

29 July.

THE YOUTH OF JESUS.

Les. Luke 2: 40-52. Gol. Text, Luke 2: 52.  
Mem. vs. 46-49. Catechism Q., 86.

HOME READINGS.

M. Luke 2: 40-52.....The Youth of Jesus.  
T. Deut. 16: 1-17.....The Yearly Feasts.  
W. Psalm 27: 1-14.....Desire for God's House.  
Th. Psalm 84: 1-12.....Delight in God's House.  
F. John 9: 1-12.....The Works of Him that Sent Me.  
S. Psalm 122: 1-9.....Joy in God's House.  
S. Eph. 6: 1-9.....Children, Obey Your Parents.

*Time.*—A. D. 8, April, twelve years after our last lesson; Augustus Cæsar emperor of Rome; Coponius governor of Judea; Herod Antipas governor of Galilee and Perea.

*Places.*—Jerusalem, Nazareth.

*Opening Words.*—The events of our lessons in the life of Christ thus far occurred probably within the first six months after his birth. Between this lesson and the last there is an interval of about eleven years and a half. Our Saviour lived at Nazareth until he was thirty years old. This lesson tells us all we know of these years.

*Helps in Studying.*—40. "Grace of God"—the divine favour. 41. "The Passover"—celebrated at the full moon of the first month (parts of March and April), in memory of the deliverance of the firstborn in Egypt, Ex. 12: 21-27. 42. "Twelve years old"—at this age Jewish boys entered upon the responsibilities of men. 43. "Fulfilled the days"—the seven days of the feast, Ex. 12: 15; Lev. 23: 5-6. 44. "Sought him"—when they halted for the night. 46. "After three days"—counting one for departure, one for return and one for search. "Sitting"—as a learner. "Doctors"—teachers. "Asking them questions"—as scholars generally did. 47. "Understanding"—as shown by his questions. 49. "Wist ye not"—know ye not. The Revised Version renders this question, "Wist ye not that I must be in my Father's house?"

QUESTIONS.

*Introductory.*—Where did Jesus live during his early years? Title? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? Time? Place? Memory verses? Catechism?

I. *His Early Childhood.* vs. 40-42. What is said of the child Jesus? What was foretold of him in Isa. 11: 7? Where did his parents go every year? What was the passover? What ordinance has taken its place?

II. *His First Passover.* vs. 43-50.—At what age did his parents take Jesus with them? What took place as they returned? Where did they seek him? What did they do? Where was Jesus found? What was he doing? At what were all astonished? What did Mary say to Jesus? What was his reply?

III. *His Young Manhood.* vs. 51, 52.—Where did Jesus go with his parents? How did he behave toward them? How should all children be like him? Which is the fifth commandment? In what did Jesus increase?

LESSONS.

1. Jesus knows the wants of children, for he was once a child.
2. He has set an example that children should follow.
3. Children should love the house of God, and begin early to serve him.
4. They should try to get a good education, and especially to learn the truths of the Bible.
5. Like Jesus, we should love and obey our parents?
6. Even the children should be about the business of their Father in Heaven.

5 August.

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS.

Les. Mark 1: 1-11. Gol. Text, Mark : 11.  
Mem. vs. 9-11. Catechism, Q., 87.

HOME READINGS.

M. Mal. 3: 1-12.....The Messenger Promised.  
T. Isa. 40: 1-11.....His Work Foretold.  
W. Luke 1: 1-2.....His Birth Predicted.  
Th. Luke 1: 57-80.....The Prediction Fulfilled.  
F. Mark 1: 1-11.....The Baptism of Jesus.  
S. Isa. 61: 1-2.....The Office of Christ.  
S. Isa. 42: 1-11.....The Spirit upon Christ.

*Time.*—A. D. 27, early in January; Tiberius Cæsar emperor of Rome; Pontius Pilate governor of Judea; Herod Antipas governor of Galilee.

*Place.*—The fords of Bethabara, on the Jordan, five miles north-east of Jericho.

*Opening Words.*—The author of this Gospel was John, whose surname was Mark, Acts 12:25. His mother was Mary the sister of Barnabas, Col. 4:10. He was probably converted under the preaching of Peter, and his Gospel was probably written under Peter's direction. It omits all mention of our Lord's birth and early years, and begins with the mission of John the Baptist. Study with this lesson the parallel accounts, Matt. 3: 1-17; Luke 3: 1-22.

*Helps in Studying.*—1. "Gospel"—the glad news of salvation. "Jesus"—the Saviour (Matt. 1: 21); "Christ"—the Anointed One (Luke 2: 11); "The Son of God"—divine and eternal. 2. "In the prophets"—Mal. 3: 1; Isa. 40: 3. "My Messenger"—John the Baptist. In the East many of the roads are but mere paths, crooked, and often blocked with stones and other obstructions. Kings and princes sent heralds before them to clear and prepare the way. 4. "Wilderness"—a wild, thinly-peopled region. "Baptism of repentance"—sign of repentance and putting away sin. 6. "Camel's hair"—coarse waterproof cloth woven of camel's hair. "Locusts"—the Arabs still eat them. "Latchet"—the strap by which the sandals were fastened to the feet. 8. "Water".... "Holy Ghost"—John's baptism was outward, and only a symbol; Christ's is spiritual, and cleanses the heart. 9. "Was baptised"—see Matt. 3: 13-15. 11. "A voice"—the Father speaks, the Holy Spirit descends, and the Son receives the divine approval. "My beloved Son"—implying Christ's divine nature.

*Introductory.*—Who wrote this Gospel? What do you know about Mark? Title? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? Time? Place? Memory verses? Catechism?

I. *The Voice of Prophecy.* vs. 1-3.—What is the meaning of "gospel"? Of "Jesus"? Of "Christ"? What is Jesus here called? Who is meant by "my messenger"? What did Malachi say of him? What did Isaiah?

II.—*The Voice in the Wilderness.* vs. 4-8.—What did John do? What is repentance unto life? What was the effect of John's preaching? What kind of clothing did John wear? What was his food? Whose coming did he foretell? How was Jesus mightier than John? With what did John baptize? How would Jesus baptize? How did John prepare Christ's way?

III. *The Voice from Heaven.* vs. 9-11.—Who came from Nazareth to be baptized? What occurred at his baptism? Why did the Spirit descend upon Jesus? (See Isa. 61: 1.) What did the voice from heaven say?

1. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came into the world to be our Saviour.
2. Our hearts must be prepared to receive his gospel.
3. If we confess and forsake our sins, we shall be forgiven and saved.
4. Water-baptism will not save us; we need the baptism of the Holy Spirit.