

Notes on the S. S. Lessons.

Thomas Convinced.

John 20 : 19-31.

JESUS AND TEN APOSTLES.—It was the evening of the day on which Jesus rose from the dead. Already he had shown himself four times. The disciples were gathered together, with locked doors for fear of the Jews. They were talking of the wonderful news that the Master who was crucified and laid in the tomb had risen from the dead. Two other disciples came in from Emmaus, saying that the Lord had walked and talked with them. These two are told that Simon had seen the risen Lord (Luke 24 : 30-34.) While they were thus talking Jesus came and stood in their midst. At first they were terrified. He gave them the salutation of peace, and showed them his pierced hands and feet. He was not a disembodied spirit, but had his own body. Fear was turned into gladness. Jesus breathed on them and bestowed the Holy Ghost. They could now declare the forgiveness of sins, through the atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ. Whoever accepts Christ will be forgiven; those who do not accept Him must bear their sins.

JESUS AND THOMAS.—Judas had hung himself and was dead. Of the eleven apostles left, ten were at that meeting when Jesus appeared. Thomas, called Didymus or the "the twin," was absent. When the others told him that they had seen the Lord, he said that he would not believe it until he had put his finger into the nail prints, and thrust his hand into the wound made by the spear in his Master's side. A week passed. Again it was Sunday evening, and the disciples were together. Thomas was there. The doors were shut. Jesus came. He told Thomas to make the test he had proposed. Thomas was convinced. He called Jesus his Lord and his God. Jesus said those were blessed who believed without seeing. Have you believed? John says that Jesus did many other things which are not written in his Gospel. Enough is written to show that Jesus is the Saviour. Believing in Him we have life. Have you life in Jesus?

Peter Restored.

John 21 : 4-13.

FED BY JESUS.—At daybreak the fishermen saw a man standing on the beach. They did not know him. He called out to know if they had anything to eat. (See Revised Version.) They

answered, no. He told them to cast their net on the right side of the ship. They obeyed, and so many fishes filled the net that they could not draw it in. John said to Peter, "It is the Lord." Peter, who had been fishing with only his under-garment on, put on his coat, and threw himself into the sea to go to Jesus. The other disciples came to land in the little boat, dragging the net full of fishes. On the shore they saw a fire of coals with fish on them, and bread. Jesus told them to bring some of the fish they had just caught. Peter went and drew the net to land. They counted the fishes, and found one hundred and fifty-three large ones. Jesus told them to come to breakfast. The disciples knew it was the Lord who was thus directing them. He gave them the bread and fish. This was the third time Jesus had shown

himself to the disciples when together. (The other times were on those two Sunday evenings in Jerusalem.)

FEEDING JESUS' SHEEP.—After they had breakfasted, Jesus three times asked Peter if he loved him, and three times told him to take care of his sheep. Thus, in the presence of the apostles, Peter was restored to Christ's favor, and directed what work to do for the Master. Then Jesus indicated what would come upon Peter. In his youth he had girded himself and walked where he would; but the time was coming when another should gird him, and lead him where he did not wish. (Peter's hands would be stretched out upon the cross; he was to die by crucifixion as his Master had done; but tradition says

that Peter was crucified with his head downward.)

The Only Begotten.

"He gave His Only Begotten."—John 3 : 16.

IF you have only *one* of anything, dear children, you know how much you prize it. If you only had one piece of money, you would be loth to part with it; and you remember the man with the one ewe lamb, how sorry he was to give it up. But God gave up for sinners a priceless treasure which money could never buy. He gave for them a Lamb who was His only one—His only begotten Son. Should it not melt the hardest heart to think—"God had only one Son, His well-beloved, and He gave Him up to die for me!" There is a word in this verse so short and simple that the youngest of you have already learned it; but here it has a meaning which the oldest of us can never fathom. It is the little word "so."

