

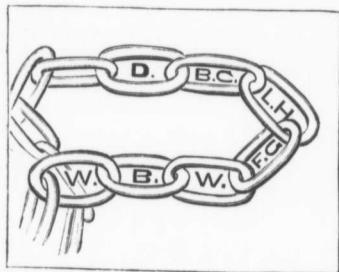
But he can do more. He can keep people from getting in. Isn't this better? By Jesus's help be obedient, careful, and true, and never touch the first glass, and you will stay free from this dreadful bondage of sin. If the first link is never made the chain never will be.

Now let us say these lines, and make them true:

"Somebody asked me to take a drink.

What did I tell him? What do you think?

I told him 'NO.'"



Study and Occupation for the Sub-primary Department.

BY ALICE MAY DOUGLAS.

CHRIST FREED FROM SIN. John 8, 12, 31-36.

MEMORY GEM: "The truth shall make you free." John 8, 32.

LESSON STORY: Jesus went into the temple. Many persons were there. He talked to them about slaves. At that time people had slaves. Slaves were men and women who belonged to other people, and did their work for them, and got no money for working. Slaves did not like to be slaves. God did not want them to be slaves. The people who owned slaves did wrong. The men who owned slaves were called masters. When slaves did what their masters did not like they would be chained. We will call this chain a slave and put this chain on it.

Some people say they are Christ's disciples, but they are not, for they do not do what he tells them to. Jesus's disciples were near him and he told them that if they did what his words told them to do, then they were his real, true disciples. But Jesus was afraid they would forget to do right always, so he wanted them to remember every morning that they must be good through the day. We, too, can say to ourselves every morning, "I will be good to-day."

Jesus said that all people who were not real Christians are like slaves. They can't do good,

and they can't go where it will be easy for them to do right, for their chain holds them. We will call another chain a sinner—that is, one who does wrong. Yes, we will call him a slave too. Here is his chain. It is made of every sin—that is, every wrong thing he ever did.

When a slave was no longer a slave he was said to be free—that is, he could go where he wished, do what he wished, and get money for his work. There was nothing slaves wanted so much as to be free, to have their chains taken off and never to be put on again.

Jesus said that the truth—that is, the words of the Bible—can make free the slave sinner. That is, if those who do wrong read and believe the Bible, and ask God to take all the sin away from them, he will do so and their sins will trouble them no more. We will now free the chain that we call the sinner slave. [Give a child a hammer and tell him to break the chain.]

The slaves I told you of first generally have to be slaves always.

The sinner slaves do not have to be slaves always. Jesus will make every one of them free with his truth if they will only pray for him to do so.

Some people who were not Christians heard what Jesus said about their being slaves; they said, "Our people were never slaves." But this was not so. They had been slaves.

Jesus said that anyone who does wrong is like a slave, and his master is sin. I will tell you a story to show what Jesus meant. Katy's mother told her not to take a piece of cake. Katy thought she would do but one wrong thing—would just take a piece of cake and then be good. But one sin makes another sin. When mother came home she asked, "Where is that piece of cake?" Katy did not want to be punished, so she said, "I do not know." She told a lie. When she took the cake she did not think that she would be telling a lie about it, but her first sin—her not minding her mother—was like a cruel master, making her do what she would not have otherwise done, and she was like a slave, doing just what sin he told her to. No one could take her away from the cruel master sin but Jesus. He would do so when she prayed to him.

Because a slave can be bought and sold he does not always live in the house with his present master, but the master's son does.

Jesus is the Son of God and will live forever in heaven. When he makes sin's slaves free he says they all can be God's sons and live with him forever in his Father's house in heaven.

AS A TEMPERANCE LESSON: Do not go into repulsive details. Speak of the evils of the first drink;