

personal contact. How did the reply affect Jesus? What did he say to his followers? Vs. 10-12. Why should greater faith be expected from Jews than from Gentiles? Explain that the Jews always pictured the ushering in of the Messiah's reign with a great banquet from which all Gentiles, of course, would be excluded, and discuss what Jesus here says about it. Dwell on the expression, outer darkness,—away from the glory and presence of God who is the light of heaven. (See Rev. 22: 16.)

Press home the truth that only faith in Jesus will admit Jew or Gentile into the kingdom of heaven. Read v. 13 in unison and note the reward of the centurion's faith.

Have one pupil read v. 35 and have another read ch. 4: 23. At all times Jesus "went about doing good." After the rest of the lesson passage has been read silently, ask why Matthew used the word but, v. 6. Show that all the conditions described in these verses still exist and close by discussing how Juniors can be laborers in God's harvest.

FOR TEACHERS IN THE PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

Teachers in the Primary Department should study carefully the scholars' materials in the PRIMARY QUARTERLY.

AIM OF THE LESSON. To teach that Jesus has power not only to protect us from danger and heal our ills, but to forgive our sins.

INTRODUCTION. When the Sermon on the Mount was finished, the Bible says the people were "astonished" at what they had heard. Jesus did not preach like any one else. They went away filled with a strange wonder.

But when Jesus came down from the mountain he did not get to go away and rest. Wherever he went a great crowd followed him. In that country even now there are many more sick and blind and deaf people than there are in our land, and in Jesus' time, there were a great many more than there are now, because there were no hospitals or doctors. We have learned in other lessons how Jesus spent day after day healing one after another of the sick people that were brought to him, until he had scarcely time to eat or sleep, and his body grew very, very tired, but he was always gentle and kind and patient.

In the prayer that Jesus taught, he said, "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors," which means that we ask God to forgive us our sins just as we try to forgive the people who sin against us. No one but God can truly forgive our sins, and Jesus wanted the people to believe that he was not just a great doctor to heal their bodies, but that he was God who could forgive their sins and make them ready for the heavenly home.

To-day's lesson has so many stories in it, that we should almost have to stay here all

day if we told them all, so we will choose just one of them, and then if there is time perhaps your teacher can tell you another.

THE STORY. Much of the time Jesus taught out of doors, but this story tells about what happened when he was preaching in a house. The houses there are not like ours. (Show a picture.) They are low and flat and often are built around a court which is like a small, paved yard. Often the flat roof is made of tiles. Perhaps this day in Capernaum Jesus had gone into this house to preach, and the people had crowded in until the rooms and the court were packed so full that not another person could crowd in. Outside there may have been many sick people, and perhaps some of them waited all day for Jesus.

But along came four men carrying a sort of thin mattress on which lay a sick man. He had the palsy, a disease which had never been cured, but they had heard of Jesus and they believed that Jesus could heal him. We do not know how far they had come, and how the poor man had suffered as they carried him along, and now, after all, they could not get in! I think that in your town or mine, enough people would have come out of the house to let them carry that sick man in, but those people, you see, were just beginning to hear about the Christian way of doing things, and we have been taught it all our lives.

The people used the flat roofs of their houses almost as much as they used the