

## O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM.

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie;  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by:  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee to-night.

For Christ is born of Mary;  
And gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth;  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is given;  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him still,  
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us to-day.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell,  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel.

## LESSON NOTES.

## FIRST QUARTER.

## STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF JESUS.

## LESSON II. [Jan. 13.]

## THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY.

Matt. 21. 1-17. Memory verses, 9-11.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.—Matt. 21. 9.

## A LESSON STORY.

Only once in his life did Jesus allow the people to treat him as a king. On Sunday morning—after the Jewish Sabbath was over—he started to go to Jerusalem with his disciples. When they came to Bethphage, a village near Bethany, he sent two disciples to get a colt and bring it to him, saying to the owner, "The Lord hath need of him." Then Jesus rode upon the colt, and people spread their coats on the rough road, and some cut branches of palm-trees and threw them down for him to ride upon. So the procession went to the top of the Mount of Olives, and there was seen a great procession coming from the city to meet them. All the people waved palm-branches, and shouted, and sang, while the little children followed Jesus into the temple, singing glad hosannas.

It was a great crowd [that] entered the temple with Jesus. Many were full of joy, but the priests and the Pharisees were angry, and when Jesus turned the sellers and buyers and money changers out of the temple, they grew still more angry and excited. In the midst of all this Jesus calmly healed the blind and lame and spoke beautiful words about children. Then he went again to Bethany.

## QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

How did Jesus enter Jerusalem? Like a king.

How many times did he let the people treat him in this way? Only once.

Whom did he send to find the colt? Two disciples.

What did he want to do? To ride into Jerusalem.

Who were with him? His disciples and many others.

How did the people feel? Full of joy.

What did they think Jesus was ready to do? To set up his kingdom.

What did they spread in his way? Palm-branches.

How did they show their joy? By shouts and songs.

Who helped praise Jesus? The children.

Where did they go with him? Into the temple.

What did Jesus do in the temple? Works of love and mercy.

## LESSON III. [Jan. 20]

## GREEKS SEEKING JESUS.

John 12. 20-33. Memory verses, 32, 33.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

We would see Jesus.—John 12. 21.

## A LESSON STORY.

At the very time when the people were singing praises to Jesus, the priests and Pharisees were laying plans to get rid of him. They wanted to get rid of Lazarus, too, for since Jesus had raised him from the dead so many people were talking about it that the priests thought every one who saw Lazarus would believe on Jesus. Even some Greeks, who were Gentiles, came to the temple and said to Philip, "Sir, we would see Jesus." Notice carefully what Jesus said about the corn of wheat, and about loving our own lives. He knew that he must soon suffer pain, and shame, and even death, and yet he would not ask to be saved from it all, for he wanted his Father to be glorified. Are you not glad that again, as he had done twice before, God spoke to him out of heaven so that all the people could hear? What courage and cheer it must have given Jesus to hear his Father's voice! He loved his Father's will so much more than he loved his own life that he was willing to be lifted up on the cross so as to draw all men to himself. Have we learned what Jesus meant by "the children of light?"

## QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

What did the disciples think? That Jesus was a king.

Was not this true? Yes, but he was not an earthly king.

What did Jesus tell them? That he must soon die.

What did he know? That he must suffer pain and shame.

How did he feel about it? Troubled.

What did he ask God to do? "Glorify his name."

What did this show? That he was willing to do God's will.

What was he sent to do? To bring us back to God.

How could he do this? By dying for us.

What came to cheer him at this time? A voice from heaven.

What draws us to Jesus? His love.

What are we if we love and obey Jesus? "Children of light."

## A LITTLE GENTLEMAN.

"I'm going to be a gentleman when I'm big like papa," said little Joe, one day.

"But papa was a gentleman when he was little like you," said grandma, who was sewing near him.

"Did he dress up in grandpa's coat and hat, and walk with his cane as I do with papa's sometimes?" inquired Joe.

"No; he wore pinafores and a little straw bonnet," said grandma, stitching away.

Joe looked at her steadily, as though he could not understand.

"Are you trying to think how he looked dear?" grandma asked. "I wasn't meaning that, but I mean that his little cousin Kittie came to play with him, and he went to his box, and brought out the very best toy that he had—a jumping frog—and said: 'This is for you, Kittie, 'cause you're a little girl.' And I think that did more to make him a gentleman than a coat, hat, and cane could have done."

## THE BIRDIE'S SUNBEAM.

Gerty had been sick, and was getting well. The days were long, and she felt cross, and thought she had a hard time. "Oh, mamma! I wish Dick wouldn't sing, he makes my head ache," she cried, as the canary burst forth into a glad song.

"Poor Dick! You see that he sings, although he is a prisoner," said mamma.

Gerty still fretted, so mamma covered Dick's cage with a cloth. The bird did not like this, and for some minutes was silent. Mamma had not covered the cage very closely, and soon the bird, spying a ray of sunlight, again raised his glad song of thanksgiving.

"There, Gerty," said mamma, "is a lesson for you. Dick is thankful for one ray of sunlight. Don't you think you should be grateful for your blessings as birdie is for his?"

Gerty raised her face from the pillow, and said: "Yes, mamma; I am ashamed of my crossness. I will try to look for the sunbeams."