

smelling; and the prisoner in this dungeon is Jeremiah the good prophet. What do you remember about him and his book?

King Jehoiakim, who burned up the Bible, is dead, and Zedekiah has become king. The soldiers of the king of Babylon were camped all round Jerusalem ready to take the city. Jeremiah, speaking in God's name, told the people of Jerusalem that they ought to give up to their enemies. Only in this way could they save their lives, v. 2. God meant to punish His people for their sins by giving them into the hands of the king of Babylon.

When Zedekiah's princes heard of this, they were very angry at Jeremiah. They said he was a friend of the soldiers of Babylon, and would frighten the soldiers of Judah. They made up their minds that Jeremiah should die, v. 4. So they took him, and put him down, down, into this terrible dungeon. (V. 6 tells us how they did it.)

A Keeper—Jeremiah had an unseen Keeper, mightier than any king. He could see and hear Jeremiah. Some one may print His name—"THE LORD IS THY KEEPER." Jeremiah did not fear.

A Kind Man—Tell of the kind-hearted black man, vs. 7-9. Tell of his thoughtfulness for the poor weak prisoner (the old rags

would keep the ropes from hurting him). Describe the way in which he was taken from the dungeon.

What Can We Do for Others?—God sent this friend to help Jeremiah. God has many ways of opening doors without using a key. God uses people, etc. Repeat "God is... a very present help in trouble," Ps. 46 : 1. His help always comes in time.

Jesus our Friend—You can all tell me of the Friend God sent to help us in all our troubles?—Jesus. Sin is all around us. Jesus can lift us up out of all impurity and unhappiness, out of the dungeon of sin into the light of God's love and forgiveness. We can safely trust ourselves to Him.

Golden Text—Repeat and explain. Everything we suffer for Jesus' sake, for the sake of right, will make us happier in the end. Tell of a boy who was ill-treated by his companions, because he would not join them in some naughty pranks, and of the happiness that came to him through doing what was right.

Hymn—Sing "What a Friend we have in Jesus," Hymn 404, Book of Praise.

Something to Draw at Home—Draw a prison window.

Something to Remember—Jesus is my best Friend.

SUPERINTENDENT'S BLACKBOARD REVIEW

A PROPHET'S FRIEND

Our Lesson to-day is from the writings of a great PROPHET (Print). The scholars will give you his name. It describes a city (What city?) surrounded by an army (Of what nation?). What counsel had Jeremiah given to his people? At whose bidding? Who were offended? What did they have done to Jeremiah? Picture him in the dungeon, dark and miry. But we have in the Lesson also a prophet'S FRIEND (Print). His name? His position? The color of his skin? What sort of heart had he? Show how unfair it is to judge a man by the color of his skin or his outward appearance. Bring out the courage, practical sense and gentleness of Ebed-melech. Direct attention now to our best Friend. Show how He saves us from sin. All we have to do is to trust Him, just as Jeremiah trusted his friend who let down the rope. Our Friend will never fail us, and will do for us all we need.