

THE SOLDIER GUARD.

Ten little tin soldiers lay all in a row,
Stretched out on the nursery floor,
Just where they could see with their sharp
little eyes,
Through the crack that was under the
door.

Their captain had left them all there for
the night,
And said, as he crept into bed,
"If any one tries to come into the room,
You must fire and shoot him stone
dead."

The hours went by, and the ten little guns
Were aimed at the crack near the floor,
When all of a sudden the crack stretched
and grew,
And somebody opened the door.

Bang! bang! went the guns—the soldiers
all fired,
But nobody seemed to be dead;
Instead, they all heard a soft kiss in the
dark,
"Good-night, dear," a loving voice said.

Then all the ten soldiers shook badly with
fright,
And whispered low one to another:
"How lucky it was that our guns were so
small!
What if we had killed Tommy's
mother!"

—Youth's Companion.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

SIX MONTHS WITH THE SYNOPSIS GOSPELS.

LESSON III.—APRIL 17.

JESUS TRANSFIGURED.

Mark 9. 2-13. Memorize verses 2-4.

GOLDEN TEXT.

A voice came out of the cloud, saying,
This is my beloved Son; hear him.—
Mark 9. 7.

THE LESSON STORY.

A few days after the talk with his disciples that we heard about last Sunday Jesus took three of them, Peter, James, and John, and went up a high mountain to a place where they were quite alone. The disciples were tired and fell asleep, but Jesus prayed. As the disciples awoke and were looking at him Jesus was changed, or transfigured, and even his clothes became white and shining like snow when the sun makes it glisten. Then all at once the disciples saw two men talking with Jesus, and perhaps Jesus called them by name, for the disciples knew that they were Moses and Elias, who had gone to heaven hundreds of years before.

Peter was so full of joy that he wanted

to stay a long time in that company, and he asked Jesus if they might build three tabernacles, or little tents, of the branches of trees, for him and for Moses and for Elias. Jesus did not answer, but a cloud closed them round, and a voice in the cloud said: "This is my beloved Son; hear him." As suddenly as the two men had come they went away again, and only Jesus was there with them. As they came down the mountain the brightness must have gone from the form of Jesus, for he told his disciples to say nothing of what they had seen until after he had risen from the dead. When they asked him if Elias was not coming to live on earth he told them that Elias had come, and the people had treated him as they pleased. He meant John the Baptist.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Where did Jesus go one day? To a high mountain.

Who went with him? Peter and James and John.

What did they do while Jesus prayed? They slept.

What did they see when they awoke? Three shining forms.

Who was more glorious than the others? Jesus.

Who were the others? Moses and Elias.

Where had they been for a long time? In heaven.

What did they talk with Jesus about? His coming death.

Which disciple spoke first? Peter.

What did he want? To stay on the mountain.

Why was it "good to be there"? Because it was like being in heaven.

What did a voice from heaven say? "This is my beloved Son."

LESSON IV.—APRIL 24.

THE MISSION OF THE SEVENTY.

Luke 10. 1-16. Memorize verses 1, 2.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.—Luke 10. 2.

THE LESSON STORY.

You may remember how Jesus called his first disciples, Peter and Andrew, James and John. Afterward, when they numbered twelve, he called them together and gave them authority to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick and cast out devils. Still later, when there were many more disciples, he called seventy together and sent them two by two before him into every city where he would go. The twelve were called apostles, and were nearest to Jesus in the work of his ministry, the seventy were helpers, or labourers in the harvest of souls. Jesus

gave them also power to heal the sick and to preach the new Gospel that he had brought to the world. He told them that they would be as lambs in the midst of wolves, and he gave them counsel and command about their work. Then Jesus, knowing the hardness of the scribes and Pharisees, uttered a woe upon Chorazin and Bethsaida and Capernaum, saying that Tyre and Sidon would have less answer for in the judgment than they.

He also told them that if the people listened to them they were listening to him, and if they despised them they were despising him. Afterward the seventy returned with joy, saying that even the evil spirits were cast out if they but named the name of Jesus.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

What is a disciple? A learner.

What is an apostle? A teacher.

How many of Jesus' disciples became apostles? Twelve.

How many others were his helpers? Seventy.

What did they do? They prepared the people to hear Jesus.

What power did he give them? To heal the sick and talk about the kingdom.

What did he say they would be like? Lambs among wolves.

Who were the wolves? The scribes and Pharisees.

What did he say of their cities? That they were worse than heathen cities.

How did the seventy go forth? Two and two.

How did they return? With joy.

Why? Because even evil spirits were cast out by them through Jesus' name.

WHERE BABIES ARE NEVER WASHED.

A traveller from Russia says that Russian babies in Siberia are not very pretty. And when he tells us one of the reasons, we do not wonder at his thinking so. He says that one day he noticed in one of the houses a curious bundle on a shelf; another hung from a peg in the wall, and a third hung by a rope from the rafters; this one the mother was swinging. The traveller discovered that each curious bundle was a child; the one in the swinging bundle was the youngest.

The traveller looked at the little baby and found it so dirty that he exclaimed in disgust:

"Why! do you not wash it?"

The mother looked horror-stricken, and ejaculated:

"Wash it! Wash the baby! Why, it would kill it!"

What a happy country Russia would be for some boys! They would never hear, "Wash your face and hands," nor "Have you brushed your hair?" But O! how they would look!