

nothing for the water, but it saved their lives, and was worth more to them than a fortune. Walking beside the river, they found their way to the place where they wanted to go. The river was their salvation—that is, they would have been lost without it; they would have died without it. With it they were saved, and were safe as they walked beside it.

Our Father in heaven gives us many pictures of what his love is, and in our lesson to-day we have a story of a river which is to help us to understand what God has given us. The same prophet Ezekiel who saw the strange vision of the dry bones was shown the vision of the river. It was in a sad time, in the twenty-fifth year of the captivity, when all things seemed darkest, that God showed his servant in a vision this wonderful river.

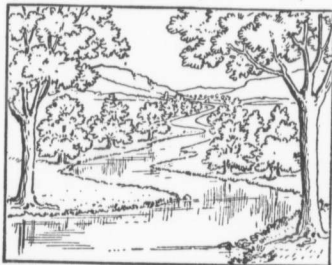
Where did the river come from? In the vision Ezekiel had seen a beautiful temple, the house of God. Now, as he looked, he saw a stream of water coming out from under the door, eastward. The beginning of the wonderful stream was in the holy temple of God.

How the waters grew. In his vision a man showed Ezekiel the strange sights. This man had a line to measure, and as the two went forward the man measured about fifteen hundred feet and took the prophet through the waters. They came up to the ankles. As much farther on they came up to the knees—still growing deeper and wider. Then as they went through again the waters came to the waist, and after measuring again, fifteen hundred feet, the waters were a great river that could not be passed over. The river flowed into a sea that was deadly and its waters were healed, and wherever the river came there was life, and on each side grew trees with unfading leaves and new fruit each month, and the leaves were for medicine.

What did the vision mean? The title of our lesson calls this river of the vision "The River of Salvation" because the Gospel of Jesus, the good news that saves men, is like this. Our souls are thirsty. They need Jesus's love and forgiveness. He freely saves and makes clean the heart as water saves the body from dying and makes it clean. No matter how many come, there is enough for all. The river of the vision came from the temple; the river of salvation comes from God. Sweet promises and everything good grow beside this river, as trees grew beside the one Ezekiel saw. As that river grew broader and deeper so the news and knowledge of Jesus will spread and grow till all shall hear of him. Our gifts help to make a way for this river to flow to heathen lands.

What shall we do? There may be water enough,

but unless one drinks he will die. See on our shield, "Drink and live." [Drill on text.]



Kindergarten Hints.

GOLDEN TEXT: "The whole earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." Isa. 11, 9.

MEMORY VERSE: John 4, 14.

HINTS ON METHOD.

UNDERLYING THOUGHT: God, the Source from which flow all vivifying influences. Simplified: God, the Source of life for body and soul.

LESSON STORY.

Were you ever very thirsty at a place where you could get no water? Were the plants in your garden ever thirsty when they could get no water? While you were thirsty could you take the least comfort in work or play? What would surely happen to you and your plants if no water were given you ever? If, as you tell me, the water comes from the clouds, gathered from the seas, who holds the seas "in the hollow of his hand?" Have you ever played down by a brook and noted the richness of the grass and flowers on its banks? Why were they brighter and happier than the grass and flowers back in the field? Parallel thought to develop: Why are those who live close to the Lord, close to the Source of all life-giving influences, brighter and happier than those who, consciously or unconsciously, shut themselves away from the Source of spiritual life?

In the country where Jesus lived there are deserts [describe briefly]. Sometimes large companies of people have to travel through these deserts to get home. We tell of the perils for man and beast in these desolate wastes. Other places there are which would be deserts if they were not watered at great labor and expense. We describe the rich tropical growth resulting from this care. One day Jesus was thirsty after a long journey through the hot sand. He stopped to rest by a deep well of water. We tell the story as found in John 4, emphasizing: "Whosoever drinketh the water that I shall give him shall