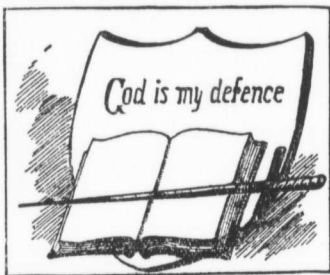


the other kept on with the work. And the enemies heard that God had helped them to do this, and that the builders were going on, and at last they found that they could do nothing against the men who were watching and praying and working. Now, this is a precept lesson, and the rule, the teaching, we will put down in the words of Nehemiah. Can you not hear the brave voice ring out, "Be not ye afraid of them." Then he said, "Remember God." That was enough to make them brave. It did, and the work went on.

We will make on the board a shield, such as was used to keep off the flying arrows and the blows of the spear, and across an open Bible we will make a sword. Those builders had sword and shield, and so have we, only the Bible tells us that our shield is faith, and the sword is the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. We have broken walls to build. Whenever there is need to put out wrong and do good, either in the church, in the class, at school, anywhere outside, or in our own hearts first of all, inside, there we must build so that we may be strong for Jesus. People who do not love him will try to hinder us. Satan will hinder us, and sinful thoughts and wishes will hinder us. But remember, "Be not ye afraid." God is on our side. Hold up the shield of faith and take the sword; that means trust God, and use his word to drive away all the wrong. "Jesus says so" is enough always. If anyone says, "You can't do anything—you can't be good, or do good," answer, "Jesus will help me. He says so." Watch always. Pray always; and keep your shield and sword with you all the time, as those men upon the wall held a sword while they worked.



Kindergarten Hints.

GOLDEN TEXT: "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." 1 Cor. 16. 13.

HINTS ON METHOD.

After a lesson on prayer it is fitting that we should teach next in order a lesson on faithful

service. By showing to-day the varied duties of the workmen engaged in rebuilding the walls we can teach of valor and faithfulness in holding persistently to the appointed task in spite of what might seem reasonable excuses to give up and go away. We show, too, that "they also serve who only stand and wait." We can hold to this topic for several weeks to come, because we may use Lesson VIII to teach that "ears must be attentive to the word," as an important part of faithful service. With Lesson IX we may use "On Guard" as our title, showing how each may build a wall around himself, strengthening weak places, and standing guard lest the enemy come in and take possession of the citadel of the body.

LESSON STORY.

Suppose, in imagination, we take a walk into the country. When we get out of the city streets what do we find? The children who have been on excursions describe the fields and woods which surround our city.

Leading from the near to the remote, we teach that in Bible times people could get to the country only by passing through gates in a wall so high that nobody could climb over it, and its gates were often guarded by soldiers.

Here are pictures of different parts of the wall built around Jerusalem; and here is a picture of one of the great gates. All the gates were named. Here is one called "Sheep Gate," for this is the way to lead the flocks to pasture. Jesus Christ saw this wall when he was here, and many times must have walked in and out of these gates, followed by people who needed his healing touch, and would wander far into the country to hear him speak.

Let us, in imagination, take a walk around the outside of this wall in a time hundreds of years before Jesus came. We find ourselves stumbling over great stones and heaps of ruins, for we have chosen to go at night, and the wall is all broken down. People and their flocks are exposed to many perils when the walls are down. While we are looking at the ruins we meet some one who has come to protect them. We have met him before.

If this protector carries a torch, we notice that its light is hidden. He tells no one his plan. Followed by a few trusted servants, he must explore secretly or the enemy will destroy all their work.

After describing Nehemiah's secret investigations, and in our imaginary walk having completed the tour around the wall, we let the children suggest what they think Nehemiah will do about this. Then we get in our application by showing that the workmen's faithful service in