

STRAYING LAMBS.

BY MRS. E. H. GATES.

How many lambs are straying,
Lost from the Saviour's fold!
Upon the lonely mountains
They shiver with the cold.
Within the tangled thickets,
Where poison vines do creep,
And over rocky ledges,
Wander the poor lost sheep.

Oh, who will go to find them?
Who, for the Saviour's sake,
Will search with tireless patience,
Through brier and through brake?
Unheeding thirst and hunger,
Who still, from day to day,
Will seek, as for a treasure,
The lambs that go astray.

How sweet 'twould be at evening,
If you and I could say,
"Good Shepherd, we've been seeking
The lambs that went astray;
Heart-sore, and faint with hunger,
We heard them making moan,
And lo! we come at nightfall,
Bearing them safely home."

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

SIX MONTHS WITH THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS.

LESSON XI.—JUNE 12.

CHRIST CRUCIFIED.

Mark 15. 22-39. Memorize verses 25-27.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Christ died for our sins according to Scriptures.—1 Cor. 15. 3.

THE LESSON STORY.

That was a strange week in the life of our Lord, that last one in the flesh. On the last day of the week he came into Jerusalem like a king, a great multitude of men, women, and children around him waving branches of palm and crying, "Hosanna!" He cast his garments before him that they might ride over them. The people believed that he was the King that had been promised them, and that he would suddenly come to his temple and scatter the Roman rulers. But he had told his disciples that he must suffer and die. He had come to begin a reign of love and truth and righteousness, and to do this he must give down his life for love's sake, so that in a few years to come his people would also lay down their lives for each other, if need be. He needed, too, to pass through death for us, and so, overcoming every fear and pain and sin, open the way to heaven.

It was quite another procession that went out of Jerusalem to Golgotha the next Friday morning. Crowds of people followed him; some were friends and

many were foes, and he was put upon a cross and crucified. Some friend tried to give him a bitter mixture, perhaps to ease the pain, but he turned his head aside; he was bearing all for us.

About noon a thick darkness spread itself over all the sky, and for three hours it was like night. Even the sun hid its face from the sight of the cross. At last the earthly life of Jesus ended, and the darkness went away. The redemption of the world was won, and this sign was given—the veil of the temple was rent in two from the top to the bottom.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

How did Jesus once enter Jerusalem? Like a king. What did the children do? They cried, "Hosanna!" What did the people call him? The Blessed. How did Jesus go out a few days later? As a criminal. Was he truly a king? Yes. Where was his kingdom to be? In the hearts of men. On what was he building it? On love, truth, and righteousness. Where was he crucified? On Calvary, or Golgotha. What came across the sky? A thick cloud. What happened when Jesus died? The veil of the temple was torn. What did this mean? That Jesus had become our high priest. What else is he? Our elder brother and our Saviour.

LESSON XII.—JUNE 19.

CHRIST RISEN.

Matt. 28. 1-15. Memorize verses, 9, 10.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Now is Christ risen from the dead, —1 Cor. 15. 20.

THE LESSON STORY.

Before sunset on the day of the crucifixion (which we call "Good Friday" because of the great salvation it brought us), a Jewish ruler named Joseph went and asked for the body of Jesus, that he might lay it in a new tomb in his own garden. The tomb was cut out of the rock, and a great stone was by the door. The disciples, with the women, tenderly laid him there, rolled the stone across the door, and then went sorrowfully away to wait until the Sabbath should pass before they prepared him for burial. They seemed to forget that he had said that he should rise the third day. When the Sabbath was past Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb. They went as the dawn was just breaking and while the garden of Joseph was fresh with dew. But something had happened before they came. There was an earthquake, and the stone had been rolled away from the tomb by a great shining angel. While the keepers fell back as if dead Jesus rose from the tomb, and when the women came they saw only the angel. How kindly he spoke to them! He told them not to be afraid; he knew whom they sought. "He is not here,

for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." Then he told them to go quickly and tell his disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead, and was going before them into Galilee, where they should see him. How they ran to tell the good news, and as they ran they met the Lord himself!

As he greeted them they fell down and clasped his feet, worshipping him. Jesus told them as the angel had done to go tell his disciples to meet him in Galilee, and they went full of joy.

As for the keepers of the tomb, they were bribed to say that the disciples had stolen the body of Jesus while they slept.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

When was Jesus laid in the tomb? On Friday about sunset. Who took him there? His disciples. Where was the tomb? In a rock in Joseph's garden. When was the Jewish Sabbath? On our Saturday. What occurred Sunday morning? Jesus rose from the tomb. Who first came to the tomb? The two Marys. Whom did they see? An angel, bright like the sun. What did he tell them? All about Jesus. Where did they go? To tell the disciples. Whom did they meet? The Lord himself. What did they do? They worshipped him. What did he tell them? That he was going into Galilee.

TWO STORIES IN ONE.

I have heard two stories about two little girls, and I will tell them both to you.

One little girl was very poor and very sick. She could not walk out in the bright sunshine at all, because she could not use her feet and limbs. Yet, though she had no pretty clothes, nor costly playthings, nor rich food, she always seemed happy. She loved everybody, and everybody seemed to love her. She said she had many things to thank God for, and when her friends did her a kindness she was sure to thank them with her very brightest smile. When some of her little mates put a wooden box on wheels and took her out into the pleasant sunshine, she thanked God over and over again in her dear little heart.

The other little girl lived in a beautiful house, and was well and strong. But she was not happy. She always wanted something better than she had, and never thanked God for anything.

Which do you think pleased God the most?

A Japanese, on going to his work each morning, put this notice on his door: "I am a Christian, and if any one likes to go in and read my Good Book while I am out, he may."