

## QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

Who was Naaman? A general in the Syrian army. This made him a very happy man, did it not? No; because he was a leper.

Who lived in Naaman's house? A little slave-girl who had been stolen out of the land of Israel.

What did she say to Naaman's wife one day? "The prophet in Samaria could cure my master's leprosy."

As soon as the king of Syria heard of it what did he do? Sent Naaman with a letter and many presents to the king of Israel.

How did the king feel when he read the letter? He was in great fear, and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive?"

What did he think? That the king of Syria was trying to pick a quarrel with him.

What word did Elisha send to the king? "Let him come to me."

What did Naaman do? He came with all his horses and chariots to Elisha's door.

What message did Elisha send by his servant? "Go and wash in Jordan seven times."

How did Naaman feel because Elisha did not go out to see him in all his glory? Very angry.

As he was going home in great rage what did his servants say to him? "My father, if the prophet had asked you to do some great thing you would have done it; why not this?"

Did Naaman change his mind? He did as the man of God had said, and was made pure and clean.

Where did he go? Back to Elisha's home a changed man.

What did he say? "Now I know that the God in Israel is the only God in all the earth."

Would Elisha take those splendid presents? No; he said, "As God liveth, I will receive none."

## Words with Little People.

There is a sickness now, darlings, like unto leprosy. It comes in dreadful spots all over little human souls; its name is sin. But there is a Jordan, too, so that—

"Though your sins are red like crimson, deep in scarlet glow,

Jesus' precious blood can make them whiter than the snow," (whole,

"Precious, precious blood of Jesus, let it make you Let it flow in mighty cleansing o'er your little soul."

## THE LESSON CATECHISM.

[For the entire school.]

1. What great man of Syria was afflicted with the leprosy? "Naaman, captain of the host."

2. What did the little captive maid of Israel say the prophet in Samaria would do? "Recover him of his leprosy."

3. What did Elisha tell Naaman to do? "Wash in Jordan seven times."

4. How did Naaman receive this command? "Naaman was wroth, and went away."

5. But obeying his servant's behest what did he do? Washed, and was clean.

## CATECHISM QUESTION.

31 What are the chief marks by which Christian Churches are known in the world?

Assembling to worship in the name of Jesus, and observing the sacraments appointed by him.

[Luke xxii. 19; 1 Corinthians i. 2; xi. 26.]

## ANALYTICAL AND BIBLICAL OUTLINE.

## Sin and Its Cure.

## I. THE LOATHSOME DISEASE.

1. Naaman.... was a great man. v. 1.

"God is no respecter of persons." Acts 10. 34.

2. But he was a leper. v. 1.

"All have sinned." Rom. 3. 23.

## II. THE SIMPLE REMEDY.

1. A little.... waited on Naaman's wife. v. 2.

"Revealed.... unto babes." Matt. 11. 25.

2. Am I God.... to make alive? v. 7.

"Who can forgive sins but God?" Mark 2. 7.

3. Let him come now to me. v. 8.

"Come unto me, all ye that labor." Matt. 11. 28.

4. Go and wash in Jordan. v. 10.

"Go, wash in the pool of Siloam." John 9. 7.

5. Rivers of Damascus better. v. 12.

"Forsaken.... fountain.... hewed out cisterns." Jer. 2. 13.

## III. THE PERFECT CURE.

1. Then went he down. v. 14.

"Humbleth himself.... exalted." Luke 14. 11.

2. Dipped.... seven times. v. 14.

"Endureth to the end.... saved." Matt. 10. 22.

3. Flesh came again. v. 14.

"A new creature." 2 Cor. 5. 17.

4. Like.... a little child. v. 14.

"As little children." Matt. 18. 3.

5. He was clean. v. 14.

"Washed.... sanctified.... justified." 1 Cor. 6. 11.

## ADDITIONAL PRACTICAL LESSONS.

## Thoughts on Salvation.

1. The healing of this Syrian is a dim and distant foreshadowing of salvation for the Gentile world. LuKé 4. 27.

2. Vast as was the treasure which Naaman brought in his train, yet it was of small value compared with the bodily soundness which he sought. And how much greater to a man is the worth of his soul's salvation! Mark 8. 36, 37.

3. We see how in salvation there are certain truths which appear utterly opposed to each other. It is not obtainable by effort, yet requires effort; it is free, yet has its price to every man; it is easy, yet hard in its demands of self-sacrifice; it humbles, yet honors every man who receives it.

4. We are not at liberty to make the cross too light and too easy. There should be no compromise with sin, and no smoothing the way of duty.

5. Naaman might have bathed in Jordan vainly without the prophet's word and God's blessing. Other lepers have since washed in its waters, only to remain polluted still. Not forms, nor rites, nor observances, but only God's power, brings the salvation of a soul.

## English Teacher's Notes.

The Golden Text indicates the point around which the various lessons taught by this passage are to cluster. Our subject is washing, or cleansing, and it is presented in the story under four points of view.

## 1. As a needful thing.

We are so familiar with the story of Naaman that his need of cleansing seems a perfectly understood matter. But strangers who caught sight of his cortege as it passed southward on its way to Samaria, might have envied the man who sat in that chariot. He was wealthy; he was surrounded by servants ready to perform his bidding. And if they inquired who he was they would be told he was the victorious general of Syria, the king's trusted favorite. He was, moreover, if we may judge from his monarch's confidence, and from the attachment of his servants, an upright, kind-hearted man. What could such a man need? But there was one thing which spoiled his life. Of what avail were riches, honor, fame, respect, while he was a prey to the loathsome and hopeless disease of leprosy? Instead of a man to be envied, a man