

THE GOLDEN RULE.

To do to others as I would
That they should do to me,
Will make me honest, kind and good,
As children ought to be.

I know I should not steal or use
The smallest thing I see,
Which I should never like to lose
If it belonged to me.

And this plain rule forbids me quite
To strike an angry blow,
Because I should not think it right
If others served me so.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT FROM
SOLOMON TO ELIJAH.

LESSON IV.—JULY 24.
JEHOSHAPHAT'S REFORM.

Chron. 19. 1-11. Memorize verses 4-6.
GOLDEN TEXT.
Deal courageously, and the Lord shall
be with the good.—2 Chron. 19. 11.

THE LESSON STORY.

King Asa had trained his son Jehoahaphat to believe in the one true God and to serve him, so that when he came to reign over Judah in his father's place he sought the God of his father and not the idol Baal. Riches and honours flowed in upon him and he grew very great, and the Philistines and the Arabians, instead of making war upon him, brought him presents of money and of flocks of sheep and goats. He tried to make friends with Ahab, king of Israel, but a prophet told him that the Lord did not want him to help the ungodly or love them that hate the Lord, and so he stayed at home in Jerusalem, and went about among his own people, teaching them about the Lord God of their fathers, and bringing them back to their faith in him. He set judges in all his kingdom, and told them to judge not for man, but for the Lord. "Let the fear of the Lord be upon you," he said; "take heed and do it; for there is no iniquity with the Lord our God, nor respect for persons, nor taking of gifts." He also appointed priests and Levites in Jerusalem to judge among the people, and he told them that they must do it faithfully and with a perfect heart. He set Amariah, the chief priest, over all matters of religion, and Zebadiah over the king's matters, with the Levites as officers under them. The king ended his speech to them with the words of the beautiful

Golden Text, "Deal courageously, and the Lord shall be with the good." God always prospered the nation when the king and the people obeyed him.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Who was Jehoshaphat? The seventh king of Judah.

Who was his father? Asa.

How had he been brought up? To worship the true God.

How did he begin his reign? By seeking God's blessing.

Was he blessed? Yes.

What did he do when reproved? He tried to do better.

What did he begin teaching his people? The law of the Lord.

What did he give them? Judges in every city.

What did he give the judges? Wise counsel.

What did he do at Jerusalem? Made judges of the priests.

How did he tell them to judge? Faithfully, and with a perfect heart.

Can you give his last words to them? Golden Text.

LESSON V.—JULY 31.

OMRI AND AHAB.

1 Kings 16. 23-33. Memorize verses 30-33.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people.—Prov. 14. 34.

THE LESSON STORY.

While two good kings had been reigning over the house of David, or the kingdom of Judah, the kingdom of Israel had been falling lower and lower. After Nadab, the son of Jeroboam, came Baasha, who gained the kingdom by killing Nadab. His son Elah followed him, and he was slain by one of the captains, Zimri, who reigned seven days, when all Israel made Omri, captain of the host, king. All were evil men, and it is not pleasant to think about that time. Omri reigned twelve years. He bought the hill Samaria and built the city of Samaria, which still is called by that name; there also was he buried. There was no great prophet in his day, but the Lord was about to send one. Ahab, the son of Omri, was more wicked than any of the kings who went before him, and he was led into a worse state by taking for a wife Jezebel, a daughter of the king of the Zidonians, a worshipper of Baal and a cruel woman. The Lord gave Ahab a victory over the Syrians twice, but his heart was not given to the one true God. He made an altar to Baal in the temple that he had built in Samaria. He also made a grove such as

the heathen had, and did more to turn his people from the true God than all the kings of Israel that were before him. In our next lesson we shall learn about a great and fearless prophet, Elijah, whom God sent to this wicked king Ahab to warn him and to announce to him the punishment which God was about to send upon the king and all the people because of their wickedness.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

What happened after Solomon died? The kingdom was divided.

Who reigned over Judah? Rehoboam. And who over Israel? Jeroboam.

Who followed Rehoboam? Abijah, Asa, and Jehoshaphat.

Who followed Jeroboam? Nadab, Baasha, Elah, and Zimri.

Who was Omri? A captain of the host who was made king of Israel.

How long did he reign? Twelve years. What city did he build? Samaria.

Who followed him in Israel? His son, Ahab.

Whom did he marry? Jezebel, a heathen princess.

What did Ahab do? He built a temple and altar to Baal.

What can you say of him? He was worse than his fathers.

WHO WAS THE GENTLEMAN?

One cold winter day an Italian stood at a street corner grinding from his organ some doleful music. A group of children, large and small, were gathered around him. Among them were several good-sized boys who seemed disposed to make sport of the organist. One of them said to the others: "Boys, I'm going to hit the old fellow's hat." In a moment he had a snowball in his hand, and he threw it so violently that it knocked the Italian's hat off, and it fell into the gutter.

What do you suppose the organ-grinder did? Strike the boy, knock him down, shake his fist at him, curse him, swear at him? Some men would have done this after being treated in that way. But he did nothing of the sort. He stooped down and picked up his hat, knocked the snow from it, and put it on his head. He then turned to the rude boy, bowed gratefully, and said: "Now I'll play you a tune to make you merry." Who was the gentleman, the boy or the Italian?

Evil thoughts are worse enemies than lions or tigers; for we can keep out of the way of wild beasts, but bad thoughts win their way everywhere. The cup that is full will hold no more. Keep your head and heart full of good thoughts, that bad ones may find no room to enter.