

barley and other grains into flat, round cakes, a handbreadth wide and about an inch thick. The door is . . . shut. The door of an Eastern house leads through a blank street wall into a passage through which is reached the inner court, round which the rooms are built. In bed. The Eastern bed is simply a mat and quilt to lie upon and a coverlet. **Importunity**; shamelessness (compare ch. 18:5).

**III. ENCOURAGEMENT IN PRAYER.—9, 10.** And I say. The story just told how the urgent neighbor fared; Jesus will tell how His disciples will fare, if they pray. **Ask . . . seek . . . knock**; keep asking, seeking, knocking as a habit. Prayer must be continuous and earnest. **Receiveth . . . findeth . . . opened**; a threefold assurance that God will answer prayer.

**11-13. A father.** A friend (vs. 5-8) can be induced to help one; how much more a father! **A loaf** (Rev. Ver.) . . . a stone. Stones might look like the flat Oriental loaves. **A fish . . . a serpent.** The stone would be useless, the serpent dangerous. **Egg . . . a scorpion.** The scorpion rolled up might resemble an egg. Bread, dried fish and hard-boiled eggs are ordinary food in the East. **V. 13** argues that, if imperfect earthly fathers will give their children what is good, much more will God, who is our Father, give us what we need. **Holy Spirit.** Matt. 7:11 has "good things." The Holy Spirit is God's best gift.

**EASTERN HOUSES**

Travelers who visit **ES SALT**, a prosperous town east of the Jordan, find in it houses like that which Jesus had in mind when He spoke about the unfriendly neighbor. They are well built of stone, and are tidily kept. The windows, however, are in many cases to be found only in the upper story rooms, and heavy blank walls on the ground level give even a small stone building an air of fortress-like seclusion. With the street door shut and barred, it might be difficult to rouse a sleepy **Es Salt** neighbor, especially if he did not wish to be roused.

**LESSON QUESTIONS**

1 What mark of Luke's Gospel is found in v. 1? Mention some occasions on which Jesus prayed. Through what region was He now passing? What custom of Jewish teachers is here referred to? Where did Paul write, "Pray without ceasing?" (1 Thess. 5:17.)

2 How many petitions in the Lord's prayer have to do with God's honor, kingdom and will? What does "our" signify? How are we taught to pray to God with confidence? Why should we come to Him with reverence? What is meant by "name"? What does the third petition mean? How is the kingdom of God described in Rom. 14:17?

3, 4 How many petitions refer to our own needs? Explain "daily bread." What is the condition of forgiveness? Does the last petition contradict James 1:12?

5-8 What Jewish law of hospitality does v. 7 suggest? Describe Eastern loaves. How were Eastern houses built? What were Eastern beds like?

9-13 By what argument does Jesus here prove that God will answer prayer?

**FOR DISCUSSION**

1. Does Jesus discourage provision for the future?
2. Are all prayers always answered?

**A PRAYER**

Inspire us, Lord, by the example of Solomon and Hezekiah and Daniel, of Peter and John and the modern successors of these servants of God, men and women who have learned to take everything to Him in prayer. Give us more faith, more desire for communion with Thee, more hunger to be in Thy company always. And may it be so evident that we have been with Thee that others also will wish to come with us and learn of Thee. Amen.

*Prove from Scripture—That God is our Father.*

**Shorter Catechism—Ques. 85.** *What doth God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse due to us for sin? A.* To escape the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin, God requireth of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance unto life, with the diligent use of all the outward means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption.

**The Question on Missions—5.** *How does a field worker start a Sunday School? The missionaries are asked to arrange meetings for all the places under their charge where there should be Sunday Schools but are none. Where this cannot be done, the field worker arranges the meeting himself by announcing it in the public school and by visiting the people.*

**Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise:** 80 (Supplemental Lesson), 25, 293, 76 (Ps. Sel.), 16 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY), 24.

**FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS**

1. How many parts has the Lord's Prayer, and with what does each deal? . . . . .
2. How does the parable of the friend at midnight assure us that God will answer prayer? . . . . .
3. By what further argument does Jesus prove our prayers will be answered? . . . . .

**SIGN NAME HERE.** . . . . .