

## GOLDEN TEXT

"Whoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst," John 4:14.

## DAILY READINGS

- M.—John 4: 5-15. Christ at Jacob's well.  
 T.—John 4: 16-20. True worship.  
 W.—John 4: 27-38. Christ the Revealer.  
 Th.—John 4: 39-42. Samaritans believing.  
 F.—Rev. 2: 1-7. The Water of Life.  
 S.—Isa. 55: 1-7. Without price.  
 S.—Isaiah 12. Wells of Salvation.

## LESSON PLAN

## CHRIST AT JACOB'S WELL.

I. RESTING, 5, 6.

II. ASKING, 7-9.

His request; her reply.

III. OFFERING, 10-14.

"If thou knewest"; "Whence then hast thou?" "In him a well of water."

IV. BESTOWING, 15.

In answer to her "Give me this water."

## TIME

Dec. A.D. 27, some eight months after last lesson.

## PLACE

Jacob's well, near by to Sychar, in Samaria, the modern Nablus.

## CATECHISM.

Q. 45 Which is the first commandment?

A. The first commandment is, Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Q. 46 What is required in the first commandment?

A. The first commandment requireth us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God; and to worship and glorify him accordingly.

LESSON HYMNS 97 (Ps.), 448, 126, 556, 36, 418.

## CONNECTING LINKS

Soon after the conversation with Nicodemus, our Lord left Jerusalem, and spent the summer and autumn in the country of Judea, probably in different places. Here He taught the people, His disciples baptizing them. The crowds left the ministry of John and flocked to that of Jesus. As He saw that the result might be jealousy on the part of the disciples of John, and that the Pharisees might take advantage of this feeling to make trouble and interfere with His work, He decided to leave Judea and go over to Galilee, where He might have freer fields of labor (vs. 1-3). The Province of Samaria lay between, and Christ and His disciples, travelling on foot, reached Jacob's well near Sychar on the first day's journey (v. 5). This, then, is the scene of the lesson.

## EXPOSITION.

## I. Resting, 5, 6.

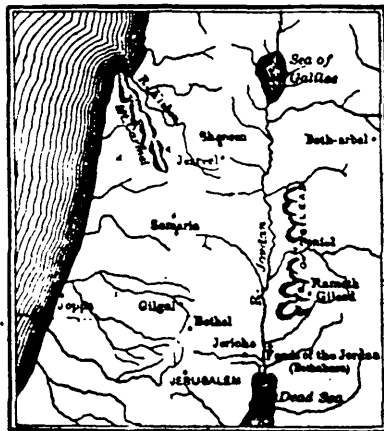
V. 5. "Sychar." See Dict. for Quarter. For "Jacob's well," likewise.

V. 6. "Wearied with His journey." Inexpressibly touching! "The sixth hour." There is dispute as to whether this was the noon hour or six o'clock in the evening. The fact that the woman came alone is rather in favor of the middle of the day, for, had it been evening, the usual time for drawing water, there would likely have been a number of others present on the same errand, and there would also have been more than a short halt on the part of Jesus and His disciples.

## II. Asking, 7-9.

V. 7. "A woman of Samaria." A Samaritan woman, though not from the city of Samaria, which was two hours' journey away. "Give me to drink." The request is a testimony to His kinship with us in our bodily needs, and so of deep interest. Moreover it was an epoch-making request. "The effect of this little word was great; it began to overturn the wall which had for ages separated the two peoples" (Lange). Jesus and the woman were alone, for His disciples "were gone away into the city."

V. 8. "To buy meat." (Rev. Ver., "Food.")



The lines were very strictly drawn as between Jews and Samaritans. The Jewish doctors said: "He who eats bread with a Samaritan is as he who eats swine's flesh"; but certain forms of food as fruits, vegetables, and uncooked eggs were exempt. (Godel.)

V. 9. The reply of the woman to His request is in the form of banter, and it is perhaps impossible to say whether it was altogether good-natured banter, or whether there was in it a spice of malice. She, in common with other Samari-