

Primary Department.

Conducted by GEORGE H. ARCHIBALD, Superintendent St. Matthew's S. S., Montreal, Que.

LESSON V—November 3rd, 1895.

Samuel the Judge. 1 SAM. 7: 5-15.

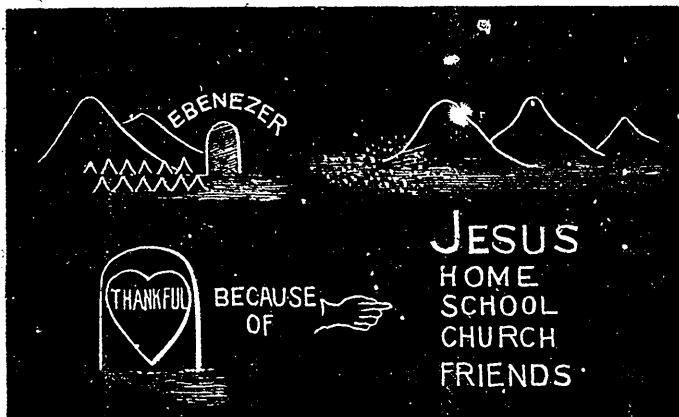
I. GOLDEN TEXT: "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." 1 Sam. 7: 12.

II. PREVIEW THOUGHT: "Thanksgiving."

III. REVIEW: Who can tell about the story in last lesson? Does God ever speak to boys and girls now? Tell some ways in which God now speaks. What should boys and girls do when they hear God's voice speaking to them?

IV. INTERVENING EVENTS: Samuel told Eli the vision. The Philistines overcame the Israelites at Ebenezer, and took the ark of the Lord. Hophni and Phinehas were slain, and Eli hearing the dreadful news fell backwards and was killed. After seven months the ark was sent back by the Philistines, and placed in the house of Abinadab, at Kirjath-je rim.

V. LESSON STORY: To-day's lesson is about the same little Samuel we learned about in our last lesson. But many years have passed since the time that God called him, and now, he had grown up to be a man, and was judge over the Israelites and lived in a place called Ramah not far from Jerusalem. The people had not been doing what was right; they had again got far away from God and were serving idols. For many years they had gone on this way, but they were not happy. Their enemies, the Philistines were oppressing them all the time, and the idols could not help them to overcome them. They remembered the happy times they used to have when they worshipped their own true God and longed to get back to him again. Samuel had been listening to God's voice and lovingly obeying him all these years. Likely he had been going about amongst the people telling them how foolish they were to keep away from such a loving God, for if they would return to him with all their hearts, put away their strange gods and serve him only, he would forgive them and deliver them out of the hands of the Philistines. They listened to Samuel and put away their idols, and all gathered together with him at a place called Mizpah. There Samuel prayed for them. There they drew water and poured it out before the Lord; which was a symbol of pouring out their sins. There they fasted; which showed that in their great sorrow they had no desire for food, and lastly they confessed their sins to God. When the Philistines heard that the Israelites were gathered together they thought that they were going to rebel, so their lords called them together and went up against them to subdue them. The Israelites learning that they were coming were afraid and asked Samuel not to stop praying to God for them. As Samuel prayed, and offered up a young lamb for a burnt-offering to God, God heard him, and thundered with a great thunder upon the Philistines, which frightened them so much that they all fled, and the Israelites ran after them until they came to Beth-car. So they were subdued and came no more into the land of Israel. The Israelites were so glad and thankful to God for pardoning them and giving them this great victory, that they took a large stone and set it up for a monument between Mizpah and Shen and called it Ebenezer (the stone of help) saying, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. As you describe the assembling at Mizpah roughly draw a hill on the board, pin your symbol



of tents on it and draw an altar—the Philistines advance—make many dots in the distance—setting up stone—draw a large stone and print Ebenezer over it. Have the Golden Text printed on the right-hand corner of board (beforehand if desired).

VI. APPLICATION: We have been learning about God's goodness to his