

one if he had neither gun nor club? Our lesson to-day is about one of the Israelites named Samson—a very strong man. (Teacher may tell such exploits of Samson as time and the interest in the class may permit. Now the Lord had told Samson never to have his hair cut; if he did he would be weak, like other men. Samson ought never to have told of this, but one day he was tempted and teased by a wicked woman, and he told her at last his secret.

This woman had his hair cut off when he was asleep, and then she called the Philistines to come and take him. Samson awakened and thought he was as strong as ever; but he soon found out the dreadful truth—his strength was gone! The Philistines took him, fettered his feet, put out his eyes, and shut him up in prison.

But Samson lived to do one thing more for his people. Not long afterward the Philistines made a great feast in one of their temples and sent for poor blind Samson out of the prison, that they might laugh and make sport of him. Samson came, but while they were making sport he was thinking of their cruelty in putting out his eyes, and fearing what they might do to the Israelites now he could no longer fight for them.

He had repented of his sin, and God had forgiven him, and now he asked the Lord to strengthen him "only this once," and taking hold of the two principal pillars on which the temple rested, (explain,) "he bowed himself" upon them with all his might, pulled them out, and down came the house, killing thousands of the enemies of God's people. Samson was killed with them, but he did more for his people in his death than in his life, for they were so terror-stricken that they did not trouble the Israelites for many years afterward.

Now, children, I want you to try and think what we ought to learn from this story. (If the class hesitates help them by suggesting.) Who gives our strength of mind and body? Who can take it away? Is it safe to disobey God? But if we sin will God forgive? For whose sake?

#### Whisper-Song.

God is gracious to his saints,  
Hearing ever their complaints.  
God is dreadful to his foes,  
All their ways he overthrows.

SUNDAY, MAY 9, 1875.

LESSON VI.—RUTH AND NAOMI. Ruth 1.  
16-22.

#### Berean Notes.

**Leader.** 16 And Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:

**School.** 17 Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if aught but death part thee and me.

**L.** 18 When she saw that she was steadfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.

**S.** 19 So they two went until they came to Bethlehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Naomi?

**L.** 20 And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me.

**S.** 21 I went out full, and the Lord hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the Lord hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me?

**L.** 22 So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter-in-law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab:

**S.** And they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest.

#### HOME READINGS.

Mon. Ruth i. 16-22. Th. Ruth iv. 1-17.

Tu. Ruth i. 1-15. Fr. Matt. ii. 1-10.

Wed. Ruth ii. 1-17. Sat. Mark x. 17-30.

Sabbath. Rom. viii. 28-30.

**TOPIC:**—*Earnest Devotion of a Daughter.*

**GOLDEN TEXT:**—*Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.* Ruth 1. 16.

**OUTLINE:**—1. *Ruth's Appeal*, v. 16-18; 2 Kings 2. 2; Luke 24. 29.

2. *Bethlehem's Greeting*, v. 19; Matt. 21. 10; Lam. 2. 15.

3. *Naomi's Response*, v. 20-22; Job. 1. 21; 1 Tm. 6. 7.