

law." Have the scholars imagine the growing desire in Ezra's heart to return to Jerusalem as he received messengers telling of the life of the returned exiles, and of worship in the Lord's temple. So strong did this desire become that he went to the king himself to secure permission for the return.

2. The scholars will describe Ezra's visit to the king. What was the king's name? What argument would Ezra use? How would he prove from the history of his people the declaration of ch. 8 : 22? What edict did the king issue? (Ch. 7 : 12-26.) Draw attention to the wide and important powers conferred upon Ezra. He must have been a man already known to the king, of proven loyalty and integrity.

3. Bring out the preparations for the return. The careful division of the money, the preparation for food and water and means of transportation were similar to those for

any caravan. But Ezra was ashamed to ask for soldiers for protection. He had three choices : (a) to abandon the expedition ; (b) to ask for protection ; (c) to go ahead trusting in God. Either of the first two would have discredited Jehovah in the eyes of the heathen Babylonians, and himself before his own conscience. He chose his course ; he placed the issue with God. No record is given of the journey, except that there were enemies and those who lay in wait to destroy them.

4. The result of Ezra's faith. The scholars will tell you it was the same as it always had been when men such as Abraham, or Joseph or Daniel, or Daniel's friends trusted God perfectly. The hand of their God was upon them, and they received protection. These two things go together : faith in God, and a life full of courage. Help the boys and girls to realize that this lesson, and the words of Deut. 4 : 31 are true to-day for them.

### ADDED HINTS AND HELPS

In this section will be found further assistance under various headings.

#### Something to Look Up

1. Find the proverb which says that a "just weight is a delight" to the Lord.
2. "God loveth a cheerful giver." Where are the words found?

ANSWERS, Lesson III.—(1) 1 Cor. 3 : 16.

(2) John 4 : 24.

#### For Discussion

1. Is there any antagonism between strong faith and good business methods?
2. Does prayer for protection ward off accidents?

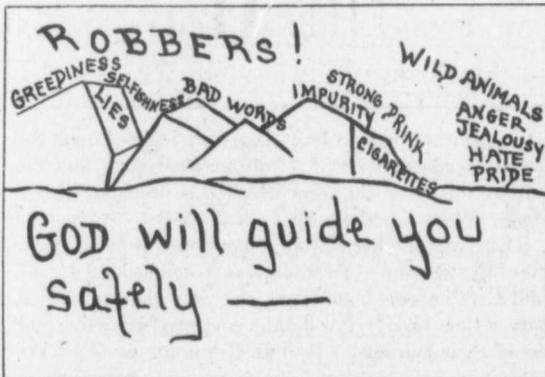
#### Prove from Scripture

That freewill gifts please God.

### FOR TEACHERS OF THE LITTLE ONES

*A Look Forward*—We see God teaching his people that he guides them.

*Lesson Thought*—Teach the children to take God as their guide.



*Approach to the Lesson*—"A guide" suggests so many delightful things,—from "a guide" in the snow-capped mountains, or the great St. Bernard dog "guides," or "a guide" through some beautiful building, or to some other place of interest, down to "a guide" in that well-known game "follow the leader." Anecdotes about any of these may be used to introduce the lesson.

What does a guide do for a traveler? Shows him the way, goes before him and points out