

Time.—A.D. 30.

Place.—Jerusalem.

Connecting Link.—Many miracles wrought by the apostles. Acts 5, 12-16.

Explanations.—*The high-priest*—Probably Annas, as in Lesson VI. *They that were rulers.* *Saltucers*—A class of Jews who did not believe in the resurrection of the dead. *Filled with indignation*—Especially because the apostles preached the rising of the dead through Jesus. *Put them in the common prison*—In the jail of the city, where criminals were confined. *The angel*—God's angels are ready to help God's people. *Opened the . . . doors*—Without the knowledge of the jailers. Ver. 23. *Go, stand and speak*—The three commands to God's people everywhere. *The temple*—Where the people met together. *In words of this life*—The life of the Gospel, which Jesus came to bring. *Early in the morning*—Thus meeting the people who came to attend the early sacrifice. *Called the council*—The great council of the Israelites, called the Sanhedrin. *Senate*—The elders and rulers. *The officers*—Those who waited on the council. *No man within*—The angel was stronger than the bars. *Heard these things*—That the apostles had escaped. *Doubted of them*—Were perplexed about the apostles. *Whereunto this would grow*—How the matter would end. *Standing in the temple*—Without violence—Not in chains, or dealing roughly with them. *Feared the people*—The people were friendly to the apostles for their miracles of help and healing, and would have stoned any that tried to do them harm. *Straitly command*—Strictly order. *Do not teach in this name*—Annas would not mention the name of Jesus. *With your doctrine*—This word means "teaching." *This man's blood*—Making the people believe that they had murdered Jesus. *Obey God rather than men*—When God's commands and men's are opposed to each other. *Hanged on a tree*—The cross is thus spoken of. *To give rebuke*—To make it possible to repent of sin, by sending the Spirit upon sinners. *So is the Holy Ghost*—The Holy Ghost bore witness by miracles wrought through the apostles.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. In the Prison, v. 17, 18. Who were put in the prison? Did they deserve to go there? What is said in 1 Pet. 4, 16? Who put the apostles in prison? What made them angry at the apostles?
2. In the Temple, v. 19-25. How did the apostles get out of prison? How did the keepers know of their escape? v. 23. How did this fulfil Psa. 54, 7? What three commands did the angel give? What did the apostles do? What took place in the council? What were the feelings of the rulers?
3. Before the Council, v. 26-32. Who were brought before the council, and how? Why were they brought so carefully? What did the high-priest say to them? To what "name" did he refer? What did Peter answer in the GOLDEN

TEXT? How did he proclaim Jesus to them? What did he say that Jesus will give?

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson do we find—

1. How God takes care of his people?
2. Whom we ought to obey?
3. What Christ gives to men?

The Lesson Catechism.—(For the entire school.) 1. Where were the apostles put by the rulers? In the common prison. 2. How were they set free? By an angel. 3. What did they then do? They preached in the temple. 4. Before whom were they again brought? Before the council. 5. What was their testimony concerning Jesus before the council? That he was Prince and Saviour.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The royalty of Christ.

QUESTIONS FOR SENIOR STUDENTS.

1. Before the Council, v. 26-32. What was the manner of the re-arrest? State the charges made against the prisoners. What authority did Peter recognize? What crime did he charge upon the council? What office and proof did he claim for the risen Christ? What may the witness of the Holy Spirit be obtained?
2. In the Temple, v. 19-25. How were the imprisoned apostles delivered? What other instances of deliverance through angelic aid have we? What command was laid upon the apostles? How was their obedience manifested? Why was the council called together again? What strange news perplexed them?
3. In the Prison, v. 17, 18. Who joined the high-priest in this persecution? What attempt was made to silence the apostles? What had Jesus foretold should befall them? Luke 21, 12.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Where do we learn—

- That deliverance from danger is not deliverance from duty?
- That divine truth in weak hands is able to overthrow the mighty?
- That God witnesses for those who witness for him?
- That only the highest duty claims the preference of our service?

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

Why were the chief priests angry at the apostles? Because of their great works. How did they try to stop them? By putting them in prison. Did God help them? He sent his angels to set them free. What command did the angels give? To go and preach in the temple. What were they to preach? Eternal life through faith in Christ. What astonished the judges? That the apostles would dare to disobey? Who again arrested them? The captains and officers. Did they harm them? No; for fear of the people. What question did the high-priest ask?