

father, "can't you buy her one?" Alas! This was impossible. But no obedient heart need ever lack capacity to serve the Lord, for he bestows it. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord."

### BEREAN METHODS.

#### Hints for the Teachers' Meeting and the Class.

Show on the map the places, Samuel's journey from Ramah to Bethlehem, and his return.... Incidents of Bible history connected with Bethlehem.... Show a picture of Bethlehem to the class.... I. How God chooses his workers: 1. Fitted for his purpose; 2. Independent of worldly considerations; 3. According to character.... II. How God prepares his workers: 1. By a godly home; 2. By a life of work (David a shepherd); 3. By association with the common people.... III. How God endows his workers: 1. With the Holy Spirit; 2. With wisdom as its result.... See Analytical and Biblical Outline on "God's way of Working,".... David as a type of Christ: 1. Lowly birth; 2. Noble origin; 3. Secret designation; 4. Youthful endowment.... Teachings concerning duty: 1. Promptness in obeying God; 2. Consecration to God; 3. Seeking purity of heart and character; 4. Intimate communion with God (Samuel).

**ILLUSTRATIONS.** The story that, in the building of Solomon's temple, the stone designed by the architect was thrown aside by the builders as worthless, yet, when found in the dust, and put in its place, crowned the edifice, would apply to David in his obscurity.... Note the parallel between David and Christ, one concealed from Saul, the other from Herod.... A diamond in the rough is less attractive in appearance than many less valuable stones, yet those who know how to look below the surface see its worth at a glance.... Note many of the greatest men who came from a lowly position.

**References.** FOSTER'S ILLUSTRATIONS. Ver. 3: Prose, 6276. Ver. 5: Prose, 11304. Ver. 7: Poetical, 1688, 1693, 2426; Prose, 4225. Ver. 12: Poetical, 3302.

#### Primary and Intermediate.

BY M. V. H.

#### LESSON THOUGHT. Chosen by God.

##### A CHOICE.

Teach what it is to choose. Show two fair-looking apples. Ask some child to choose between them. Lead children to see that they choose according to the outside appearance. Who was the king who

was so tall and fine-looking? Why did the people admire him so much? If possible, have one apple that is decayed at the heart. Cut it open, and let the children see that the outside does not always show what is inside. Talk about children's choices between the right and wrong, giving some illustrative incident, and make children see that a choice is not in words, but in acts. For instance, the child who says in Sunday-school that he chooses to obey and please God, and goes home to be selfish and cross, has not truly chosen.

#### GOD'S CHOICE.

Show the bad apple, and tell that if one wants an apple to eat, and finds it bad inside, he chooses another, putting the bad one aside. This is what God did. He found Saul bad inside, and so put him aside, and chose another king. God knew from the beginning that Saul was not sound at the heart, but he wanted to teach the people the folly of choosing a man for their king when they already had a great King—The King of heaven. Tell what God told Samuel to do, and give in detail the story of the choice among Jesse's sons, teaching that God took this way of showing that the outside appearance is of no value in his sight? Describe the anointing, explaining that the oil was a rich kind of perfume, and that the anointing was a picture of the pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon the heart. Describe David, the little shepherd lad, humble, simple, loving God, and obeying him, and therefore chosen by God.

**CLOSING EXERCISE.** God chooses now, among children and grown people, those who shall be "kings" unto him. Let children tell what kind of hearts and lives he looks for, and lead to an ambition to be chosen by him. Kings wear crowns, and so shall we if God chooses us. Kings reign, and so shall we. God *wants* to choose us. Shall we let him?

#### Blackboard.

BY J. R. PHIPPS, Bsq.

