

everything else in the world. What is the first thing that makes the father glad? Set down

RIGHT WORDS
REVERENT HEARTS
RESTRAINED APPETITES } MAKE HAPPY HOMES

Right Words on the board and shew how kind, gentle, loving, respectful, thoughtful words make everyone happy. There is something else needed to make the home happy all day long, what is it?

Write *Reverent Hearts*. It is sweet to live like Jesus, never grieving a loving Father by doing wrong. When Jesus lives in the heart and in the home there all will be peace and joy. There is something which makes many unhappy homes. Refer to strong drink and its consequences and write *Restrained Appetites* on the board and complete the sentence by writing *Make* between. We need the help of the Holy Spirit to overcome the evil nature. We must give our hearts into Christ's care if we would have them guided in the way.

LESSON XII—December 20th, 1896.

The Birth of Christ. MATT. 2: 1-12.

(Commit to memory verses 10, 11).

GOLDEN TEXT: "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." Luke 2: 10.

PROVE THAT—If we come to Jesus he will receive us. John 6: 37.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Questions 76, 77, 78.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 17, 66, 233, 21.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday*. The birth of Christ. Matt. 2: 1-12. *Tuesday*. The sojourn in Egypt. Matt. 2: 13-23. *Wednesday*. The angel choir. Luke 2: 8-20. *Thursday*. Simeon's prophecy. Luke 2: 25-35. *Friday*. Filled with wisdom. Luke 2: 36-40. *Saturday*. Sent to save. 1 John 4: 7-14. *Sabbath*. The incarnate God. John 1: 1-14. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

EXPOSITORY NOTES.

INTRODUCTORY. Again the joyful season has come round when nearly the whole christian world remembers the birth of Jesus. As we gather in spirit around his manger-cradle let charity and love reign in our hearts. We can best celebrate the visit of the wise men who brought costly gifts to the Babe of Bethelhem by giving freely to those whose homes are less comfortable and whose lives are not so bright as our own. If Christ was born on the 25th December, the Presentation in the Temple would have taken place on February 2nd, forty days after, and the visit of the wise men was probably shortly after that. Had they come before with their costly gifts, it is not likely that Mary would have made the offering of the poor when she presented him to the priest.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Child Sought. vs. 1-2. II. The Child Feared. vs. 3-8. III. The Child Worshipped. vs. 9-12.

1. Now when Je'sus was born in Beth'lehem of Ju-de'a in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Je-ru'sa-lem—Bethlehem is so called (Judges 17: 7) to distinguish it from another Bethlehem in Galilee, about six miles West of Nazareth, in the tribe of Zebulon (Josh. 19: 13). The Herod here mentioned was surnamed "the great." The wise men, or magi, formed a sacerdotal caste amongst the Persians. They devoted them-

selves to the study of science, especial, astronomy, astrology and medicine. Daniel was at one time their president (Dan. 2: 48). From their three-fold gifts tradition has made them three in number, and from supposing that they fulfilled such prophecies as Ps. 68: 30, 32; 72: 10; Isa. 49: 7; 60: 3, 10, they have been called kings and their names even are given. No doubt they were men of rank and wealth and travelled with a considerable retinue, for their visit and questions attracted the attention of