

TWO LESSONS.

There's a lesson in subtraction

That all my lads and lasses

Should master to perfection

Before they're granted "passes."

'Tis that naughty little "cannot,"

The dark bane of true endeavour.

From your life-slate, now, my children,

Pray subtract it once for ever.

Then a doughty little problem

In addition you must man,

And add to good intentions

A masterful "I can."

And you'll find, when life is over,

And the sum of all is done,

These rules have been the watchword

Of all the people who have won.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

LESSON IV. [July 26.]

SAUL REJECTED AS KING.

1 Sam. 15. 13-23. Memorize verses 20-22.

GOLDEN TEXT.

To obey is better than sacrifice.—1 Sam. 15. 22.

THE LESSON STORY.

Saul was humble-minded when he was chosen to be king; but he grew not in the Lord's wisdom, but in his own, which led him into many mistakes. The wisdom of men often proves to be foolishness, and leads into great trouble. Saul was strong in battle, and conquered the enemy; but he offered sacrifices, made hasty vows, and did not follow the Lord's commands in all things. When, after his battle with the Amalekites, Samuel went to Saul to ask why he had brought the oxen and sheep of the enemy, he said, "To sacrifice to the Lord thy God." That was not what the Lord had told him to do.

Then Samuel talked plainly to him, and reminded him that once he was little in his own sight, but now he was no longer quick to obey; and when Saul urged that the cattle and sheep were to offer as sacrifices to the Lord, Samuel said, "To obey is better than sacrifice." He also told him that the Lord had rejected him from being king over Israel. Saul was ready enough then to say, "I have sinned," and to beg Samuel to pray with him; but Samuel knew that his heart was not fixed to do God's will, and he turned away, yet at last turned back and worshipped with Saul. Then he left him and "came no more to see Saul until the day of his death."

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

What had Saul grown to be? Wise in his own eyes.

Was he always so? No.

What often makes us proud? To have honours given us.

What did Saul do for Israel? Led them in their wars.

What sin did he commit? He offered sacrifices.

Who only could do that? The high priest.

What other things did he do? He disobeyed the Lord.

What did Samuel do? He talked plainly to Saul.

What words of his should we keep in our hearts? Golden Text.

What words made Saul tremble? "The Lord hath rejected thee."

What did Saul say? "I have sinned."

What did he beg Samuel to do? To pray for him.

LESSON V. [August 2.]

SAUL REJECTED AS KING.

1 Sam. 16. 4-13. Memorize verses 11-13.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.—1 Sam. 16. 7.

THE LESSON STORY.

Samuel mourned for Saul as if he had been dead, for he saw that his heart had turned away from God. He could not help Saul, so he went no more to see him. But suddenly one day the Lord spoke to Samuel and bade him mourn no more for Saul, but to fill his horn with oil and go to Bethlehem, for he had chosen a king from among the sons of Jesse. Samuel said, "How can I go?" for he thought 'Saul would kill him. But the Lord told him to take a heifer and go and offer sacrifices there, as he had done many years throughout the land of Israel. As the people came to the sacrifice he looked on Eliab, Jesse's son, and said, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before him." But the Lord said, "Look not on his countenance; nor on the height of his stature, because I have refused him; for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." Then all Jesse's sons passed before Samuel, and when he asked if these were all Jesse said that the youngest was keeping the sheep. So they sent for him. He had a fresh and beautiful face, and was of a noble figure, and the Lord said to Samuel, "Arise, anoint him: for this is he." So Samuel anointed David, and the Spirit of the Lord rested on him from that time.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Did Samuel go to see Saul again? No. Why? He could not help him any more.

Where did the Lord tell Samuel to go? To Bethlehem.

To whose house? The house of Jesse.

What was he to take? Anointing oil and a heifer.

What was he to do with the heifer? Offer sacrifices.

What with the oil? Anoint a son of Jesse.

Which son did Samuel think would be king? Eliab.

What did the Lord say? Golden Text.

Who was brought from the sheepfolds? David.

Had he the look of a king? He was beautiful.

What did Samuel do? Anointed him at God's command.

THAT ROSY PEACH.

That peach did look so nice, so round, so rosy and ripe. Grandma had brought it home for grandpa. Fred Perkins stood looking at it; he walked toward it; he touched it; then he smelled it; and, alas! he bit it; then he ate it all. He threw the stone out of the open window, and it fell at the foot of an evergreen hedge. But Fred was very unhappy; he wished he had not touched that peach. Next year, at vacation-time, Fred went again to visit his grandparents. "Fred," said grandpa, "come into the garden and see how things have grown since you were here." Soon they came to the evergreen hedge. "Why, what is this?" asked grandpa; "a peach-tree; a little thing, indeed, but it will make a large tree some day." "Why, how did it come here?" exclaimed Fred. "I don't know," said grandpa; "I haven't had a peach in the house since one day last year grandma brought home a fine one; but I never had a chance to try it, for it disappeared mysteriously—why Fred, what is the matter?" he suddenly exclaimed, for Fred looked strangely confused, and was blushing warmly, while his heart thumped away at a great rate. Then he confessed that he had taken the peach, and was forgiven. His wrong-doing came from coveting the peach when he first saw it.—*Westminster Junior Quarterly*.

A SWEET MOUTH.

BY MARY WINSTON.

Claude's mamma was very sorrowful, for her little boy had told a lie. Just then Auntie Marion and baby Violet came. Claude loved babies, and wee Violet was so cunning. He ran to kiss her, but mamma quietly put him aside.

"No, Claude, you cannot kiss baby Violet to-day. No one with a naughty mouth that has spoken a lie should kiss the sweet lips of a little innocent baby."

Claude burst into tears, and crept away by himself. What a wretched thing it was to have a naughty mouth!

Claude was very unhappy until he had asked God to forgive him, and give him a sweet mouth again.