



THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.—To illustrate Lesson for July 10.

The Thing to Keep.

I'm going to keep my temperance pledge,
And come here when I can;
Because I want to do some good
When I become a man.

For little boys and girls must learn
To study and to think;
This meeting is a training-school—
We train to fight strong drink.

We are the hope of this fair land,
And as we live and grow,
True temperance principles you will
Observe in us, I know.

No wicked words shall pass my lips,
No stale tobacco breath;
The triple pledge I mean to keep
Till life shall close in death.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS.

A. D. 30.] **LESSON II.** [July 10.

THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Acta 2. 1-12. **Memory verses, 1-4.**

GOLDEN TEXT.

When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.—John 16. 13.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Blessedness, holiness, and power come through the Holy Spirit.

INTRODUCTION.

After the ascension the disciples returned to Jerusalem, and made their religious home in the upper room (Acts 1. 13), but spent at least the regular hours of prayer at the temple. (Luke 24. 53.) In prayer and praise they remained ten days, when the promise of the Father was fulfilled.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.

Day of Pentecost—This event took place then because: (1) The disciples were prepared; (2) Great multitudes from all parts of the world came to Jerusalem at this time, and could carry back the Gospel. (3) It was the harvest feast, a symbol of the spiritual harvest. (4) It commemorated the giving of the law from Sinai. The new covenant joined on the old. *One place*—Probably the upper room in the city. *A sound*—Probably heard outside the house. *Wind*—Not a wind, but like it. *Cloven tongues*—Rather, the seeming fire parted into tongues, one for each. *Each of them*—The one hundred and twenty, including the apostles and the women. (Acts 1. 14, 15.) *With other tongues*—Than the ones they knew by birth. *Noised abroad*—Rather, when this sound was heard, i.e., as of the rushing wind. *Own tongue*—Fifteen languages or dialects are here noted. It is not probable that each disciple spoke in all

the languages, but some in one, some in another. The gift of tongues typified the spread of the Gospel over all the world.

Find in this lesson—

- What is the best gift of God.
- What the Holy Spirit is like.
- What he does for us.
- How we may receive this gift.

REVIEW EXERCISE.

1. What took place on the day of Pentecost? "The Holy Spirit was poured out upon the disciples." 2. In what way? "With a sound like wind, and in form like tongues of fire." 3. What was one effect of this gift? "They spoke various languages." 4. What was another effect? "Some mocked." 5. What was a third effect? "They were filled with the Holy Ghost and with power." 6. What was the fourth effect? "Three thousand were converted to God in one day."

CATECHISM QUESTION.

29. What benefits will Christ's people receive from him at the resurrection?

Being raised up in glory they shall be openly accepted in the day of judgment, and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoyment of God to all eternity.

It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory.—1 Corinthians 15. 42.

A HASTY WISH.

BY IDA BUXTON COLE.

JESSIE seated at the table, pouting; Nannie and Carrie enter.

Nannie—Why, Jessie, you look cross.
Jessie—No wonder, I am cross.
Carrie—That is too bad, for we came to take you with us. But what is the matter?

J.—Oh, everything; I just wish I was in China, so I do.

C.—And do you think you would be happier there?

J.—I don't know, but I should hope I wouldn't have to run on errands all the time.

N.—Perhaps your feet would be so crippled that you couldn't. I am glad I live in a country where girls are well cared for and loved.

J.—I don't care, I hate to—

C.—Yes, Jessie dear, you do care; you are out of temper now, but come with us and learn of the children who are less favoured than we are.

J.—Where are you going?

N.—To our Girl's Missionary Band.

J.—I don't want to go, there isn't any fun, is there? Besides, I've heard papa say that this missionary talk was a big smoke over a very little blaze.

N.—We don't want smoky blazes, only the pure, clear light of Jesus' love shining into all hearts, and that is why we meet to pray, work and learn.

C.—If you had been with us last Saturday you wouldn't want to be in China.

N.—No, indeed, our teacher told us all about it, if you were there your father and mother wouldn't love you much because you are a girl, and you wouldn't be Jessie Cornell either, you would be No. 2, and Allie would be No. 1, for the Chinese don't think girls worth naming.

J.—How silly! I am as good as Fred, any day.

C.—But the Chinese wouldn't think so; sometimes they kill the girl babies.

