

fast? Why, they have gone to it at once. They pick it up here and there as it may be strewn upon the surface of a wide table, the field. Who scattered it there? They certainly did not sow their breakfast. They do not go out to reap it with a sickle. They do not have any barn from which they can take it. Their breakfast is what they find. It is just what God has scattered with a large, generous hand. They hop about. They peck and peck contentedly. How happy they look, living on their great Creator's bounty! The sight of all this quiet and cheers the heart of the solitary man watching them. "Living on God!" he exclaims, and he is surprised to notice how cheerful his voice is.

But he sees something else.

That patch of lilies all in bloom! How stainless is their luster! How soft and velvety the texture of their petals! The fabric and the coloring are marvelous.

"Did Solomon the magnificent in his royal robes ever look as beautiful?" he wonders. "Never!"

But who designed the pattern of that lily-bloom? Who ever saw the swiftly flying shuttle in the loom weaving it? Who hung that beauty on the graceful stalk, shaping and fitting the robe? Lilies never spin. Lilies never do any work. Ah, how his thoughts go up to God, the great designer and the cunning fabric-maker.

But hark! A footstep is heard. Here comes the mower into the fields. He steps blithely. He begins his work promptly. Hear the whirl of his blade steadily swung. O fallen "grass of the field," one moment ago standing in grass, and now prostrate, and to-morrow in the oven! And yet God took such pains with that grass, though so transient. He will take like pains with the grass in a thousand fields. Will he not care for his greatest handiwork, a human soul?

The spectator of all this morning life yet so transient in the fields has gone. He has left behind him the open country, the bright, sunny sky. He has taken in his heart, though, the song of the birds, and the bright, cheering sunshine. Will not God care for him and his home?

Yes, and his heart shall have rest in that assurance. God's kingdom will he seek first and always. There shall be no marriage of religion and policy. He will obey God, trust God, and seek treasure in the heavenly palaces.

### Primary and Intermediate.

#### LESSON THOUGHT. *Our Father's Care.*

Recall the last lesson. What little word filled the rich man's heart? Had he a right to say "my harvests," "my barns," "my money"? No, for all belongs to God. The rich man who thought all these things were his own was a foolish man. God called him so.

In this lesson Jesus tells us how to think and feel about the things of this life.

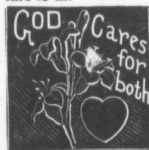
Have a picture of a bird on the board. Uncover it. Who made the bird? Yes, it is God's bird. He made it to sing and build its little nest and be happy in his care. The bird does what it was made to do, and God feeds it. It does not worry about its food, or where it will build its nest next year. It does not sow, or reap, or build barns in which to put its food. It is in the heavenly Father's care, and is happy and content.

Jesus says, "How much more are ye better than the birds?"

We have souls to live forever. We are worth more to God than the birds. Will he not take care of us?

1 Show a blooming lily or uncover picture of one on

the board. Tell about the beautiful field flowers of Galilee. A bunch of gay flowers in the hand will emphasize the teaching here. The lily does nothing to make itself beautiful. It just grows, and God has all the care of it. He paints all the lovely colors, he gives all the sweet fragrance, and he tells us to "consider," or learn a lesson, from the lilies. Teach that this does not mean that we may be lazy. The bird and the lily do just what they were made to do, and God takes care of them. If we do just what we were made to do, he will take care of us.

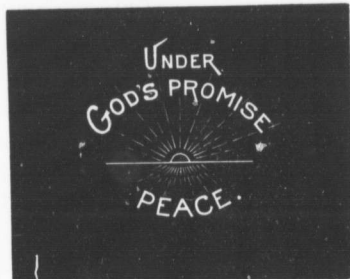


What were we made to do? Read from the Bible, "Seek ye the kingdom of God." If we do this, we shall be like the bird and the flower, doing what we were intended to do.

Show that the rich man had his treasure in his barns. His heart was with his treasure.

Some people put their treasure in a bank. Then their heart is in the bank. A barn or a bank or a fine house is not the place for a heart to be in. The true child of God puts his treasure in heaven; then his heart is there. Children can begin very young to lay up treasure there. Tell how.

### Blackboard.



DIRECTIONS. Draw the design in the center of the board, and do not make it very large.

COLORS. The sentence, "Under God's Promise," write with pink chalk; the sun with yellow, and the word "Peace" with light blue.

THE TEACHING. Living under the promises of God we dwell in peace. A writer says, "God's children take no chances." The promises are sure. "No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly." If practicable, have the scholars read or repeat a number of promises relating to this subject.

### Berean Methods.

#### The Teachers' Meeting.

Make clear the background of this lesson.... Draw from class explanations of its archaisms and Oriental allusions, and drill them in meaning of such phrases as "thought," "life" (these two words merit especial study), "meat," "store-house," "fowls," "stature," "cubit," "lilies," "Solomon's glory," "grass in oven," "doubtful mind," "nations of the world," "kingdom of God," "little flock," "alms," "bags," "wax," "treasure," "heavens," "falleth." Substitute familiar synonyms for these, and re-read the text as thus revised....