

er for Sodom, it may be noticed: 1—What use he makes of the knowledge confided to him. He knows the doom awaiting them: they do not,—and, as a friend, he stands in the gap and tries to avert it. 2—He does not pray that the wicked may be spared for their own sake, but for the sake of the righteous he believes to be there. Our prayers can be heard only for the sake of Jesus, the righteous one. 3—He is charitable in his judgment, and hopes there may be not a few righteous men in Sodom. 4—God spares the wicked for the sake of the righteous among them. Ten would have saved Sodom. Why are we spared? See Isa. i. 9. 5—How humble, and yet earnest, is Abraham in prayer! 6—Be thankful for the Great Advocate.

LESSONS.

1. Be courteous and respectful to all, especially seniors and superiors.

2. Be kind to all, especially strangers, and do it in such a way as not to hurt their feelings. Lev. xix. 33, 34.

3. We should believe God's word, without reserve. Our question should not be, How can such things be? but, Has God said it?

4. It is vain to try to hide anything from God. Isa. xxix. 15.

5. Beware of trying to cover sin by a lie. Remember Ananias and Sapphira. Acts v.

6. It is good to be a friend of God. John xv. 14, 15.

7. God sets a special value upon family religion.

8. God's judgment upon others should be a warning to us.

9. Wicked people are still under the government of God, and he will call them to account.

DOCTRINE TO BE PROVED.

The prayers of good men have power with God. Gen. xix. 29; xx. 17; Ex. ix. 33; xxxii. 10-14; Num. xxi. 7-9; 1 Kings xiii. 6; Dan. ii. 18-23; Hos. xii. 3, 4; Matt. vii. 7-11; xxi. 22; Acts xii. 5-11; James v. 16.

Fireside Reading.

The Ships in the Ice.

Some years ago an emigrant ship left England for this country, having on board nearly four hundred and fifty passengers. For ten days they had fine weather and light winds, when a furious gale sprung up from the south and drove them northward. After this gale had lasted for a week, the wind changed to the north and the weather be-

came very cold. One very dark night, the man whose duty it was to look ahead of the ship, to see if there was anything in the way, saw something large and white floating just before them. He at first thought it was a ship and sung out as loud as he could, "Ship ahead! starboard! hard a starboard!" which meant, that the man at the helm must turn the ship to the left, to prevent striking the object in the way. At these words, the second mate, who had charge of the vessel at the time looked out on the dark water and at once cried out: "It's no ship. It's an iceberg! All hands wear ship!" The sailors sprang to their posts: the captain and other officers, and those of the crew who had been sleeping below, rushed to the deck startled by the noise, and all helped by skilful management of the sails to "wear," or turn the ship away from the fearful mountain of ice before them. They were none too soon, for they barely cleared the ice, which had they struck it would have broken the ship to pieces.

They remained in this position till morning, fearing to move in the darkness lest they should strike the ice. When the light came they found themselves surrounded by fields of ice, having several icebergs on them looking like mountains on a plain. There was only one way to escape and that was by a narrow channel leading to the north-east; and fearful to tell, this passage was gradually closing up. But with all sails set, and a fair wind, they managed at length to get through; and they reached the open sea only a few moments before the ice came together, and the channel was closed.

In the meantime there was, about three miles to the westward, another ship in a far more dangerous situation, for she was completely surrounded by ice, and it was rapidly closing in upon her. Nearer and nearer it came. There was no way of escape for the other ship. The poor wretches on board fired guns and hoisted signals of distress, but alas! none could help them. Those in the other vessel had as much as they could do to save themselves. So the ice, like a great giant moved nearer to them with its huge arms, until at last it closed up all around the ship and broke it into pieces as easily as a child would crush an egg-shell. The stout timbers were broken, the tall masts tottered and fell, and in a few moments all was over. Prepared or unprepared, they went to meet their God!

If a little boy is tempted to do wrong—to lie, or steal, or swear, or break the Sabbath—he must remember the ship in the ice. Conscience will keep a look-out for you, and when danger comes will cry, as the man did on the ship, "starboard! hard a starboard!" You must then "wear ship."—That is, you turn your heart away from those great icebergs lying, or stealing, swear-