

**WHAT ARE YOU GOOD FOR?**

BY EMILY HUNTINGTON MILLER.

"What are you good for, my brave little man?"

Answer that question for me if you can:  
You, with your ringlets as bright as the sun,

You, with your fingers as white as a nun.  
All the day long with your busy con-  
triving,

Into some mischief and fun you are  
driving.

See if your wise little noddle can tell  
What you are good for—now ponder it  
well."

Over the carpet the dear little feet  
Came with a patter, to climb on my seat;  
Two little eyes, full of frolic and glee,  
Under their lashes looked up unto me;  
Two little hands, pressing close on my  
face

Drew me down close, in a loving embrace;  
Two little lips gave the answer so true,  
"Good to love you, mamma—good to love  
you!"

**LESSON NOTES.**

**THIRD QUARTER.**

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

LESSON IX. [Aug. 31.]

THE BRAZEN SERPENT.

Num. 21. 1-9. Memorize verses 6-8.

GOLDEN TEXT.

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up; that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.—John 3. 14, 15.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

What were the Israelites still doing? Wandering in the wilderness? How long did they wander? Forty years. To what mount did they come? Mount Hor. Who died there? Aaron. What did the people do? They spoke against God and against Moses. What were they tired of? The manna. What came among them? Fiery serpents. What did they do? They bit the people until many died. What did the Lord send? A cure. What was it? A serpent of brass that Moses raised upon a pole. What cured the people? A look at the brazen serpent. What was this the sign of? Christ upon the cross.

DAILY STEPS.

Mon. Read about the serpent in the wilderness. Num. 21. 4-9.

Tues. Find what Jesus said about it. John 3. 14, 15.

Wed. Learn the Golden Text.

Thur. See how the Israelites treated God. Psa. 78. 40-42.

Fri. Find the result of their sin. Psa. 107. 4, 5.

Sat. Learn the way out of trouble. Psa. 107. 6.

Sun. Learn what the cross means to us. John 12. 32.

LESSON X. [Sept. 7.]

THE PROPHET LIKE MOSES.

Deut. 18. 9-19. Memorize verses 17, 19.

GOLDEN TEXT.

This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.—John 6. 14.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

What did the Lord give his people before they came into Canaan? Many words of counsel. Who were they to live near? Idolaters. What did they sometimes do? Make their children pass through the fire. What were the Israelites told to do? To have nothing to do with them. What other people did Moses warn them to avoid? Witches and fortune-tellers. Whom did he promise them? A prophet. What did he say of him? That he should be one of their brethren, like Moses. Why did the Lord wish to come in the form of a man? That the people might not be afraid. What did he wish them to do? To listen to his words. When did he come? About fourteen hundred years afterward. Who was he? The Lord Jesus Christ.

DAILY STEPS.

Mon. Read the lesson verses. Deut. 18. 9, 19.

Tues. Find the Lord's promise of Canaan to Abraham. Gen. 13. 14-17.

Wed. Find the same promise to Isaac. Gen. 26. 2-5.

Thur. Find the same promise to Jacob. Gen. 28. 13-15.

Fri. Learn whom the promised Prophet was. Isa. 9. 6.

Sat. Learn the Golden Text.

Sun. Read a hymn about the Prince of Peace. Hymn 121, Methodist Hymnal.

**THE HAPPIEST BOY.**

Once a king had a son whom he loved dearly. He gave him beautiful rooms to live in, and pictures and toys and books, a pony to ride and a boat on a lake. He provided teachers to give him knowledge that would make him good and great. But the young prince was not happy. He was always wishing for something that he did not have.

One day a magician came to court. He said to the father of the son: "I can make your son happy, but you must pay me my own price for telling the secret."

"Well," said the king, "what you ask I will give."

So the magician took the boy into a private room. He wrote something with a

white substance on a piece of paper. Next he gave the boy a candle, and told him to light it and hold it under the paper, and then see what he could read. He then went away and asked no price at all. The boy did as he was told, and the white letters on the paper turned into a beautiful blue. They formed these words "Do a kindness to some one every day." The prince made use of the secret, and became the happiest boy in the kingdom.

That is good advice for every boy and girl. Do you not think so? If you do not, try it for a few days. Keep your eyes open, and you will find chances to speak kind words and do little helpful acts that will bring joy to others and happiness to yourself, and you may be as happy as a king.—*Little Ones.*

**THE LITTLE CRICKET.**

What are you saying  
You dear little cricket,  
Chirping so shrill  
In the dark-green thicket?  
Piping and singing  
The whole night through,  
Don't you get tired,  
And wet with the dew?

I will try to be like you,  
You dear little cricket,  
Chirping away  
In the dark-green thicket.  
Whatever God bids me  
I'll do with my might,  
Though it's only the singing  
A song in the night.

—*Picture World.*

**HOW BIRDS DRESS WOUNDS.**

Many birds, particularly those that are prey for sportsmen, possess the faculty of skilfully dressing wounds. Some will even set bones, taking their own feathers to form proper bandages. A French naturalist writes that on a number of occasions he has killed woodcocks that were, when shot, convalescing from wounds previously received. In every instance he found the old injury neatly dressed with down plucked from the stem feathers and skilfully arranged over the wound, evidently by the long beak of the bird. In some instances a solid plaster was thus formed, and in others bandages had been applied to wounds or broken limbs. One day he killed a bird that evidently had been severely wounded at some recent period. The wound was covered and protected by a sort of network of feathers, which had been plucked by the bird from its own body and so arranged as to form a plaster, completely covering and protecting the wounded surface. The feathers were fairly netted together, passing alternately under and above each other, and forming a textile fabric of great protective power.—*Youth's Chronicle.*