

feeling lies in the feeling of community, and that this feeling first comes into active consciousness in the family life. The family life, therefore, is the basis and medium of religious development, as is also the school life if based and modeled on that of the family. Moral practices, 'the expressions of the kind heart, and the thoughtful, pure mind,' are what he urges both for home and school; linking these on to what has been said above of the child's perception and feeling of God's fatherhood, and taking the life of Jesus as the model life. 'The boy's life,' he says, 'should be an expression in action and production of the prayer of Jesus.'"

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS. FIRST QUARTER.

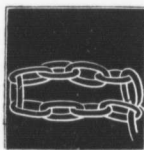
LESSON X. (March 5.)

CHRIST FREEING FROM SIN. John 8.
12, 31-36.

GOLDEN TEXT. "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:36.

Primary Notes.

BY JULIA H. JOHNSTON.



Write initials of lesson title, first four words of Golden Text, and the word "free" in lesson link for to-day. Drill in these and review former lessons very briefly.

Once upon a time a man was shut up in prison.

He had some friends who went to the governor for him and got a pardon. It was not signed till late at night, and the news had to wait till morning. The man slept in the prison cell, though really, after the governor signed the pardon, he was free to go out. He did not know it. It was true, but the truth had not come to him. In the morning he heard the glad word, and as soon as he knew what was true before he went out a free man. Jesus, in our lesson to-day, had something like this to say to the people. He told them that if they kept on in his word, and kept on learning from him, then they should "know the truth, and the truth should make them free." They would be free from their sins, free from doubts, and free from care if they really learned and believed the true things he taught. Then he told them that those who did wrong were slaves of sin. It is easy to find out who is a slave's master. A slave is one who is

not free to do as he wishes, who obeys his master whatever happens, just because he must. A loving son obeys his father because he is his father, and because he loves his father and his father loves him. A slave obeys because he is owned, not because he loves to. He doesn't live in the house, as the son does. God says we are the servants of the one we obey.

If a boy always pleases himself, if he listens to what self says, goes where self wants to go, whose servant is he? If a boy does just the easiest things always, isn't laziness his master? If a boy does nothing but play, isn't play his master? If a boy gives up to angry feelings, isn't anger his master? Watch and see what you serve; you can tell what kind of a master you have by what you do.

But Jesus wants us to be free from all bad masters. He only can make us free. A stranger might come to a man in prison and say, "You are free," but that wouldn't make him so unless the governor pardoned him. Then he would be free indeed.

Have you ever seen a jail and a jailer? How sad to be shut in a prisoner, day after day! Yet it is worse to have your soul in prison than your body. There is something inside of you that says "I will" and "I won't." Now, when "I will" is a prisoner to sin, then we can't make up our minds to do right. It is very sad. There is one dreadful prison that people get into when "I will" gets to be a slave of sin, which you must hear about to-day. It is the prison of strong drink. Satan himself is the cruel jailer. He loves to shut men up here because he knows it is so hard to get out. They are slaves and in prison, and "I will" can't seem to do anything against it, and can't get out—that is, alone. In this prison men are bound with chains, not a chain of golden links let down from heaven to help people up, as our lesson chain, but something like an iron chain. Here are some of the links; we'll make them on the board. Remember that some chains are to hold fast and save us, as the chain that holds an anchor in the ocean bottom, and others to bind and hold us fast as prisoners. And this one is Satan's chain:

Disobedience, bad company, late hours, the first glass, wine, beer, whisky.

Let a boy disobey his parents, go with bad boys, stay out late at night, take the first glass—maybe he says it is "only cider," but it may have alcohol in it, and may be the beginning of a taste; let him go on, then, to other strong drinks, and he will find himself in prison and bound with a chain. Jesus is the only one who can make such a prisoner and slave free indeed.