

gloomy cell. It was as if a window opened from it into heaven itself.

The next wonder is the earthquake which shook the prison to its very foundations. Explain how this would force the doors open and loose the chains and fetters of the prisoners. Picture the terror of the jailer, when he awoke and saw what had happened. Bring out the reason for his resolving to kill himself, and how he was saved from the awful crime of taking his own life.

The conversion of the jailer is the third wonder of the Lesson,—and it is by far the greatest of them all. Call for his question asked of the missionaries, making it clear that he was seeking deliverance, not merely from punishment by his superiors, but from his sins, now appearing to him as a dreadful load. Dwell on the answer of the missionaries, bringing out, by some simple illustrations, what it is to believe,—just to trust in Jesus for all that He has promised to do for us. Let the wonderful change in this rough, perhaps very wicked, man, be

brought out,—the points are very plain in vs. 33, 34.

The last wonder is the magistrate's terror of the prisoners. Have the reasons for this given. They had beaten and imprisoned Roman citizens (a word about the rights of these) without a fair trial, and they were therefore afraid of losing their office. How they tried to get the prisoners to go away from the city privately, and how Paul demanded that they should come and publicly set them free, and how at last they came and brought them out of the prison, beseeching them to leave the city,—these points in vs. 37-39 should be brought out by questions. Discuss the reason for Paul's acting thus,—it was probably, in order that the church just founded in Philippi should not suffer through its founders lying under a false charge of wrong-doing. Then follows the visit to the house of Lydia and the departure from Philippi.

A few earnest words should be spoken at the close about the way of salvation, which is the same for us as for the jailer.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

[SEE SKETCH MAP, LESSON III.]

Philippi was founded by Philip of Macedonia in the middle of the fourth century B. C., and named after him. It was situated in eastern Macedonia, on a steep hill rising to the edge of a great plain stretching far inland to the north and northwest. To the southwest, and about 9 miles distant, lay its port of Neapolis. The road connecting the two places was part of the Egnatian Way, the great Roman road running through Macedonia, and on towards Italy. In B. C. 168 the

city fell into the hands of the Romans, by whom the whole of Macedonia was divided into four regions. Of these, the first had Amphipolis for its capital, and included Philippi. In B. C. 42, Brutus and Cassius, the leaders of the party which had brought about the death of Julius Cæsar, were defeated outside the walls of Philippi by Anthony and Octavius, afterward the Emperor Augustus, who made Philippi a Roman colony. (See Light from the East.)

ADDED HINTS AND HELPS

In this section will be found further assistance under various headings.

Some Test Questions

1. How did Paul and Silas come to be cast into prison?
2. Describe their condition. How did they occupy themselves?
3. How were the prisoners affected by this? What was God's answer to His servants' prayers?
4. Explain how the prison doors were

opened and the prisoners' "bands" loosed.

5. Why did the jailer resolve to kill himself? By whom was he prevented from doing so?

6. What question did he ask of Paul and Silas? What was the answer?

7. Who else were saved besides the jailer himself? By what outward sign did they show their acceptance of Christ?

8. Who were the serjeants? On what errand did the magistrates send them?

9. What reply did Paul send back? What effect had this on the magistrates?