

Thou hast promised to receive us,
 Poor and sinful though we be;
 Thou hast mercy to relieve us,
 Grace to cleanse, and power to free;
 Early let us seek thy favour,
 Early help us do thy will;
 Holy Lord, our only Saviour!
 With thy grace our bosoms fill.

QUESTIONS.

Recite TITLE, TOPIC, GOLDEN TEXT, and OUTLINE.

1. *The Parable*, v. 1-6.

What is a "parable?" [Ans.—It is a narrative about familiar things, by which important but less familiar things are made clear. This parable is founded on the customs of shepherds in Christ's day.]

Why did Jesus begin with "Verily, verily"? Describe a "sheep-fold."

Five classes of persons are named in v. 1-6: which are they?

Explain what each had to do with the sheep, or the sheep-fold.

How did shepherds manage sheep? v. 3, 4.

How do they now manage sheep in Palestine?

How did strangers get along with the sheep? v. 5.

2. *The explanation*, v. 7-11.

Why did Jesus give this explanation? v. 6.

Why did he here begin with "Verily, verily"?

What explanation does he give of "the door"?

Why does he call himself the door "of the sheep"?

What blessings do they gain who use this door?

What explanation is given of the "thieves and robbers"?

For what did they come? v. 10.

Who is "the Good Shepherd"?

For what did he come? v. 10.

How did he prove his interest in the sheep?

See v. 11-15.

Who are the sheep?

How do the sheep treat thieves and robbers?

See v. 8.

How do they treat strangers? v. 5.

How do they treat the shepherd? v. 3, 4.

How did David speak of his Shepherd? See

Psa. 23. 1-4.

May we be his sheep? v. 16.

Are we his sheep?

How does this lesson illustrate—

1. Our Title?

2. Our Topic?

3. Our Golden Text?

QUESTION AND ANSWER.

15. *What do we pray for in the sixth petition?*

In the sixth petition, which is, "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil," we pray that God would either keep us from being brought into such circumstances as will specially tempt us to sin, or support and deliver us when we are tempted.

Matthew 26. 41. Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation.

Psalms 19. 13. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me.

Psalms 51. 10, 12. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free Spirit.

OUTLINES, NOTES, AND LESSONS.

THE PARABLE, vers. 1-6. The term "parable" is applied to this address in ver. 6. It is an extended statement made in the garb of familiar things, by which less familiar, but similar, things may be made clear. In explaining the parables the main idea of the speaker must be held in view, and close analogies must not be looked for on all points.

... *Shepherds*, etc. With the external drapery of this parable the hearers of Jesus were perfectly familiar. There was a sheep-growing country. The flocks were their main dependence. Christ drew his illustrations from every-day life in Palestine as existing then, and as it still continues.

... *The Scripture use of shepherds*, sheep, and sheepfolds is very common, both in direct teaching and in figurative use. For extended statements see Psa. 23; Jer. 23; Ezek. 34; Zech. 11; see also **THEMES FOR BIBLE READINGS**.

VERILY, VERILY, ver. 1. An opening which always invites special attention and assures of special importance. Imagine Jesus with these impressive words turning from the haughty Pharisees to the masses whom they crushed with a burdensome and unsatisfactory ritual. I SAY UNTO YOU, a clause begotten of his own profound consciousness of authority. "He taught them as one having authority," etc. Matt. 7. 29. **THE SHEEP-FOLD** was an inclosure into which the flocks were led for shelter in severe weather, and for safety from prowling beasts, and from thieves. Sometimes several shepherds maintained a fold in common, but the larger ones needed one, or even several, for