

Spiritual Longings.

Jesus, my Saviour! speak
To this dead soul of mine!
I come, and with submission seek
The gift of love divine.

Jesus, my Saviour! shed
On my dark soul the ray,
That while the thorny path I tread,
I may not lose the way.

Jesus, my Saviour! break
The chains of earth and sin,
And free and blest, let me awake,
Thy glorious smile to win.

Jesus, my Saviour! give
The strength I daily need;
Dwell thou in me, and bid me live
In thee, my strength indeed.

Jesus, my Saviour! see
How weak and faint I lie,
And bid me nearer come to thee,
And be forever nigh.

Jesus, my Saviour! now
Helpless and poor I roam;
Beneath thy cross I humbly bow,
Oh! lead me safely home.

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Home and School.

Rev. W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, MARCH 8, 1890.

A Great Opportunity.

BY THE REV. J. B. C. SAWYER, D.D.

ALL of the International Sunday-school Lessons for the year 1890 are from the Gospel of St. Luke. The prospect of a whole year devoted to the study of the life, character, and atoning work of Jesus, is a most inviting one. Such a year's work presents a most sublime opportunity—the grandest, it seems to me—that Sunday-school workers have had since the International Committee commenced its labours.

The Gospel according to St. Luke is a happy selection for the basis of such a year's study. It gives us the picture of the childhood of Jesus; it lingers lovingly over the human traits of our Lord; it contains the pearl of his parables, and the conversion of the penitent thief; and it was written by the friend and companion of the great Apostle to the Gentiles, so that it has sometimes been styled "The Gospel of St. Paul."

The Gospel itself should, of course, be carefully and prayerfully re-read, and in connection with it the Acts of the Apostles, by the same author, in which the beginning of the work of the ascended Christ is recorded.

A great variety of helps for the work of the year will be suggested and provided by the various Sunday-school societies and publication-houses.

Read, or re-read, a good "Life of Christ." Geikie's and Farrar's are well known, and easily obtainable.

The little book of Thomas Hughes', on "The Manliness of Christ," can be read in an hour or two, and will make the teacher's methods more interesting for the whole year, in most cases.

For the scenes and scenery, the manners and customs, of the Holy Land, read "The Land and the Book," by Dr. W. M. Thomson. Nothing better of its kind has yet been published.

First of all, last of all, chief of all, is the study of the Gospel itself, in both the common and the revised English versions. Carry a New Testament in the pocket. Read the Gospel again and again. Mark the passages selected for the lessons. Opposite to each put the date of the lesson, and the memoranda concerning the parallel passages in the other Gospels, or any other illustrative Scriptures. Commit the themes to memory. Commit the golden texts to memory. Commit the lessons to memory. Even the last can easily be done.

To make the personal Christ real to one's pupils, two things are fundamentally necessary:—

1. Great familiarity with the Gospel narrative.
2. Deep personal acquaintance with him.

What a year it will be, from the announcement of the forerunner to the farewell words of the ascending Lord! A year with Jesus, in Bethlehem and Nazareth, in the temple, in the streets, in the fields, in the fishing-boat, by the bier of the widow's son, and by the bedside of the ruler's daughter, serving him with Martha, and sitting at his feet with Mary, gazing on the glory of his transfiguration, witnessing with reverent and grateful sorrow his mysterious agony in the garden, brooding in contrite affection over his passion, and then rejoicing as we hear the angels say at the mouth of the vacated sepulchre, "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen!"

How our hearts will burn within us as we walk with him to Emmaus, and again he will eat with us who have so often feasted with him; and as we stand on the Mount of Ascension, we will rejoice that he went away from a few that he might ever be present with them and with all, through all ages, everywhere, to hallow all our toil, to comfort us in all our trials, to sanctify every scene, to draw the veil from Nature's mystic meanings, and make our daily life an apocalypse of Himself!

Our Children.

CHILDREN are the salvation of the race. They purify, they elevate, they stir, they instruct, they console, they reconcile, they gladden us. If, in the faults which they inherit, they show us the worst of ourselves, and so move us to a salutary repentance, they also stimulate our finer qualities; they cheat us of weary care; they preach to us, not so much by their lips as by their innocence; their questions set us thinking, and to better purpose than the syllogisms of philosophers; their helplessness makes us tender; their loveliness surprises us into pure joy.

A child is a sunbeam on a winter sea, a flower in



LESSON PICTURE.

MARCH 16.—THE DRAUGHT OF FISHES.—Luke v. 1-11.

a prison garden, the music of bells over the noise of a great city, a fragrant odor in a sick room. If any one thinks this exaggerated, I am sorry for him. It is literally true for me, and for tens of thousands who have far more right to it. My chilly friend need not have my joy if he does not believe in it, or care for it; I will not force it on him. But he shall not take mine from me.—*Bishop of Rochester, in Good Words.*

Lesson Picture.

THIS picture is a copy of one of the famous cartoons of Raphael. It has been justly remarked that the boats are too small for such stalwart fishermen, but the limits of space in the picture doubtless led to that error. The vigorous drawing of the figures is greatly commended. The cut illustrates the lesson for March 16.

Saved by a Sheep.

ON the 4th of May, in the year 1795, "when George the Third was king," there was at Portsmouth a man-of-war called the *Boyne*, a vessel of ninety-eight guns. Persons engaged on the shore were that day startled by a terrible report, and looking out toward the *Boyne* they could see that an explosion had occurred on board. The powder magazine had exploded! In a few minutes the ship was enveloped in flames, and the people on board seeking the best means of escape. A large number of persons lost their lives—some by drowning, in attempting to swim ashore. At the moment of the explosion a marine on board was seated in his berth with his wife and child—a dear little baby-boy, a year and eight months old. Finding all hopes of escape to be in vain, the marine went to the pens where were kept the cattle for the food of the crew. The animals, were of course, in a state of wild excitement and fear, but seizing a full-grown sheep, the man tied his little boy to the creature's back, and dropped them both overboard, saying, "There, turn to the land, and God be with you."

The wife now leaped into the sea, and the husband followed and supported her. At length they were picked up by a boat that had been sent out to rescue the sufferers. At the same time the sheep struck out for land with its precious burden, and was rescued by the spectators on shore, who rushed forward to meet it, and released the child. The little fellow was very soon restored to his parents, little the worse for his strange experiences and narrow escape from death.