

LESSON II—January 12th, 1896.

The Boy Jesus. LUKE 2: 40-52.

(Commit to memory verses 51 and 52).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."
Luke 2: 52.

PROVE THAT—We should obey our parents. Eph. 6: 1.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 40. *What did God at first reveal to man for the rule of his obedience?* A. The rule which God at first revealed to man for his obedience was the moral law.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal.* Nos. 33, 232, 215, 207.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* The Boy Jesus. Luke 2: 40-52. *Tuesday.* The Passover feast. Deut. 16: 1-8. *Wednesday.* Ye: ihful piety. 2 Chr. 34: 1-7. *Thursday.* Seeking after wisdom. Prov. 4: 1-13. *Friday.* The Father's business. John 5: 17-24. *Saturday.* The best knowledge. 2 Tim. 3: 10-17. *Sabbath.* Growing in grace. 2 Pet. 3: 11-18. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The incident of our lesson marks Christ's coming of legal age and his entrance upon Jewish citizenship. With his first passover he assumed the duties of a full member of the Jewish church. Of the preceding years since the return to Nazareth we know nothing. Nor have we any information of the next eighteen. This is the solitary notice of the life of our Lord between the return from Egypt and his baptism at the age of thirty. It was a memorable crisis in his religious life and the story should be full of instruction to those especially who have passed the age of twelve and have not yet taken their places at the Christian Passover, the Lord's Supper.

LESSON PLAN. I. Jesus at the Feast. vs. 40-45. II. Jesus in the Temple. vs. 46-50. III. Jesus at Nazareth. vs. 51-52.

40. The child grew—The R. V. omits "in spirit." "The child grew and became strong, becoming filled with wisdom." He developed in body, mind and soul like any other child. (ch. 1: 80). **41. His parents—**Joseph was not his father, but he would take an earthly father's care of him. (Ex. 23: 14-17). **Feast—**rather "festival." What did this commemorate? (Ex. 12). **42. Twelve years old—**At this age a Jewish boy was called "a son of the law," and was required to go up to the passover. When he returned home he had to learn a trade, for he was now considered as grown up. **After the custom of the feast—**i. e., since the feast required their attention at Jerusalem. **43. Fulfilled the days—**How many days did the feast last? (Ex. 12: 15, 17). **The child Jesus—**R. V. "the boy." Up to this point he has been called "a little boy." **Tarried behind—**He was so interested in the services and the discussions that he did not notice that the others had started for home. **A day's journey—**At nightfall they looked for him amongst the caravan. They knew how thoughtful and obedient he was, so had no fears for his safety or good conduct when out of sight. **46. In the Temple—**He was in one of the rooms of the temple, where the rabbis

were teaching. **Doctors—**R. V. marg. "Teachers." Jesus was sitting among the scholars around the feet of the rabbis, who were teaching such inquirers as he. We are not to think of the meek child as assuming to instruct the aged. Every teacher likes to have the scholar ask good questions. (Matt. 7: 28; Mark 1: 22; Luke 4: 22, 32; John 7: 13, 46). **48. Amazed—**to find him so employed in such a place. **Thy father—**Perhaps Mary had not yet told Jesus the story of his birth. His answer hints that he knew it. **49. My Father's business—**R. V. "in my Father's house." Lit. "among my Father's matters." "Where my Father's affairs are carried on, there you might have known that his Son would be found." (John 2: 15). **50. They understood not—**We can understand better than either Mary or the disciples what Jesus meant on many occasions. They had not yet seen him die, nor were the epistles written. (Luke 9: 45; 18: 34). **51. Was subject unto them—**He did not think it brave or manly to disobey his parents. Read Ex. 20: 12; Prov. 1: 8; Col. 3: 20; Luke 2: 19. He took up his father's trade. (Mark 6: 3). **52. Jesus went on growing stronger and wiser and more lovable.** (1 Sam. 2: 26).

LESSONS. 1. Jesus cared for the body. 2. Jesus studied his lessons. 3. Jesus read his Bible well. 4. Jesus went to church with his parents. 5. Jesus made public profession of his faith. 6. Jesus was obedient to his parents and obliging to everybody.