



FLIGHT FROM SODOM.—[GEN. 18, 22-33.]

**Twenty Times a Day.**

BY MRS. M. E. SANGSTER.

Twenty times a day, dear,  
Twenty times a day,  
Your mother thinks about you,  
At school or else at play.  
She's busy in the kitchen,  
Or she's busy up the stair,  
But like a song her heart within  
Her love for you is there.

There's just a little thing, dear,  
She wishes you would do;  
I'll whisper, 'tis a secret,  
Now mind, I tell it you.  
Twenty times a day, dear,  
And more, I've heard you say,  
"I'm coming in a minute,"  
When you should at once obey.

At once, as soldiers, instant,  
At the motion of command;  
At once, as sailors seeing  
The captain's warning hand.  
You could make the mother happy,  
By minding in this way,  
Twenty times a day, dear,  
Twenty times a day.

—Congregationalist.

**LESSON NOTES.****FIRST QUARTER.**B.C. 1898.] **LESSON VII.** [Feb. 18.]

GOD'S JUDGMENT ON SODOM.

Gen. 18. 22-33. **Memory verses, 23-26.****GOLDEN TEXT.**

Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?—Gen. 18. 25.

**OUTLINE.**

1. Prayer, v. 22-26.
2. Persistence, v. 27-33.

**PLACE.**

Plain of Mamre, near Hebron.

**CONNECTING LINKS.**

1. The birth of Ishmael (Gen. 16. 1-16).
2. The institution of circumcision, and the promise of Isaac's birth (Gen. 17. 9-27).
3. The visit of three angels to Abraham, and renewal of the promise (Gen. 18. 1-21).

**EXPLANATIONS.**

"The men"—Elsewhere alluded to as angels. "Two of the three proceeded on their way toward the Jordan valley, while the third was detained by the patriarch, probably on the heights overlooking the plain, for a sublime act of intercession."—*Whitelaw*. "Abraham drew near"—Not that the man Abraham stepped nearer to the man he had just entertained, but that the spirit of Abraham drew nearer to that God who is a Spirit, whom he among men was one of the earliest to intelligently worship. "Peradventure"—Perhaps. Abraham thought there might be found some Sodomites who were righteous; God knew there were none. The conversation presupposes that God had explained (see

verse 17) to the patriarch his intention to destroy the cities of the plain. "That the righteous should be as the wicked," etc.—An appeal to God's justice. "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"—Even in our day, with an immeasurably completer revelation to guide us, and with a nearly universal belief in an eternal life which shall righten the inequalities of life on earth, men are often perplexed by the "mysterious way" in which God moves to perform his wonders. So it is not strange that to Abraham the consignment of righteous and wicked people to the same destruction seemed to compromise and tarnish God's justice. "If I find"—God here talks after "the manner of men." He already knows well the state of every soul in the city, but would accept Abraham's proposed test. "Dust and ashes"—"Dust in his origin, ashes in his end;" spoken of the body. "Went his way"—As if God had come to the altar to meet his servant in his prayer. "Left communing"—When Abraham had ceased his prayer. "His place"—Plain, or Oak, of Mamre, near Hebron.

**PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.**

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. To pray for others?
2. That God is just?
3. That God is merciful?

**THE LESSON CATECHISM.**

1. What was the character of Sodom, where Lot, Abraham's nephew, lived? "It was a wicked city." 2. What purpose did God reveal to Abraham? "To destroy the city of Sodom." 3. What was Abraham's prayer to God? "To spare the city." 4. Upon what condition did God promise to spare Sodom? "If ten righteous were in it." 5. What question asked by Abraham shows his faith in God? Golden Text: "Shall not the Judge," etc. 6. What does the lesson teach us? "To pray earnestly, boldly and perseveringly."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The justice of God.

**CATECHISM QUESTION.**

What do you understand by the Lord's sitting at the right hand of God?

His having all authority given to him in heaven and earth.

**SOWING WILD OATS.**

BY B. C. T. MANN.

"LET the boys sow their wild oats?" No, no, no! A thousand times, no! There is plenty of good grain right at hand, and the crop will be none too good. Not all soil brings forth "a hundred-fold."

While we write, there lies, in a soldier's hospital, a man of brains, helpless suffering, moneyless, praying for death to relieve him; and before us lies one of the most pitiful letters from him that we ever set eyes on.

