

A TALE OF AN EMPTY SWING.

Swinging in the tree-top,
Playing acorn ball,
Chasing cousin Chipmunk
Over the stone wall.

Friendly with his neighbors,
Featherfolk all say:
"Jolly little fellow,
Little Frisky Gray!"

Mother Gray is watching
Frisky's funny play;
"Swing low, little Frisky,"
Cautious Mother Gray.

Prowling 'neath the bushes,
Still as still can be,
Mrs. Softly Tiptoes,
With her children three.

Spies young Frisky swinging,
Smiles in quiet glee,
Whispers to her trio,
"Children, follow me!"

Frisky, quite forgetting
Words of mother dear,
Swinging ever lower,
Sees no danger near.

Now a sudden rushing,
Swift as lightning's play;
Then the swing is empty—
Ah, poor Frisky Gray!

Now, when little squirrels
Meet in tree-tops, they
Shake their small heads sadly
Over Frisky Gray.

"Mothers know," they chatter,
"Where it's safe to play.
If poor Frisk had minded
He'd been here to-day."

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

WORDS AND WORKS OF JESUS AS RECORDED
IN THE GOSPELS.

LESSON V.—FEBRUARY 4.

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS.

Matt. 4. 14. Memorize verse 4.

GOLDEN TEXT.

In all points tempted as we are, yet
without sin.—Heb. 4. 15.

THE LESSON STORY.

Just after the baptism of Jesus he retired to the wilderness, where for forty days and nights he fasted and prayed. In the quietness of the lonely, rocky place he held close communion with God his Father. He felt the need of such communion, for

he knew the greatest and hardest work of his life was just beginning.

After the forty days' fasting, he was very hungry. Then came the devil to him to tempt him, telling him to turn the stones into bread. But Jesus rebuked him by saying, "Man does not live by bread alone." Then from a pinnacle of the temple did the devil try to tempt him again, telling him to cast himself down and the angels would protect him. A third time the devil tempted him by showing him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory and promising them to him if he would bow down and worship him. But Jesus scorned him with the words, "Get thee behind me, Satan." Then the coward devil made his escape, and beautiful angels came and ministered to the tired, hungry Saviour who had been tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

1. Where did Jesus go after his baptism? Into the wilderness.
2. What did he do there? Prayed and fasted.
3. For how long? Forty days.
4. Who tempted him? Satan.
5. What did he say to him? Get thee behind me, Satan.
6. What did Satan do then? Like a coward, he stole away.
7. Who then ministered unto Jesus? Beautiful angels.

LESSON VI.—FEBRUARY 11.

JESUS CALLING FISHERMEN.

Luke 5. 1-11. Memorize verses 5, 6.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Be ye, therefore, followers of God, as dear children.—Eph. 5. 1.

THE LESSON STORY.

Jesus was on the shore of the beautiful blue Sea of Galilee, and around him had gathered a crowd. They had heard of some of the wonderful things he had done. How he had turned water into wine, and had healed the sick, and they were anxious to have him teach them. As they pressed upon him so closely he had to move out from shore a little bit in a boat, so that all could hear him.

After Jesus had finished speaking to the people he turned to the owner of the boat, Simon Peter, and told him to sail out into the lake, and let down his nets. He replied that he and his companions had fished all night but had caught nothing, but if Jesus wished it he would try again. What was their joy to find the net full to overflowing, and they knew it was Jesus' power that had filled their nets!

Then was it Jesus told them that he would make them fishers of men, if they would be willing to do what he wished them to.

They were to give up their boats and nets, and all they had, and devote them-

selves to the grand work of saving men from their sins.

It was their entire faith in Jesus enabled them to do this.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

1. Who surrounded Jesus? Great crowds.
2. Why did they gather? Because they had heard of his wonderful works.
3. What were some of these? Turning water into wine and healing the sick.
4. Why did he remove to a boat? So all could hear better.
5. After he had taught the crowd, to whom did he turn? To Simon Peter.
6. What did he tell him to do? To sail out to the deep and cast down his nets.
7. What happened? The nets were full of fish.
8. What did Jesus then say? He would make them fishers of men.
9. What were they to do? Leave all and follow him.

THE SNOWY OWL.

Birds which belong to Mrs. White-Owl's family are very fat and comfortable-looking; even the little dumplings in her nest are just as comfortable as their mother. They are all dressed for cold weather, and they wear their overcoats all the year round; for they live up in the Arctic regions, where it is always winter.

The nest for the little ones is only a few twisted sticks laid on the ground. It is not in a very pretty place either; there are no flowers or nice shade-trees, only rocks and a few stumpy bushes; but Mrs. White-Owl and her children are very happy, for that is their home, and home is always the best place.

The white-owl's feathers are as white as snow, with only a few dark spots here and there. It can see best in the dark, so at night it will sit on a rock by the water until a fish passes, and then seize it with its claws.

"My son," said an Arab chief, "bring me a basket of water from the spring." The boy tried and tried to fill the basket, but before he could get back to his father's tent the water leaked out. At last he returned and said, "Father, I have tried to fill the basket, but the water will not stay in." "My son," said the old chief, "what you say is true. The water did not stay in, but see how clean the basket is. So will it be with your heart. You may not be able to remember all the good words you hear, but keep trying to treasure them and they will make your heart clean and pure."

It is a pleasure to obey those we love. Their commands we do not forget. If we love God, we will keep his commandments.