

IF YOU'RE GOOD.

BY JAMES COURTNEY CHALLISS.

Santa Claus'll come to-night,
If you're good,
And do what you know is right,
As you should;
Down the chimney he will creep,
Bringing you a woolly sheep,
And a doll that goes to sleep;
If you're good.

Santa Claus will drive his sleigh
Thro' the wood,
But he'll come around this way
If you're good,
With a wind-up bird that sings,
And a puzzle made of rings—
Jumping-jacks and funny things—
If you're good.

He will bring you cars that "go,"
If you're good,
And a rocking-horse—oh!
If he would!
And a dolly, if you please,
That says "Mamma!" when you squeeze
It—he'll bring you one of these
If you're good.

Santa grieves when you are bad,
As he should;
But it makes him very glad
When you're good.
He is wise, and he's a dear;
Just do right and never fear;
He'll remember you each year,
If you're good.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

LESSON XIII.—DECEMBER 27.

REVIEW.

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him.
—Psa. 103. 17.

Titles and Golden Texts should be thoroughly studied.

1. D. B. up the A.. Blessed are they—
2. G's C. with D... Thy throne shall—
3. D's C. Create in me—
4. D's J. over F. .. Blessed is he—
5. D. and A..... Honour thy—
6. D's G. over A... A foolish son—
7. D's T. in G.... The Lord is—
8. The C. of S. D.. Wine is a—
9. D's C. to S.... Trust in the—
10. S's W. C..... The fear of the—
11. The D. of the T.. I was glad—
12. The Q. of S. V. S. When the righteous
13. The B. of C.... Thou shalt call—

FIRST QUARTER.

SIX MONTHS WITH THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS.

LESSON I.—JANUARY 3.

THE BOYHOOD OF JESUS.

Luke 2. 40-52. Memorize verses 49-51.

GOLDEN TEXT.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.
—Luke 2. 52.

THE LESSON STORY.

Does it really seem true that Jesus was once a little boy of five or seven or twelve years of age? The gospels tell us so little of his life as a natural every-day boy that it is difficult to think about him as being like one of our own boy friends. Yet we know he must have played in the streets of Nazareth and wandered on its hillsides and learned to be useful in Joseph's carpenter shop, where he worked later like a dutiful son.

When Jesus was about twelve years old he went up to the great feast of the Pass-over at Jerusalem with his mother and Joseph. The people of Israel travelled long distances to keep the feast in the temple. They went from their villages in little companies, and as they came over the hills near Jerusalem and saw the golden roof of the temple shining in the sun they would sing a song of praise, perhaps the one hundred and twenty-second psalm. When Joseph and Mary came back they missed Jesus from the company. He was not with his cousins as they supposed; so his parents went back to Jerusalem.

Where do you think they found their boy after searching for three days? In the temple listening to the learned men and asking questions. His mother called him, and said, "Thy father and I sought thee sorrowing;" but Jesus said, "Know ye not that I must be in my Father's house?" (American Revised Version.) They could not understand what he meant, but his mother "kept all these sayings in her heart."

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

In what did the child Jesus grow? In strength, wisdom, and grace.

Where did he go when he was twelve? To Jerusalem.

With whom did he go? With his parents.

Why did they go? To attend the Pass-over feast.

Did he come home with them? Not at first.

What did his parents do? Turned back to Jerusalem to find him.

Where did they find him? In the temple.

With whom was he talking? With the learned men.

Had his mother been troubled? Yes.

Where did he say he must be? In his Father's house.

Could they understand what he meant? No.

Where did they then go? Back to Nazareth.

"AS A LITTLE CHILD."

There is an incident which took place during last Christmas between two of our infant-class children:

Bertha—"Chrissy, what should you like to have best this Christmas?"

Chrissy—"A dolly."

Bertha—"So should I. I wonder what we'd better do?"

Chrissy—"My teacher says we ought to ask Jesus for everything we want."

Bertha—"Let's go and ask him."

Away trotted the two little mites upstairs, into the bedroom, and, kneeling down together, asked Jesus to send them a dolly.

On Christmas morning the children came down-stairs, full of excitement and wonder; and there, sure enough, lay two dollies. "Oh," said Bertha, "I wonder what we ought to do now?"

Again Chrissy came to the rescue. "Teacher says we ought to thank Jesus when he sends us what we want."

"Come on, then; let's go and thank him."

And off they ran, with their treasures clasped in their arms; and, kneeling down in the very same place where they had sent up their petition, they thanked Jesus for sending them such nice-looking dollies.

What a lesson for some of us older children. We may not get "everything we want," but, like the ten lepers, how few of us "return" to thank him for what we do receive.

If, instead of always looking at our troubles, and thinking of our cares and worries, we were to watch his hand, and trace his goodness in all our lives, our mouths would be filled with praise continually.

NO TIME FOR OTHERS' FAULTS.

If one watches himself as thoroughly as he ought he finds his time is so nearly all employed that he has but little left to look after the faults of others. He is also generally so surprised at what he learns about himself that he has no inclination to criticize his friends even though he really finds time to do so.

It is not the child whose character is strongest, but the one who loves Christ most, who can keep God's law the best.