



LESSON VII.—NOVEMBER 17.

The Childhood of Moses.

Exodus ii., 1-10. Memory verses 7-10. Read Acts vii., 15-22.

Golden Text.

'Train up a child in the way that he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.'—Prov. xxii., 6.

Lesson Text.

(1) And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi. (2) And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months. (3) And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein, and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink. (4) And his sister stood afar off to wit what would be done to him. (5) And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it. (6) And when she had opened it, she saw the child; and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children. (7) Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee? (8) And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother. (9) And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it. (10) And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses; and she said, Because I drew him out of the water.

Suggestions.

'We come now to the birth of the most remarkable man of Old Testament times, if not of all antiquity, who did more to mould all future ages than any other man who ever lived. On the further side of Christ stands Moses, as on the nearer side stands Paul. The one we may say inaugurated the religion of revelation, and the other established it. The one prophesied of Christ both by his character and by his words and works, while the other interpreted Christ in his preachings and writings, and illustrated Christ in his life and death.'—Pentecost.

'By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the King's commandment.' (Hebrews xi., 23) Moses was the son of Amram and Jochebed, both of the tribe of Levi. He was born just after the cruel edict of Pharaoh had been issued that the Israelites should cast all their infant sons into the river to be destroyed. The descendants of Jacob and his sons had increased so greatly during their long stay in Egypt that the king had become afraid lest they should rebel against him and overthrow his kingdom. In view of this he determined to destroy their strength by killing off all the baby boys for some years. It was an anxious time for Jochebed while she managed to hide the little Moses for those three first months. He was such a beautiful and promising looking child, she felt sure that God would in some way protect his life. When the time came that she could no longer hide him, she took a covered basket made of bulrushes and, after plastering it well with slime and pitch to make it waterproof, she laid her precious babe in this tiny boat and committing him to the watchful care of Jehovah she set the little ark in the rushes by the river's banks. Her mother-love had devised this scheme for touching the same chords in another woman's heart. It was not in vain. That morning a beautiful prin-

cess with her maids of honor went as usual to bathe in the sacred waters of the Nile. This was the daughter of Pharaoh whose capital was built on a branch of the Nile in which there were no crocodiles. Pharaoh's daughter saw the curious little ark floating on the waters and at once sent one of her maids to fetch it. As she lifted the cover, what was her surprise to see a little weeping babe. Perhaps a sudden gleam of sunshine lit the face of the little lad and he smiled up at the princess. Be that as it may the princess fell in love at once with the tiny waif whom she recognized as a Hebrew child. God was watching over the destiny of this little one for whom he had planned such great things.

The baby's sister, Miriam, aged eight, was waiting near to see what would become of the little one. No doubt the mother's heart had foreseen the probable end from the beginning and had instructed Miriam in her part. As the ladies were standing wondering what should be done with the child, the little girl timidly advanced and suggested that she might call a Hebrew woman to nurse the little Hebrew child for the princess. The princess seemed pleased with the implication that this beautiful child now belonged to her, and readily assented to Miriam's suggestion, whereupon the child ran and fetched her mother telling her on the way all the things that had happened.

Pharaoh's daughter handed the little Moses to his own mother and told her that she would give her good wages if she would nurse this child for her and bring him back when he was old enough to live at court with her. With a heart overflowing with joy and gratitude to God, Jochebed took her child and returned to her home. No one could molest her now, even Pharaoh's edict could not harm her loved one, for she was under the protection of Pharaoh's daughter, the imperious princess whose slightest wish was law. No doubt this incident greatly lessened the persecution of the babes, and thus even in his infancy Moses began to be the deliverer of his people.

The name Moses means 'drawn out,' the princess gave him this name because she drew him out of the water. We should learn to trust God as Moses's mother did, and help may come from the most unlikely sources. The mother no doubt made the best of her opportunities while she had the little child with her, teaching him to love and honor Jehovah, the only true God, and teaching him the history of his own people. Every mother has the same great responsibility to God and to her children, to teach them to love and trust the giver of all good, and to teach them the Scriptures as far as possible. Little did Pharaoh's daughter think that morning that she was to be God's instrument for preserving the life of one who was to become one of the greatest men this world has ever seen. Little do we know what day or hour God may send us to do some little thing on which may hang the most mighty results. We must only be ready each day and each hour, moment by moment, to obey God and ask him to guide us continually. Every life is precious in the sight of God.

