

THE TRADESPEOPLE.

The swallow is a mason,
And underneath the eaves
He builds a nest and plasters it
With mud and hay and leaves.

The woodpecker is hard at work;
A carpenter is he;
And you may find him hammering
His house high up a tree.

The bullfinch knows and practises
The basketmaker's trade,
See what a cradle for his young
The little thing has made!

Of all the weavers that I know
The chaffinch is the best;
High on the apple-tree he weaves
A cosy little nest.

The goldfinch is a fuller;
A skilful workman he!
Of wool and threads he makes a nest
That you would like to see.

The cuckoo laughs to see them work;
"Not so," he says, "we do:
My wife and I take others' nests,
And live at ease—cuckoo!"

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE LIVES OF THE PATRIARCHS.

LESSON IX. [Dec. 1.

THE CALL OF MOSES.

Exod. 3. 1-12. Memory verses, 9-12.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Certainly I will be with thee.—Exod. 3. 12.

THE LESSON STORY.

The little Moses was so fortunate as to be in the care of his mother during the first years of his life, and she taught him to believe in the true God. It is what we learn when little children that stays with us longest, and this is why your Sunday-school teachers want you to learn the Word of God now. So, although Moses grew up in the palace of a heathen king, he did not forget the God of Israel. The wish to set his own people free grew strong in his heart, and once he tried to do so, but did not succeed. After this he went into the land of Midian and became a shepherd. All the time the feeling was deep in his heart that he must deliver his people from bondage.

But when the time came, and God called him to go, Moses was afraid. He thought of the cruel Egyptians and their great power, and he thought that perhaps his own people would not believe that God had sent him. Then he thought how small and weak he was, and it is no wonder he was afraid. He forgot how great God is.

Learn the Golden Text, and see if you do not think that would give courage.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

What was Moses now? A shepherd.
Where was he? In Midian.
Where did he lead his sheep one day?
To Mount Horeb.

Who appeared to him there? An angel.
Out of what did he speak? A burning bush.

How did God call him? "Moses, Moses."

What did Moses answer? "Here am I."
Who knows all things? God.

What was he going to do? Help his people.

Whom did he tell to save them? Moses.
How did Moses feel? He was afraid.

What did God promise? To be with him.

LESSON X. [Dec. 8.

MOSES AND PHARAOH.

Exod. 11. 1-10. Memory verses, 4-7.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The angel of his presence saved them.—Isa. 63. 9.

THE LESSON STORY.

Pharaoh was a mighty king and a cruel one, so it is not strange that Moses was afraid to ask him to let the Israelites go free. See in Exodus 4. 10-12 what he said to the Lord, and what the Lord answered. Read in Exodus 5. 2 how proudly Pharaoh replied when Moses and Aaron told him that the Lord wanted him to let his people go. If you will read the stories between this and our lesson you will find what troubles were brought by Pharaoh on himself and the people of Egypt by not obeying the Lord. It is always foolish to fight against God.

Our lesson tells of the last plague God sent upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt. Moses told Pharaoh that God said that all the firstborn of Egypt should die at midnight, if he would not let the Israelites go. Even the firstborn in the king's palace must die, the same as the child of the humble servant in the mill. But no harm should come to one of the children of Israel. But Pharaoh's heart was still hard, and he would not let them go! The only truly wise people in the world are those who listen to God and obey him.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

To whom did God send Moses? To Pharaoh.

Who went with him? His brother Aaron.

What did they ask him? To let God's people go.

What did Pharaoh say? That they should not go.

What did God want? That they should be free.

What did Pharaoh want? He wanted them for slaves.

What was Pharaoh's heart? A hard, selfish one.

What did the Lord have to do? Break it.

What did he send? Plagues.

What were these? Great troubles.

Who had to bear them? All the Egyptians.

What does our sin cause? Trouble for others.

SNOWING STARS.

BY LILLIAN SMITH.

"It's snowing stars!" said five-year-old Harry as he came running into the house.

"Isn't Harry funny?" laughed his sister Nan. "The idea of its snowing stars!"

"Well, it is!" stoutly replied the little fellow; "here is one on my coat sleeve. Look, mother."

But before mother could look the feathery little flake had melted.

"Ha! ha!" laughed Nan.

"Never mind, Harry," said mother; "you may take Nan out and show her the stars yourself. Let the little snowflakes come down on your sleeves, and look at them with this magnifying glass."

"Here they come!" shouted Harry, holding out his arm to catch them; "now look, Nan."

Nan looked, then she drew a long breath, and said: "Oh, it is a star, and so pretty! Look, Harry!"

"It's just beautiful!" said Harry. He didn't once say: "I told you so!"

"Oh, Harry, see this one! It isn't a star like the others, but it is prettier."

"Yes," said Harry; "it has six points, too."

When father came home that evening he said: "Well, what has my boy learned to-day?"

Harry answered: "Oh, Nan and I found four different kinds of snowflakes. Some were stars, and they all had six points. They were beautiful."

"My boy is learning how to use his eyes," said father; "and, Nan, what did you learn?"

"I learned," said Nan, "that Harry sometimes knows more than I do, and that he is just the dearest little brother in the whole world."—*Sunbeam*.

The wisdom which comes from above is more than a match for that which is learned from books and schools.

Little Edith had the habit of eating out the soft part of her bread, and tucking the crust under the edge of her plate. The other evening she was detected in this, and her mother said: "Edith, how often have I told you about leaving your crusts? There may be a day you will be glad to get them." "Yes, mamma," replied Edith, "that's what I'm saving 'em for."