N.—And your father would say he had only one child, meaning Fred, for you and Allie wouldn't count.

C.—And Fred would go to school, but there are not many schools for girls. Then if your father should die, your mother would have to obey Fred just as he minds her now.

J.—The idea of my dear, good mother obeying her son.

C.—That is Chinese; now don't you wish you were in China?

J.—If I was a woman I would go there and teach them better.

N.—That would be running on a big errand, would it not, Jessie, and you wanted to be in China to escape errands, you know.

J.—That isn't fair, Nannie, to tease me so; I didn't know about Chinese girls when I made that hasty wish. I do wish it was big enough to help.

C.—You don't have to wait until you are big; you can help now.

J.—How? What can I do?

N.—Come with us to our meeting; we give our prayers, and besides we are earning money to pay part of the expenses of a dear missionary woman who has left her home and gone to foreign lands to teach the people of our Saviour.

J.—I should like to go. I'll ask mamma if I may give my half-dollar I was saving for a doll. I don't need a new doll as much as the Chinese girls need to be taught.

C.—I am so glad our teacher says that if we cannot go abroad ourselves we can send these Gospel tidings to "every creature." Let us sing:

"Christ to-day is giving thee
Harvest work beyond the sea.
White already is the field,
Fruit eternal it shall yield.
All the fields of earth are white,
Hosts are crying, 'Give us light!'
Spread the truth and ceaseless pray,
Christ will haste his promise day."

HOW GOD TEACHES THE BIRDS.

ON the Island of Java grows a tree, the leaves of which are said to be a deadly poison to all venomous reptiles. The odour of the leaf is so offensive to the whole snake family that if they come near the plant in their travels, they immediately turn about and take an opposite direction.

A traveller on the island noticed, one day, a peculiar fluttering and cry of distress from a bird high above his head. Looking up, he saw a mother-bird hovering round a nest of little ones in such a frightened and perplexed manner as to cause him to stop and examine into the trouble. Going around to the other side of the tree he found a large snake climbing slowly up the tree in the direction of the little nest.

It was beyond his reach; and since he could not help the little feathered songster by dealing a death blow, he sat down to see the result of the attack. Soon the pitious cry of the bird ceased and he thought, "Can it be possible that she has left her young to their fate and has flown away to seek her own safety?"

No; for again he heard a fluttering of wings, and, looking up saw her fly into the tree with a large leaf from the tree of poison and carefully spread it over her little ones. Then alighting on a branch high above the nest, she quietly watched the approach of her enemy. His ugly, writhing body crept slowly along, nearer and still nearer, until within a foot of the nest; then, just as he opened his mouth to take in his dainty little breakfast, down he went to the ground as suddenly as though a bullet had gone through his head, and hurried off into the jungle beyond. The little birds were unharmed; and as

the mother-bird flew down and spread wings over them, the poison-leaf (poison only to the snake) fell at the feet of the traveller; and he felt, as never before the force of the words, "Are not the sparrows sold for a farthing? yet not one of them shall fall to the ground without your Father," for who but he who made the dear little birds could have told the one the power there was in this little leaf.—*Good Words.*

GIRLS AS PACKHORSES.

NO sooner are the Swiss girls large enough to possess the requisite physical strength than they are set to the most servile work the land affords, says a traveller. The child has a panier basket fitted to her shoulders at the earliest possible moment, and she drops it only when of age, premature but merciful, robs her of power to carry it longer.

I have seen sweet little girls of twelve or fourteen staggering down a mountain side or a long rough pathway under the weight of bundles of fagots as large as their bodies, which they no sooner dropped than they hurried back for others. I have seen girls of fifteen years, barefooted and bareheaded in the blistering rays of an August sun, breaking up the ground by swinging mallets heavy enough to tax the strength of an able-bodied man. I have known a young miss no older than these to be employed as a porter for carrying the baggage of travellers up and down the steepest mountain path in all the region round about. She admitted that it was sometimes very hard to take another step, but she must do it. And she carried such an amount of baggage! A stout-limbed guide, protected by the law, so that he cannot be compelled to carry above twenty-five pounds, but the limit to the burden put upon girls is their inability to stand up under anything more. But the burden increases with the age and strength of the burden bearers, till, by the time the girls come to womanhood, there is no sort of menial toil in which they do not bear a hand, and quite commonly the chief hand.—*Christian Union.*



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