C. E. Topic.

Sun., Nov. 17.—Topic—Missions: preaching and hearing. Rom. x., 13-17.

Junior C. E. Topic.**GIVING MUCH.**

Mon., Nov. 11.—The world's need.—Isa. lv., 1-3.

Tues., Nov. 12.—Our gospel meets the world's need.—John vi., 33-35.

Wed., Nov. 13.—God is blessing us.—Ps. 65, 9-11.

Thu., Nov. 14.—Let us return thanks.—Ps. 100, 3-4.

Fri., Nov. 15.—Much is required.—Luke xii., 48.

Sat., Nov. 16.—Give as unto God.—Col. iii., 23.

Sun., Nov. 17.—Topic.—Missions: generous giving.—Gen. xxviii., 16-22.

The Teacher's Interest.

The following suggestive incident, illustrating the great importance of a Sunday-school teacher bringing himself in close personal touch with his scholars, is related by 'The Examiner':

'The teacher of a Bible-class of adults, a man of great intelligence and of high social

position, observed a gradual falling away of attendance and a lessening of interest. He inquired of a candid friend if he could suggest the reason. The latter replied, "They have an idea that you don't care anything about them personally, that you just come here to teach the lesson because you think it your duty." The teacher at once adopted a different course. He made it a point to shake hands with each member of the class, both coming and going. He addressed them by name. He asked after their health and that of their families, and did all in his power to establish a personal interest between himself and them. Nor was all this a form merely. The outward acted on the inward, and he felt a new and real concern in their welfare. The effect was soon apparent. The attendance was enlarged. The scholars valued the instructions more highly, for man hears with the heart, and every session was prized as a privilege that must not be lost.'

**The Cigarette.**

HOW A HIGH CLASS BOY BECOMES ONLY SECOND RATE.

'A good method is to place the cold hard facts of the results of cigarette smoking before the boys and leave them to exercise their reason and will power,' was one of the pithy remarks made by the Rev. James Muller, of Philadelphia, during the course of a conversation with a 'Witness' reporter. Mr. Muller has a matter-of-fact way of stating facts, which impresses the truth of the argument upon the mind of the hearer in the nicest possible manner, and leads almost unconsciously to the serious consideration of the argument presented. This faculty, combined with a charming ease of manner and lack of self-consciousness, is probably what has contributed largely to Mr. Muller's success in dealing with the cigarette problem.

'I do not approve,' continued Mr. Muller, 'of the method of coaxing resorted to by so many people when dealing with children. Older people instinctively resent being coaxed, and why should it be inflicted upon the younger ones. They have reasoning faculties and have the right to exercise them and choose for themselves what course they will pursue.'

'There is no scarcity of plain facts,' he said, 'regarding the evil influence of the cigarette habit, and there is no difficulty in children understanding them. For example, there are any number of large business firms in Canada or the United States which absolutely will not employ boys who are addicted to the use of tobacco in any form. Bank managers will tell you, at least they have told me, that they do not care to have a boy who smokes about the premises. Every shrewd business man will choose the boy who does not use cigarettes rather than the boy who does.'

'Why is that?' was asked.

'Well, in the first place, it is a perfectly useless habit. It does no good and leads often to deception, and downright falsehood in word and act. The boy who smokes is acting a lie from the beginning. He is lying to his mother and to his own sense of what is right. It tends to make him secretive and unreliable.'

'Now, no boy wishes for a moment to be second grade or unreliable. If he smokes he at once places himself in the ranks of the second grade people. He cannot take the place of a boy who does not smoke. Moreover, it really makes him less active in mind and moral force than he would be if he never touched the poison. He loses quality, as it were, and he can be no longer classified as a boy of first quality. He is like damaged goods in the business world, and can no longer take his place as a boy whose faculties have never been injured, any more than a scorched piece of cloth, can compete in the bargain counter with new fabrics. No man