

THE CHILDREN'S RECORD

April 17. GOD'S WORKS AND WORD.

Lesson, Ps. 19 1-14. Golden Text, Ps. 19 : 7.
Memory vs. 7-11. Catechism Q. 70-71.

SUBJECT: THE TWO LESSON BOOKS OF LIFE.

I. *The Book of Nature*, vs. 1-6.—What two names are given to the heavens? How do they declare God's glory? What do we learn about God from nature? Rom. 1 : 20 : 2 : 14-15 : Ps. 145 : 3 ; Ps. 102 : 25-27 ; Ps. 139 : 7-10 ; Ps. 104 : 24 ; Ps. 33 : 4-5. Meaning of verse 2? What two meanings may be given to verse 3? Which is the better? What is "their line"? What description is given of the sun? In what respects is God's work like the sun? How can the study of God's works help us to understand his word? Is there any real conflict between true science and true religion? Does nature reveal to us all we need to know? What are some of the things it cannot do for us?

II. *The Book of Revelation*, vs. 7-14.—What is meant here by "the law of the Lord"? What six names are given to it here? Why is *Lord* in these verses printed in capitals in our Bibles? Why is the name given to God in these verses different from that in the first six verses? What six words are given here to describe God's Word? Show how it is perfect, sure, right, pure. What six things does God's Word do for us? Show how it does each of these? Meaning of "fear of the Lord"? To what does the Psalmist compare God's Word? In what respects is it more precious than gold? In what respects is it sweeter than honey? Is the Word of God so precious to us? How can it become more so? How does it save us from dangers? What is the reward of keeping God's commands? What great need have we all? vs. 12-13. Why can we not understand our errors? What are "secret faults"? From what other kind of sins would he be kept? When does sin have dominion over us? What did he desire for his words and thoughts? When are these acceptable to God? Why is this so important? Jas. 3 : 2-10 ; Prov. 4 : 23 ; 23 : 7.

I. The Christian should study both the works and the Word of God.

II. There can be no conflict between what God says and what he does.

III. We learn from nature His wisdom, power, greatness, faithfulness and goodness.

IV. But we cannot learn all we need about forgiveness and love and heaven and our duties to God and man.

V. God's Word gives us new hearts, a sure hope, wisdom and joy and salvation.

VI. Good persons desire to be holy in secret as well as in public, in thought as well as in deed.

April 24. THE LORD MY SHEPHERD.

Lesson Ps. 23 : 1-6. Golden Text Ps. 23 : 1
Mem. vs. 1-6 Catechism Q. 72.

I. *Who is the Good Shepherd* v. 1.—What can you tell about Oriental shepherds? Who is our Shepherd? How is he described in John 10 : 11-17? In what respects is Jesus peculiarly adapted to be our Shepherd? As to his wisdom, strength. Who are the sheep of his pasture that can claim the promises which follow? John 10 : 3, 4, 5.

II. *His Shepherd Care*, vs. 1-3.—What is the first promise? Is that true of all Christians? Ps. 37 : 25 ; Matt. 6 : 33 ; Rom. 8 : 32 ; What is meant by green pastures? John 6 : 51-57. How can a Christian rest in the service of God? What are the "still waters"? Isa. 55 : 1 ; John 7 : 37-39. When do our souls need to be restored? Where does Jesus lead us? Why do we need to be led? For whose sake does he do all this? How is this an encouragement to us?

III. *A Defense against Danger*, v. 4.—What is meant by "the valley of the shadow of death"? Are we walking among dangers seen and unseen? How does Jesus' presence defend us so that we need not fear the evil? Rom. 8 : 32 ; Heb. 12 : 6-8 ; 2 Cor. 4 : 17, 18 : Ps. 76 : 10 ; Isa. 43 : 2, 3. Of what are the shepherd's crook and staff the types?

IV. *Victory over Enemies*, v. 5.—What is the meaning of verse 5? Who are some of our enemies? Eph. 6 : 12. By what means may we be at rest among them? Eph. 6 : 13-18. If we are on God's side, are our enemies his enemies? What is meant by anointing our heads? By our cup? By its running over?

V. *Goodness and Mercy Forever*, v. 6.—What is the difference between goodness and mercy? What is meant by their following us? Why need we not fear the future? What is meant by the "house of the Lord"? Ps. 84 : 1-4 ; 42 : 4 ; Rev. 21 : 1-4. What are the blessings of the dwelling there?

I. Jesus Christ is all wise, all powerful, all loving, and therefore the Good Shepherd of our souls.

II. We should be the good sheep of his pasture, obeying his voice, following his footsteps, keeping close to him.

III. He satisfies every want of the soul.

IV. He guides us into the best things for this life and the life to come.

V. Evils come to all, but Jesus saves us in them, and will let nothing harm those who trust in him.

VI. Our souls are like cups waiting to be filled. Every desire and capacity is a cup.

VII. Jesus fills to overflowing these cups. He satisfies our hungerings, and gives living water for our thirst.—*International Q. Book.*