

prophet named Ezekiel, had been carried away captive some time before this. God had told Ezekiel to write and warn his people about the trouble that would come upon them, but they did not heed and so this punishment was sent.

Dark and Bright Days—We may call this the "dark day" in the history of God's people of Judah, but our lesson tells of a brighter day to come for God's people. (Outline a sunless scene, —wind blown trees, rain, etc.; and opposite this a sunlit scene.)

Golden Text—Print and repeat. God tells Ezekiel to tell his people that God is their shepherd and he will go after his "scattered sheep" and bring them home and feed them and care for them as a good shepherd would do. Read to the class, vs. 11-16.

A Shepherd Promised—Then the prophet tells of a shepherd who shall come to tend

these scattered sheep that are brought home. He tells of a happy time when that shepherd shall watch over his flock. Then shall there be no danger from wild beasts, and the "sheep" would live in peace and plenty.

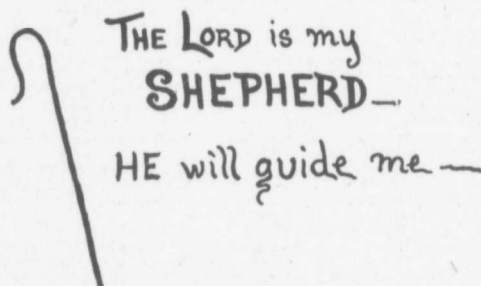
By all this God meant his captive people to know that he meant to bring them home to their own land, and he would send the long promised Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd.

The Shepherd Knows his Sheep
—How happy this should make

us feel! Jesus knows each "lamb" of his flock; knows each one of you and is watching over you all the time. He is calling you to follow him.

Sing Hymn 522, Book of Praise, or one or more who have previously practised this hymn may sing it for the class.

What the Lesson Teaches Me—THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD.



THE LORD is my
SHEPHERD—
HE will guide me—

FROM THE PLATFORM

THE SCATTERED AND SEEKING
SHEEP THE SHEPHERD

Begin by asking the scholars for the figure which the prophet uses here in order to describe the exiles of Israel. He calls them THE SHEEP (Print as above). What had happened to these sheep? They had become SCATTERED (Fill in). Ask for some one to explain in what sense they were scattered sheep. For one thing, they were away from their own land. But they had become scattered or lost through sin as well. Have one of the scholars read v. 16 of the lesson passage. Then ask how God is described in our lesson. He is described as THE SHEPHERD (Print as above). What relation has the shepherd to the sheep? He seeks them (Fill in the words AND and SEEKING). Explain what it means to have God seeking us when we are lost. Connect the lesson with the Golden Text, and with Christ's claim to be the Good Shepherd.