

and it all looked very dreadful. Early in the morning, when Elisha's servant looked out, he saw the terrible sight. He knew the soldiers had come to take Elisha, and he ran quickly to tell his master that the city was surrounded, and that there was no way to escape—they were caught in a trap!

The prophet was not afraid. He knew that God was stronger than the whole Syrian army, and he told his servant not to fear. He said there were more on their side than against them. How strange that sounded to the servant, who knew there were no soldiers in Dothan, or any that were likely to come! Do you wonder what Elisha meant? He meant that the angels were all around them, and so nothing could harm them. [Drill on the Golden Text, and explain that we cannot see the angels of God with the eyes of the body, but God can open our spirit eyes to see them.]

Elisha had the eyes of his spirit open, and so he could see what his servant could not. But he prayed that God would open his servant's eyes, and he did. Then how different everything looked! The whole mountain was full of angels! To Elisha's servant they looked like horses and chariots of fire. When he saw them he was no longer afraid, for now he felt sure that the great God would take care of his people.

*God cares for me.* [Have a large circle drawn on the board, and a much smaller one inside it. Print, as you talk, "My heavenly Father cares," and tell that he loves and cares for the whole great world which he has made. Tell of his love and care for the nations of the earth. Speak of the way he puts down one and sets up another, and show that he is trying to teach all to know



and love him. Finish the story, and print in the small circle "For me," and show that God's love and care for a little child are just as great as for a king.] What each child needs is to get into the safe place of love and trust. Are you there?

## Kindergarten Hints.

KINDERGARTEN DEPARTMENT. The Good Man's Message. 2 Kings 6. 13-16, 22, 23.

GOLDEN TEXT. "Fear not." 2 Kings 6. 16.

AIDS TO THE KINDERGARTNER. Holy Bible, Josh. 1; *Wilhelm Meister Goethe* (Carlyle's translation), vol. iii, "No religion that grounds itself on fear," etc.

## ATTENTION STORY.

Elisha helped everybody he could, wherever he was, and he tried to show all the people that they might be loving to each other, and loving toward God the Father, who cared for all his children. After the captain was well the king of his country quarreled with the king of Elisha's country. The people who loved God and who wanted peace were sorry to have quarrels, and some of them were afraid. The king thought he would have his soldiers find Elisha and take him to the place he told them, and with the soldiers he sent many horses and chariots. One morning when Elisha awoke his servant said to him, "How shall we do?" for they saw the crowds of people all about the city. This is what the good Elisha answered. [Read 2 Kings 6. 16.] Only think! "Fear not!" was his message. That is the same message our Father has given us many times in this book. Is it not a beautiful message? Were you ever frightened and some one tried to comfort you? Did some loving voice, perhaps your mother's voice, say, "Don't be afraid?" Mothers say that often to their little children, and One who loves us more than mothers can say, "Fear not!" Jesus said to his disciples many, many times, "Fear not!" I think he would be sorry to have us say or do anything to make people afraid, for he was so careful and so kind always, and he "cared" how people felt. But another thing more wonderful than the message is the story of the way Elisha treated those who were unkind and cruel. He loved those who did not love him (his enemies), and he fed them, though he lived long before the tender Saviour preached the sermon where he said that this is just the right thing to do—give food and water to enemies. It must be that God's voice taught Elisha what was the right thing to do, because when the king said, "Shall we smite (strike) them?" this is what he answered. [Read 2 Kings 2. 22, 23.]

## OUTLINE.

The two great thoughts of the lesson to-day are voiced in "Fear not!" and in the narrative of Elisha's treatment of enemies. Lead the children to connect this with the teaching of Jesus as found in Matt. 5. 44, 45.

This may be made most practical in a conversation with the children, for, though they have little friends and will remember the lesson talk on friendship, all too soon they have tiny foes and learn to be careless of the comfort, and the interests of other people. Between these two ideas another is mentioned, "They that be with us are more than they that be with them." Take the optimistic view of this in our time, for if we are followers of the good, and if we are seeking