

## THE QUARTERLY REVIEW

### FOR SENIOR SCHOLARS AND THE BOYS AND GIRLS: Victories of Faith

The scholars will readily see that all the Lessons for the Quarter cluster around Jacob and his family. Call attention to the large space in the Bible,—about twenty-five chapters—given to this distinguished family. How many can name the members of this family? Bring out that this story of Jacob and his family is a bit of religious biography, that this story is told for the purpose of teaching the power of faith in God to enable us to make life a victory and not a defeat. What kind of victories have we in this story?

#### I. A VICTORY OVER SELF: LESSONS I.-III.

What kind of a man was Jacob at the beginning of his life? It will be easy to bring out how mean and selfish he was in deceiving his old blind father, and in taking advantage of his brother's weakness to gain for himself the birthright. How did he succeed in winning a victory over this evil selfish spirit which had possession of him? The victory began when God revealed Himself at Bethel, when Jacob dreaming on his stone pillow saw the ladder set up which reached to heaven, and which was the way for heavenly people to come to earth, and for earthly people to go to heaven. God's presence, God's voice convinced the worldly-hearted fugitive that there was something more to live for than the things of time and sense. He began to realize that two worlds were his and that the one he had been unmindful of was the better land.

More than twenty years after this we find Jacob on his way back to his native land. What happened at Peniel? We find that Jacob is a different man altogether from what he was when he left home. By faith he has won a great victory over self. This is a victory we must all win or life will be a great failure.

#### II. A VICTORY OVER HANDICAPS: LESSONS IV.-VI.

In these Lessons we are dealing with Jacob's favorite son. What was his name? How did Jacob manifest his favoritism? What did this lead to? It will be easy to bring out that Joseph's prospects were dark enough as a slave in a land where his race was hated, and as a prisoner charged with a criminal offence, with no one to take his part. What chance has he of rising?

We say at once that he has no chance. He is down and will have to stay down. Let us not be too fast in deciding the matter. Remind the class that although Joseph was down God was not down, and that Joseph's life was bound up in the bundle with God. How did this slave-prisoner get out of prison, and what became of him? The prisoner becomes a prince, the chief of the princes of Egypt. This was a great victory of faith over handicaps. A. C. Benson tells of a man whom he once met who was totally blind and deaf, who was writing a book to let the world know how happy he was, how good God had been to him. We all need faith to enable us to gain a victory over some handicap.

#### III. A VICTORY OVER RESENTMENT: LESSONS VII.-XI.

Joseph was only human and must have cherished at times a feeling of resentment against his brethren for treating him so cruelly. His faith in God enabled him to overcome all this, to love them, to forgive them, to bless them in many ways. Remind the class of the world's supreme illustration of this beautiful spirit in Christ, and of what Christ expects of us, Matt. 5: 43-48.

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### FOR TEACHERS OF THE LITTLE ONES: God's Good Men

*Review Subject*—Good men gain the victory.

*Golden Text for the Quarter*—1 John 5: 4.

*Introduction*—We have been hearing wonderful stories about some of God's good men