

have both in this lesson, but we will call it a precept lesson for the teaching or rule in it. The



story is of a good man named Ezra, which means "help." He was sent to help God's people, the Jews, who once were captives in Babylon, but who were allowed to go back to Palestine and to Jerusalem by the king, Cyrus, who conquered

Babylon. Fifty thousand Jews went back and began to build the temple, but were stopped by the heathen who lived then in the homeland. Two prophets afterward came to help them and tell them what to do, and the temple was finished. About sixty years later Ezra with a small company went up, ready to teach them the right way, and to help them put away their bad deeds. Let us see what he did that will help us. First,

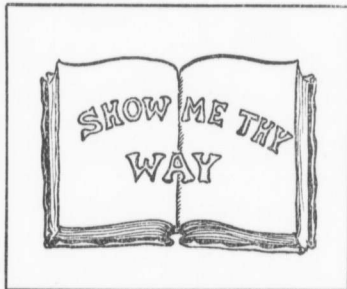
*He got ready for his work.* Before starting he called together the people who were going with him, by the river side and lived in tents with them three days, to see what all knew what they were about. Finding that there were none there from the family or tribe of Levi who were called ministers, because they ministered or served in the temple, he sent for some and God sent him the right ones. Then they held a prayer meeting. The way was long and dangerous and the wives and children were going too. Ezra was ashamed to ask the king to send a guard of soldiers with them, for he had said that God would care for them. So they had this meeting for one special thing. They

*Sought a right way.* How could they know how or where to go without God to guide and keep them? It is the very thing we must do too, so we will write it for our precept on the round of the ladder that is taking us upward: "See of him a right way."

How many ways are there? But two—right and wrong. Who alone can show the right one? God. There is a right way to come to the class, to go to school week days, to work and to play. We might even do something good and do it in the wrong way, like the boy who brought a quarter for missions, but said, boastfully, "See what I brought. It's more than any of the rest." A boy started to walk to his grandfather's, where he always had a good time. He knew the way, but he did not seek it, for he chose a side path that looked pleasanter, but which took him into a very dangerous place. Even before we are tempted to do wrong in anything we must seek of God the right way. After doing this Ezra and his company started and went forward on the

long, hard journey. As they went each one had his own duties. The most important duty was given to the priests, who were to carry the gold and silver vessels for the Lord's house. But if it happened to be the duty of a man or woman to look after some little child, and this was done carefully, that was just as well.

*God kept his word.* God's hand was upon them all for good, because they sought him. Over the long way he took care of them, saved them from the enemies that were lying waiting for them by the way, and brought them safe to Jerusalem. What a kind, strong hand is God's hand. How it holds us, leads us, and strengthens us. He has promised to do it—O, how many times he has promised. We will put on the board an open Bible, in which we find what God has said, and over or across it we will write, "Show me thy way," for it is in this book we find God's way and will for us.



### Kintergarten Hints.

**GOLDEN TEXT:** "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psa. 119, 105. "And lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them. When they saw the star they rejoiced with exceeding great joy." Matt. 2, 9, 10.

Some of you studied your lesson at home, and when your mother, as she was beginning to teach it, said, "It is about Ezra's journey to Jerusalem," you thought at once of a man who packed his trunk, went to the railroad station, and bought his ticket for Jerusalem. Ezra could not take a journey in that way. There were no cars, no trunks, no railroad stations, no tickets. Ezra was not even free to go on a journey. He had to ask leave of the king. Who was Ezra? A good man who had collected all the books of the Bible he could find, and had written such parts of the Bible as he knew about but could not find. Where was he living? In the heathen land across the desert, which we found on our outline map