What's the matter? Nothing, only he sowed wild oats when he should have sowed good grain; and in after years when he tried to handle true seed, his shattered system left him no talent for harvesting.

Life is too short to be frittered away, and law—physical, mental and moral—is too unyielding to be trifled with.

**JUNIOR LEAGUE.****PRACTICAL HELPS AND HINTS.**

**Organization.**—It has proved very effective in first organizing a League to issue a card which shall be both an invitation and an admission ticket. These should be distributed at the close of Sunday-school one week in advance, and be presented at the hour of meeting.

**Enrolment.**—A book should be provided in which the secretary should enroll the names of the members and their residences; also, if desirable, their ages. The roll should be called at every meeting of the League. At the devotional hour or prayer-meeting it will answer to mark the attendance in a class-book without the roll call. In some Leagues the members answer to their names with a verse of Scripture.

A record of this kind will be found very helpful to the pastor in his work among the young. In Sunday-school work, the baptism of children, securing new members for the probationers' class, members for the Epworth League, and in "Look-out" committee work this record will be found invaluable.

**Total Attendance.**—A pleasing way of finding the total attendance is as follows: After the League is seated for the closing exercises, begin at one end of a row and let the first member say "One;" the next member, "Two," and so on, until all have been numbered. Make the total number an object lesson on the blackboard, with remarks at every meeting. If above the average, commend the League for faithfulness; if below the average, exhort to promptness.

The report of attendance should always be given at the business meeting of the Epworth League, and also at the Quarterly Meeting by the pastor.

The pledge card issued by the Methodist Publishing House can be used to advantage.

Those who have had experience in children's work know how much they prize a little card of this kind; it helps to bind them to the League with strong cords. A liberal use of printers' ink will bring a great reward. In many churches some boy can be found who owns a small press, and who can thus be worked in both to his own interest and the success of the League.

Some pastors use an Edison's mimeograph; a small-sized one is most handy in printing a little sheet for distribution at each meeting of the League.

**TO BOYS COMMENCING BUSINESS.**

Be on hand promptly in the morning at your place of business, and make it a point never to be late, and perform cheerfully every duty. Be respectful to your employers and all in authority over you, and be polite to everyone; politeness costs nothing, and it will help you wonderfully in getting along in the world. And above all, be honest and truthful. The boy who starts in life with a sound mind in a sound body, who falls into no bad habits, who is honest, truthful and industrious, who remembers with grateful love his father and mother, and who does not grow away from church and Sabbath school, has qualities of mind and heart that will insure him success to a remarkable degree, even though he is endowed with only ordinary mental capacity; for honour, truth and industry are more than genius.

Don't be foppish in your dress, and don't buy anything before you have the money to pay for it. Shun billiard saloons, and be careful how you spend the evenings. Cultivate a taste for reading, and read only good books. With a love for reading, you will find in books friends ever true and full of cheer in times of gloom, and sweet companionship for lonely hours. Other friends may grow cold and forsake you, but books are always the same. And in closing, boys, I would say again, that with truth, honesty and a living faith in God, you will succeed.

"Honour and shame from no condition rise;  
Act well your part; there all the honour lies."



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

**FRANKLIN.**

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, philosopher and statesman, was born in Boston, in 1706. He was a printer by trade, and of a scientific turn of mind. He wrote a great many valuable books and invented a great many useful things. In the illustration he is experimenting with an electrical kite to see whether lightning is electricity or not. He is receiving a shock from the key he is touching with his finger, and the boy looking on seems afraid and ready to run away at a moment's notice. After Franklin had satisfied himself of the nature of lightning he set to work to invent some means by which people and property could be safe from its ravages. The results of his efforts are the lightning rod, and some good books on the subject of electricity.

**Popular Music Books.**

During the past six or eight months the two music books which, next to our own popular *Canadian Hymnal* and the old reliable *Songs and Solos*, have had the largest sale with us have been the following:—

**THE LIFE LINE...**

A collection of Sacred Songs for the Master

BY

A. F. Meyers

Per copy, 20c.; per dozen, \$2.00

This book has had an enormous sale in the States. We have ourselves already sold more than two thousand copies.

**THE FINEST OF THE WHEAT!**Chaplain McCabe's  
New Book

Per copy, 35c.; per dozen, \$3.60

A sale of 436,000 copies is pretty fair evidence that this book pleases the people. It is a rousing collection of stirring songs for missionary and revival meetings and the Sunday-school.

**OTHER NEW BOOKS**

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