory was to be short; it was now over, and he did not urge his parents either to come and settle at Jerusalem, or to settle him there, but very willingly retired into Nazareth, where he lived for many years in obscurity. Doubtless he came up to Jerusalem, to worship at the feasts, three times a year.—Com. Com.

His mother kept all these sayings in her heart.—This visit to Jerusalem marked a great change in the life of Jesus. His wonderful development during the quiet life of twelve years in Nazareth, had been a delight to Mary. Her heart had been full of strange hopes, but now the words of her son at this time, gave her new thoughts to ponder. She kept them as treasures, expecting some day to know all their meaning. 'From this time we have no more mention of Joseph. The next we hear is of his mother and brethren,' (John 2: 12) whence it is inferred, that between this time and the commencement of our Lord's public life, Joseph died, having now served the double end of being the protector of our Lord's Virgin-mother, and affording himself the opportunity of presenting Jesus the opportunity of presenting a matchless pattern of subjection to both parents.—Alford.

52. Jesus increased in wisdom and stature.—Though the eternal Word was united to the human soul from his conception, yet the Divinity that dwelt in him, manifested itself to his humanity by degrees, in proportion to his capacity: as the faculties of his human soul grew more and more capable, the gifts it received from the divine nature, were more and more communicated.—Com. Com. —in favor with God and man.—In all those graces that rendered him acceptable both to God and man.

Questions.—What feast did Joseph and Mary attend at Jerusalem? Where was their home? Why did Jesus wait until he was twelve years old before attending the passover? How long did the feast last?

What did Jesus do? How far did Joseph and Mary go without Jesus? When did they find him? Where? What doing? What did Mary say to him? What did his answer mean? Did Jesus return to Nazareth? What was the manner of his conduct? How did he develop? What business was he doing for God at the temple? How did Mary receive his words?

Teachings.—Children should be taught to attend public worship, and instructed in the ways of salvation. If we would find Christ we must seek him earnestly. Our first business should be to serve God. Obedience to parents is an important lesson. We can be all that God wants us to be even in our homes. We should become stronger Christians daily.

Suggested Hymns.

'By Cool Siloam,' 'Far above in higher Heaven,' 'Come to the Saviour,' 'Trust and obey,' 'I think when I read,' 'Little ones like me.'

Junior C. E. Topic.

Daily Readings.

Mon., Jan. 8.—Blind eyes. Matt. 6: 23.
Tues., Jan. 9.—Closed ears. Luke 6: 49.
Wed., Jan. 10.—Misguided feet. Ps. 78: 10.
Thu., Jan. 11.—Eyes for God's Word. Ps. 119: 18.
Fri., Jan. 12.—Ears to hear. Isa. 55: 3.
Sat. Jan. 13.—Walking in God's way. Ps. 1: 1.
Sun., Jan. 14.—Topic—Ways of losing God and ways of finding Him. Luke 15: 11-24.



Opium Catechism.

(By Dr. R. H. McDonald, of San Francisco.)

CHAPTER VI.—CURE FOR THE OPIUM HABIT.

1. Q.—Cannot a person leave off the habit of his own accord if he nerves himself to do it?

A.—It is almost impossible. So great is the torture of body and mind to an opium inebriate deprived of opium, he will commit suicide if he can; it is idle to think that he will deny himself the drug if he can get it, and inhuman to lock him up without giving him something to relieve his sufferings.

2. Q.—Is there any real substitute for opium?

A.—There is really none; but drugs less harmful, have proved helps to the system, and aided it to overcome the habit altogether in time.

3. Q.—What is one of the best simple helps?

A.—A hot bath, as it aids in removing the poison from the system, bathes the outer nerves in a soothing fluid, and warms the body.

4. Q.—How can the vomiting and diarrhoea be checked?

A.—Small quantities of beef peptonoids, acidulated with a weak solution of phosphoric acid, usually check vomiting, and the diarrhoea generally yields to hot water enemas.

5. Q.—What class of drugs is most widely used by physicians in curing the opium habit?

A.—The bromides. They promote sleep, relieve pain, and tide the patient over the worst period; but they are weakening, and should not be long continued.

6. Q.—What does Dr. Asa P. Meylert say of the treatment of opium eaters?

A.—He says that no other disease known to man requires such varied treatment as this.

7. Q.—What drugs does he recommend?

A.—Quinine and cannibas indica, though quinine lowers the temperature and should be accompanied by warm tonics, that contain no alcohol.

8. Q.—What does Dr. Meylert say of treat-