

Lesson—We always think of King David as a very good, man and so he was. But no one is quite good, and David once disobeyed God's law, and for a while he was very unhappy. At first he did not tell God about it. He did not confess his sin and he was so unhappy day and night. He could think of nothing else but his sin.

Joy in Forgiveness—Now we see David again and he is all joy and gladness. What has made the change? Ah, he has told God all about it. He has confessed his sin to God and he knows that God has forgiven him and he makes up a beautiful Psalm (our Lesson) praising and thanking God.

Prayer—David advises everybody to pray. (All repeat)

"God is in heaven, can He hear
A little prayer like mine?
Yes, that He can! I need not
fear,
He'll listen all the time."

God's Goodness—David tells us so many things about God that should make us also very joyful. Let us print some of these.

God is **MY** { **HIDING PLACE**
KEEPER FROM TROUBLE
TEACHER
GUIDE

Obedience to God—David tells us we should

not be like a horse or mule that needs to be held in by the bit and bridle (explain). We should be gentle, willing followers of God and not have to be "made to obey".

Repeat—

Saviour, teach me day by day
Love's sweet lesson to obey;
Sweeter lesson cannot be—
Loving Him who first loved me.

—Hymn 575, Book of Praise.

Warnings Against Sin—"Many sorrows shall be to the wicked" David tells us. (Tell a story of the unhappiness that followed John or Mary's wrong-doing.)

(Repeat)–

"God is in heaven, can He see
When I am doing wrong?
Yes, that He can! He looks at me
All day and all night long.
God is in heaven, would He know
If I should tell a lie?
Yes, though I said it very low,
He'd hear it in the sky."

Joy Bells—Now we can imagine we hear joy bells ringing as we hear David's burst of song (all repeat), "Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice," etc., v. 11. Outline some bells and print these words on them.

Something to Think About—God will forgive my sin.

FROM THE PLATFORM



Sketch a ladder. Print at the bottom, SORROW. Bring out by questioning that David's sorrow had been caused by his sin. But we shall see how he climbed up out of his sorrow. The first rung in the ladder is CONFESSION. But the moment David confessed his sin he received FORGIVENESS (Print). This is the second rung. The third (v. 7) is SAFETY (Print). Next (v. 9) comes GUIDANCE (Print), and then (v. 10) TRUST (Print), and at last (v. 11) JOY. Have a little talk about each of these rungs as its name is printed. Let the Golden Text be repeated in concert, and, in a few earnest, loving words, impress our need of forgiveness and God's willingness to give it.

"Where does Joy come from? I knew a Sunday School scholar whose conception of Joy was that it was a thing made in lumps and kept somewhere in heaven, and that when people prayed for it, pieces were somehow let down and fitted into their souls. In reality Joy is as much a matter of cause and effect as pain. No one can get Joy by merely asking for it. It is one of the ripest fruits of the Christian life, and like all fruits, must be grown."—Professor Henry Drummond.