

Lesson XII. THE SHEPHERD PSALM, Ps. 23. Who wrote this psalm? Why was David able to write about sheep and shepherds? What name is sometimes given to David? Why? Who can repeat the whole psalm?

THE QUARTERLY REVIEW

FOR THE PRIMARY DEPARTMENT: Stories About Samuel

AIM OF THE LESSON. To teach the strength and beauty of Samuel's character; and also to teach how God leads and guides his people.

INTRODUCTION. The Picture Roll or the pictures in the Quarterly will easily recall each lesson.

While the lesson stories each have a distinct and striking incident of their own, these form one complete and connected story, which, if broken, loses much of its teaching value.

1. The people of Israel had been captives down in Egypt, and after they escaped and came back under the leadership of Moses to the land that God had promised to them, they needed a great deal of help because they did not know how to rule themselves. Sometimes God had to be very stern and severe with them or the people of Israel would have been destroyed.

2. A picture of a palm tree reminds us of one of the faithful helpers of Israel in those days of beginning to be a real nation again. She was so faithful and so wise and good that God talked to her and gave her messages for the people. From far and near they came to where she held her council under a great palm tree.

When General Barak was to go out to battle, he would not go unless Deborah went with him. So together they led the army to the place of battle, and the Israelites were victorious.

3. Every boy and girl can tell the story that this picture of a pitcher reminds us of. Brave Gideon had only a few soldiers in his band, but at night they slipped over into the camp where hundreds and hundreds of the enemy lay asleep. You remember how each man carried a silver trumpet in one hand, and in the other a torch and a pitcher. When they shouted "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon," they broke the pitchers, blew their trumpets, and flashed their torches, and the enemy ran away in terror.

4. This signpost at the turning of the road reminds us of Ruth who chose to leave her home and go with the sad and lonely Naomi back to Judea.

5. This picture of the Temple reminds us of the little boy Samuel who came to live at the Temple. His mother loved him so well that she gave him to God as the very best gift she could ever give. He learned to love everything in the Temple, and he was a faithful helper to Eli, the minister. One night God spoke to Samuel and gave him a message for Eli.

6. In this lesson we still talked about the Temple and the people in it and the picture reminds us of the bed where Samuel lay when God's message came. Eli's sons were wicked men, although they helped in the Temple. Perhaps they might have been chosen as God's messengers if they had been different. But God chose Samuel instead. At last the wicked sons died in battle.

7. This picture of an altar reminds us of how when Samuel grew to be a man, he led the people back to God when they were worshipping idols; and how God helped them to win a battle when they were at a prayer meeting.

8. This picture of a king's crown reminds us of King Saul, Israel's first king.

9. This shield makes us think of brave prince Jonathan and his armorbearer who all alone defeated a great army.

10. The broken crown makes us think of Saul who failed as a king.

11. But the other crown with the shepherd's crook, makes us think of David.

12. The Good Shepherd picture reminds us that we are all his sheep.