

Primary and Intermediate.

LESSON THOUGHT. *Finding the Right Way.*

[Begin the lesson with a clean blackboard, and crayon in hand. To hold the eyes as well as the ears of the children, make as you talk a square for a house, a winding path, and a background of trees.

Tell the story of children living in a mountain region who went nutting and lost their way in the woods. Tell how, after long wandering, they found a strange man who guided them to the right path. Pointing out the house in which they lived, tracing their way to the woods, pointing to the trees from which they gathered nuts, etc., will all help to make the story lifelike and vivid to the little ones.]

I have printed some words here from the Bible: "All have sinned." [Let children spell them out.] What is it to sin? Yes, to go the wrong way. All, even little children, have sinned—gone in the wrong way—and must have some one to help them back to the right way. This lesson tells of the One who will show us the way. What is his name? Yes, Jesus our Saviour. [Sing "Jesus loves me, this I know."]

What am I making here? Yes, it is a path; and here, at the very beginning, is the cross. This stands for the One who came to show us the right way. We have to believe in him before we can get into the way, and if we believe in him the cross becomes the sign by which we conquer.

If the children who were lost had not trusted their strange guide, they would not have found the path which led them home. Just so, if we do not trust Jesus, our Guide, we shall not get into the safe path which leads to heaven.

What shall we find in this path? [Make several little flags in the path, upon which print "Joy," "Patience," "Experience," "Hope."]

The first thing we find after we really enter the path to heaven is joy. Believing in Jesus opens the way to us, and then we are filled with gladness, because we see how good our Father is. It makes us so glad that when trouble comes it cannot make us unhappy. We wait patiently and bear it, knowing that our heavenly Father who loves us will make it work for our good. We will sing,

"Jesus loves me; he will stay
Close beside me all the way,"

and we will think while we sing that with such a strong, good Friend at our side all the time, we cannot help being safe and glad.

Here is something very good that our little trials will work for us if we bear them patiently—experience. Nellie is a little Christian, and she has a great deal of joy; and she is learning to be patient, too, but sometimes she makes a mistake and gets into the wrong way. There is trouble and sorrow

in the wrong way. Nellie does not like it and hurries back to the safe path, but she has learned something by her mistake. Experience is learning how, and every little Christian must learn how to walk in Jesus's way.

And here is hope. What do we hope for most? It is always a good thing for which we hope, and God has so many good things waiting for us that we can never count them! And all these he gives



to us, not because we are good and deserve them, but because Jesus Christ died for us, and is living now by his Spirit to help us be like him.

[Show Lesson Symbol, and teach that God's sweet gifts of love, joy, patience, etc., are like beautiful fruits on the vine of a little life.]

OPTIONAL HYMNS.

No. 1.

Jesus is tenderly calling thee home.
Pass me not, O gentle Saviour.
Jesus, my Saviour, thou Lamb of God.
Saviour, let me still abide.
All the way my Saviour leads me.

No. 2.

Master, the tempest is raging!
Hark! the voice of Jesus calling.
Jesus, I come—I come for light.
Who can unfold the bliss untold?
Sweet are the promises.

The Lesson Catechism.

[For the entire school.]

1. Being justified by faith what do we secure?
Peace with God.

2. What good results do we receive from tribulation?
Tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience.

3. What does experience work in us? **Hope, and hope maketh not ashamed.**

4. What is the GOLDEN TEXT? **"While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."**

5. If we are reconciled to God by the death of his Son what follows? **We shall be saved by his life.**

CATECHISM QUESTION.

63. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

By taking to Himself a true human body and soul, being conceived of the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary, yet without sin.

Galatians iv. 4. But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman.