

refuge of cowardice, which shuts its eyes to danger, but of courage, which looks it full in the face. The optimism of piety is not an optimism which looks on the bright side of things, but one which dares to look on the worst side, and yet believes that there is One higher than the highest.—Abbott.

### Prove from Scripture

That Jesus can forgive sin.

### Lesson Questions

[From the HOME STUDY QUARTERLY]

**Juniors**—In what condition was Jerusalem? Who heard of this? What did he do?

1, 2 Where was Nehemiah? Whence did some persons come? About whom did Nehemiah ask?

3, 4 What is said of the Jews in Judæa? Who had broken down the walls of Jerusalem? How did Nehemiah feel? From whom did he ask help?

5-9 What words describe God's strength? His faithfulness? What other quality is mentioned? What had caused the troubles of God's people?

10, 11 To whom did the Jews belong? Would He let them be destroyed? With whom was Nehemiah planning to intercede for them?

**Seniors and the Home Department**—How long after Ezra's return is the Lesson? 1-4 The cause of Nehemiah's grief? What

was Moses willing to suffer for his countrymen? (Ex. 32:32.) Paul? (Rom. 9:3.) How did Jesus regard doomed Jerusalem? (Luke 19:41, 42.)

5-9 What attributes of God gave Nehemiah encouragement? What parables of our Lord's teach perseverance in prayer? (Luke 11:5-10; 18:1-8.) With what had God threatened the rebellious? What promise had He made to the repentant?

10, 11 To what past deliverance does Nehemiah refer? What is the surest pledge that God will hear our prayer? (Rom. 8:32.)

### The Catechism

Ques. 103. *The Lord's Prayer*—its third petition. In the kingdom of God there are two kinds of growth. It grows, as we saw in studying the last Question, when men are brought into it. It grows, too, in the hearts of men, when they obey more and more perfectly the "will" of God, its great King. To obey God's will, we must know what it is. This He has taught us in many ways, chiefly in His word, and still more completely and perfectly, in Jesus Christ, His blessed Son. It should be our highest aim to do the will of God. For this He has created and preserved and redeemed us. We have in Jesus Christ a perfect pattern of obedience. When we imitate Him, we shall do God's will "as the angels do in heaven."

### FOR TEACHERS OF THE LITTLE ONES

*Lesson Subject*—God redeeming His people by answering their prayers.

*Review*—Who can print the name of the leader of that "camping party" we heard about last Sunday? **EZRA!**

Recall the scene when all those campers fasted, and prayed to God to show them a right way.

*Lesson*—Print **NEHEMIAH**. This is the name of another praying man, one of the children of Israel. He lived in the palace of the king at Shushan. He was the king's cup-bearer (explain). One day, some friends from Jerusalem came to see Nehemiah. "How are the people getting on who went back to Jerusalem with Ezra?" he asks, and, "What does the old place look like?"

