

HEATHEN CHILDREN.

Does not Jesus love the children
Who now dwell in heathen lands?
Would he give them like blessing,
Lay on them his gentle hands?

Yes, oh, yes! the Saviour's pity
Limitless and ceaseless flows,
And he died that he might rescue
Them, with you, from endless woes.

And he bids you send the knowledge
Of His love to them afar, -
To the children who in darkness
See not our bright Morning Star.

Oh! be earnest that the tidings
Which to you such mercies bring
May go forth to scatter gladness,
Making all the desert sing.

CHILDREN AND TREE-FROGS.

WHEN I was a small boy I heard a minister say: "Children are like little tree-frogs." I wondered what he could mean by such words as these, for I could see no resemblance between children and tree-frogs. "It is said," remarked the minister, "that the tree-frogs become the colour of the bark of whatever kind of a tree they are on." And he said: "Little boys and girls are like them in this way: they partake of the habits of the children with whom they keep company. If they play with bad children, they will be likely soon to form the same bad habits which they practise." O how true were his words!—*Sunshine*.

LESSON NOTES.

B.C. 587.] LESSON IV. Jan. 24.

CAPTIVITY OF JUDAH.

2 Kings 25, 1-12. Commit to memory vs. 11, 12.

GOLDEN TEXT.

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. Psa. 137. 1.

OUTLINE.

1. A Besieged City, v. 1-3.
2. A Captured King, v. 4-7.
3. A Destroyed City, v. 8-10.
4. A Captive People, v. 11, 12.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

Who besieged Jerusalem in the reign of Zedekiah? Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon.

How long did his army surround it? A year and a half.

What was Zedekiah and his soldiers obliged to do? To fly by night.

Who pursued them? Nebuchadnezzar and his army.

What befell Zedekiah? He was taken prisoner.

What was the fate of his sons? They were killed before his eyes.

What was Nebuchadnezzar's command for Zedekiah? That his eyes be put out and he be thrown into prison.

What was done to Jerusalem? The holy temple and all the walls and houses were burned.

Why did they do this? So as to entirely destroy the city.

What became of the people? Many were killed.

What of those who were spared? Nearly all were carried as slaves to heathen lands. (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

Why did the people of Judah have such trouble and sorrow? Because they left the Lord of their fathers and bowed down to idols.

Did their idols give them help? No; they had no power to do so.

Could God have helped them? Yes, if they had trusted in him.

What does God always give his people? Victory over their enemies.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

Because the Jews obeyed not the commandments of God, he let the king of Babylon carry many of them away from their pleasant homes in Jerusalem as captives. The GOLDEN TEXT tells you where they went and how they felt. Did wrong-doing ever make you happy in the end? Which is better to do, disobey as they did, or as in Job 36, 11?

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The wages of sin.

Who was Lazarus? One whom Jesus loved, and raised to life when he had been dead four days.

Who was Martha? The sister of Lazarus, who was too much troubled in making a feast for the Lord.

B.C. 605.] LESSON V. [Jan. 31.

DANIEL IN BABYLON.

Jan. 1, 8-21. Commit to memory vs. 20, 21.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word. Psa. 119. 9.

OUTLINE.

1. True to God, v. 8-16.
2. Honoured of Men, v. 17-21.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

Who were among the captives carried to Babylon? Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

What did the king command them to do? To live in his palace, and eat and drink of the meat and wine from his table.

Why did he give this command? He wanted them trained for high places in his court.

What did Daniel resolve in his heart? To keep the laws of God. (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

What was one of these laws? All Israelites were forbidden to eat of meat killed by heathens.

What was Daniel's request? That he and his companions be given pulse and water to eat and drink.

What did he mean by "pulse?" A diet of fruit and vegetables.

Of what was the ruler afraid? That they would not thrive on such food.

What did Daniel ask them to do? To try it ten days.

What was the result? Daniel and his friends were healthier and fairer than those who ate of the king's meat.

What did Melzar do? He gave them pulse.

With what did God bless his faithful children? With learning and wisdom.

Of all the captive children, who were chosen by the king to stand before him? Daniel and his friends.

How did he find them? Ten times wiser than all the wise men in his country.

What always brings us blessings? Obedience to God's law.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

Daniel was tempted, but he was firm in his purpose to do right, and God blessed and prospered him.

"I can't; it would make Jesus sorry," said a little girl, when tempted to do wrong.

What do you say?

"If we from temptation flee,
Jesus all our strength will be."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—God's watchful care.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

Who was Mary, the sister of Martha? The woman that chose the good part, and sat at the feet of Jesus, and heard His word.

Who were the apostles? Those twelve disciples whom Christ chose to be the first preachers of His gospel and rulers of His Church.