

FOUR TO ONE.

BY HAROLD F. FARRINGTON.

"I'm sorry," said Mary, "It's rainy to-day;
When I want it pleasant, it's always the way:
It rains, rains, rains!"

"To-day I can finish my book," said Dean;
"It's the jolliest one I ever have seen;
For it rains, rains, rains!"

"It will fill up the swimming hole, p'rhaps," said Ted.
"I can dive like a frog if it's over my head:
Glad it rains, rains, rains!"

"To-day," said Herr Steuber, "my plants I'll set out;
I feared they would die because of the drought.
Ha! it rains, rains, rains!"

"The weather'll be cooler, and Aunt Polly Haynes
May get over her fever," said Lou, "if it rains,
If it rains, rains, rains!"

"I am so glad, since such good can be done,"
Said Mary, her face bright as yesterday's sun,
"That it rains, rains, rains!"
—S. S. Visitor.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

SIX MONTHS WITH THE SYNOPSIS GOSPELS.

LESSON V.—MAY 1.
PRAYER AND PROMISE.

Luke 11. 1-13. Memorize verses 11-13.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find.—Luke, 11. 9.

THE LESSON STORY.

When the disciples saw Jesus in prayer, as he sometimes was all night among the mountains, perhaps they wondered what he said. They knew he would not make the prayers that the Pharisees made standing at the street corners or in the temple. One day, Jesus being in prayer, one of his disciples came near, and when the prayer ceased he asked Jesus to teach them to pray, as John taught his disciples. So Jesus at once taught them a very beautiful prayer that is now used by all Christians around the world. It is called the "Lord's Prayer," but is really the disciples' prayer, taught them by their

Master, while the real "Lord's Prayer" is the seventeenth chapter of John. This wonderful little prayer may also be called the "child's prayer," for little children all over the world have been taught to say it in the church and in the home. It holds deep and wonderful meanings that reveal themselves as we grow up, if we grow also toward God.

There is a little parable in this lesson about a man who asked at midnight at a friend's door for three loaves of bread. It teaches that we should ask until we receive. Then Jesus tells us plainly "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Ask your mother to read to you those wonderful words of Jesus about parents giving gifts to their children. (Verse 13.)

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Who has taught us to pray? Jesus.
Where are also taught to pray in the Old Testament? In the Psalms.
Why did the Pharisees pray? To be seen of men.
What did Jesus teach us about prayer? To be earnest.
What prayer did he teach his disciples? The Lord's Prayer.
How does it begin? "Our Father which art in heaven."
Of whom is he the Father? Of all the souls he has made.
What would he have them all do? Pray to him.
What does he wish to do for us? Feed our souls and bodies.
What is his promise? "Ask, and it shall be given you."
What does the parable teach us? To expect an answer to prayer.
What does God most wish to give us? His Holy Spirit.

LESSON VI.—MAY 8.

WATCHFULNESS.

Luke 12. 35-48. Memorize verses 1, 2.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord when he cometh shall find watching.—Luke 12. 37.

THE LESSON STORY.

In our last lesson, you may remember, our Lord told a very short story after he had taught the disciples to pray. The little story—only four verses long—taught a great truth, as do all the parables our Lord gave. Here is another about being faithful. Jesus compared those to whom he was speaking—and he also speaks to us—to servants having charge of their master's house while he goes away to be married. Not one of them knows when he will come home, whether by day or by night, at midnight or morn-

ing. A good servant would be ready at any hour, his work all done and well done, and the house ready to light up for the master and his bride. And the Lord said, "Blessed are these servants whom the Lord when he cometh shall find watching." Peter wondered if his Master was speaking to the disciples only or to all, and Jesus' words after this show that he was speaking to all who lived and should live to hear the Gospel. He spoke also of those servants who know their Master's will and do not obey it, and must suffer for it. He meant that those who live for themselves alone, and eat and drink intemperately, and are unkind to those around them, are like the unfaithful servant who did so because his master was away; but the master, coming suddenly, cast out the servant he could not trust. Even a child may be faithful, and the Lord sees and loves and rewards such.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

What is the story in our lesson about? A master and his servants.
Who is our Master? The Lord Jesus.
Why did he tell this story? That we might learn to be faithful.
What does he say of the faithful? That they are "blessed."
Why is our Lord like a master on a journey? Because we cannot see him.
When may he come for us? At any time.
How should we live? So that we may be ready for him.
Does he know if we are trying to be good? Yes.
What will become of a bad servant? He will be cast out.
What has our Master given us to care for? Our bodies, minds, and spirits.
Can we use them for our own pleasure only? No.
For whom shall we use them? For God and our neighbour.

COATS AND CHARACTERS.

"What a splendid fellow!" said a tadpole to a minnow as they met on a stone at the bottom of a clear stream. "Did you ever see anything like him? It dazzles one's eyes to look at his jacket in the sun."
"That kingfisher?" asked the minnow.
"I don't know the gentleman's name," said the tadpole; "I've never seen him before."
"Ah, well, I have; and I don't care if I never see him again. He may be good-looking, but I've lost half my friends since he came to live in that bank; and to tell the truth, I don't quite like the way he's looking at the now, so I think I'll wish you good morning. By the time you're a frog you'll know that there are things more important than the colour of your coat."
—Our Boys and Girls.