

to the great Helper of the weak and the oppressed, and prayed for help to enable him to do the work himself. "My help cometh from the Lord." He knew the difficulties in the way, and he knew where to go for help. Even so can each one of us go to the same source of power and receive guidance, strength, and comfort in all right undertakings.

Primary and Intermediate.

LESSON THOUGHT. *What to do with trouble.*

Review. What was done when the temple was finished? What is it to dedicate? Have we anything to dedicate to God? What are these bodies of ours called? When ought we to give them to God? How shall we treat them if they belong to God?

Introducing the Lesson. Where was the new temple? Yes, here in Jerusalem. [Make a square for the city.] Away over here is the land in which the Jews were captives so long. Who can tell the name of the country? Here is a little square that we will call the king's palace. It was at Shushan, and was a beautiful place. There were many noblemen who waited on the king. One was named Nehemiah. I will print his name on the board. He was a Jew. The king loved him for his honesty and faithfulness. Shall I tell you what Nehemiah's work was in the palace? He had to take care of the king's wine, and give him his cups of wine to drink. So he was called the king's cupbearer. This lesson will tell you of some bad news that Nehemiah heard, and what he did about it.

What does this square stand for? Yes, this is to make us think of Jerusalem. It was a long way from Shushan—more than a thousand miles. [Make a delicate line between the two places.] Some men from the land of Israel came one day to the place where Nehemiah was. As soon as he saw them he asked about the Jews who had gone back, and about Jerusalem, the holy city. He loved his country, though he lived so far away.

They told him news which made him feel very sad. It was seventy years since the temple was dedicated, and yet the walls around Jerusalem had not been built! The old wall was broken down, and the gates were burned with fire. There was nothing to hinder the enemies of the Jews from coming to rob and burn the holy city. [Show or make a picture of an ancient walled city, explaining why walls had to be built to protect cities.]

The men from Jerusalem told Nehemiah that the people there were very poor, so that they could not build the wall, and that their enemies looked upon them with scorn and contempt. Are you sorry when you hear that some one you love is in trouble?

Once there was a rich man who heard a sad story about some people that he knew. "I am very sorry," said the rich man.

"Well, how much are you sorry?" said his friend. He wanted to do something to help. Nehemiah was so sorry that he was willing to help. But he could not do the work alone. Was there anyone to help Nehemiah? Yes, he had a great, strong, powerful friend. His friend was greater and stronger even than the king upon whom he waited. It was the great God, the King of heaven! Nehemiah prayed.

[Make a small altar of incense, and a faint line going up.]

He told the Lord all the trouble his people were in, and asked that he might be allowed to go to them and help them. He confessed his own sins, and the sins of his people, and he asked the Lord to make his king willing to let him go and build the wall around Jerusalem.

Do you think the Lord heard Nehemiah's prayer? Yes, God knew his servant, and saw the love in his heart which made him willing to take the long journey and do the hard work. God hears every true prayer which even the least of his children offers. [Make a faint line from the top of the board reaching down to the king's palace.]

God sent an answer down to Nehemiah. It made him feel strong and patient and ready to do just what the Lord gave him to do.



The Lesson for Us. [Print

"Trouble" on the board.] Does everybody have trouble? O yes, even little children often have to suffer a great deal. Many hard things come to little children. These are their broken walls which they want to have built up. Sin pulls down and leaves down. Faith builds up.

Nehemiah shows us what to do with trouble. [Make a tiny spiral cloud of incense going up from the word Trouble.]

Little Christians may pray about *everything*—all their joys and sorrows; all their good times, as well as their sad times; all their play, as well as their work. God wants us to tell him all that interests us. Let us sing heartily, "What a Friend we have in Jesus," and then ask God to help us take "everything to him in prayer."

OPTIONAL HYMNS.

No. 1.

Father, I stretch my hands to thee.
Guide me, O thou great Jehovah.
My Jesus, as thou wilt.
Father, whatever of earthly bliss,
Father, lead me day by day.