

# THE DIMINISHED ARMY HIS DEVICE OF GIDEON EFFECT OF MIDIAN

pleteness of this defeat. In closing, call for the Golden Text, and emphasize the lesson that we, too, in God's strength, can gain the victory over our temptations.

## Lesson IV.

## RUTH'S WISE CHOICE

April 25, 1920

Ruth 1 : 14-22.

**GOLDEN TEXT**—Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.—Ruth 1 : 16.

14 And they lifted up their voice, and wept again : and Orpah kissed her mother in law ; but Ruth clave unto her.

15 And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods : return thou after thy sister in law.

16 And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee : for whither thou goest, I will go ; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge : thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God :

17 Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried : the Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.

18 When she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.

19 So they two went until they came to Beth'lehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Beth'lehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Na'omi ?

20 And she said unto them, Call me not Na'omi, call me Mar'a ; for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me.

21 I went out full, and the Lord hath brought me home again empty : why then call ye me Na'omi, seeing the Lord hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me ?

22 So Na'omi returned, and Ruth the Moabit'ess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the country of Mo'ab ; and they came to Beth'lehem in the beginning of barley harvest.

### THE LESSON PLAN

I. Leaving Moab, 14-18.

II. Coming to Bethlehem, 19-22.

### HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M.—Looking toward Canaan, Ruth 1 : 1-10. T.—Ruth's wise choice, Ruth 1 : 14-22. W.—Ruth glean'g, Ruth 2 : 1-12. T.—Ruth favored, Ruth 2 : 13-22. F.—A kinsman redeemer, Ruth 4 : 1-11. S.—A name in Israel, Ruth 4 : 14-22. S.—The promise and our responsibility, Heb. 4 : 1-16.

**Primary Catechism**—Ques. 87. Which is the Eighth

Commandment ? A. The Eighth Commandment is "Thou shalt not steal."

**Shorter Catechism**—Review Questions 88-90.

**Lesson Hymns**—Book of Praise : 218. (571), 225 (475), 297 (519), 122 (480), 493 (609), 320 (606). (The numbers of the Praise Selections in brackets are those of the new Book of Praise.)

**Special Scripture Reading**—Ps. 91. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.)

**Lantern Slide**—For Lesson, B. 379, Naomi and Her Daughter-in-law. (Slides are obtained from PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATIONS, Church and Gerrard Sts., Toronto.)

## THE LESSON EXPLAINED

**Time and Place**—At the close of the period of the Judges ; somewhere in the Moabite country southeast of the Dead Sea, and afterwards at Bethlehem, about 6 miles south of Jerusalem.

**Connecting Links**—The story of Ruth is an incident belonging to the end of the period of the Judges. Boaz (ch. 4 : 22) was the great grandfather of David. It is a story not of warlike exploit, but of family life and

romantic love, preserved perhaps because Ruth, though a foreigner, was one of the ancestors of David, king of Israel. The story is a simple and touching one. Elimelech, of the tribe of Judah, removes, in a time of famine, with his wife Naomi and his two sons to Moab, where his sons marry daughters of Moab. After some ten years, he and his two sons die, leaving thus three widows. Naomi desires to return to her former home and