

ing any of it by the sifting process necessary in adapting these lesson chapters to the primary grade. Let us see if we can simplify without wordy explanations, and let us see how much we can make out of our adaptation of these difficult lessons, without material loss.

#### LESSON STORY.

Again we review our lessons about Daniel and recall Ezekiel the prophet as another captive brought to that heathen land, Babylon, a place all the more dangerous to the followers of the true God, we explain, because the heathen offered many alluring, attractive things (customs) forbidden to God's children. Heathen temples built of bright-colored bricks, the king's hanging gardens (which we may describe if there is time) were a wonder to our simple captives, as were the great golden images of their gods. Giants in size were some of these gods, having a man's head on a lion's body, all made out of gold.

It was a temptation to the captives to join the celebrations and heathen festivals given in honor of these gigantic golden creatures which the heathen called "gods."

The captives felt that Ezekiel had become their leader. Ezekiel told them that when God chose a leader from among a company of people who had known misfortunes of war, he, the leader, was like a watchman set to blow a trumpet as a signal in times of danger (chapter 33), and the word of God is like the trumpet which the watchman blows in times like these. All would hear, without fail, the trumpet call. All could hear, without fail, the word of God spoken by the watchman, the prophet Ezekiel. No excuse for carelessness. Would they heed the warning?

At times Ezekiel found his fellow-captives in a state of homesickness as they gathered at his house, and then they were ready to listen to the trumpet call announcing God's promise of homes rebuild, and of a glorious church when they learned to become obedient to the trumpet call of Ezekiel the watchman. At other times Ezekiel found them in the state we can best describe as the "I won't" attitude. Do you know that state of mind? And you? I do! "I won't listen." "I won't try to keep away from tempting things." We hear, as they did, the trumpet call of danger, and we will not turn our heads. The danger is real, and the trouble that follows it is real! Those captives found it so, times out of number, just as we have. But Ezekiel never gave them up. Do you think God ever gave them up?

When God's followers, the captives in that heathen land, were in greatest danger of losing home forever, of losing themselves among heathen by becoming just like the heathen, Eze-

kiel sounded the trumpet call. This is God's word to the captives. Does it mean anything at all to us? Quote Ezek. 34. 12, and memorize this text if there is time.

Ezekiel at times found his fellow-captives—and 'his is the worst state of all!—in the "I-don't-care" attitude. Do you know this state of mind? And you? I do! We all do! It takes the loudest kind of a trumpet call to rouse the "I-don't-care" captives. Said Ezekiel, "God's word to me is that you are like a valley full of dry bones." God showed Ezekiel in a dream what such a place was like, and why the souls of the "I-don't-care" captives were like the dry bones. Can such bones be made alive? "I the Lord can breathe the breath of life into them." "I will put my Spirit within you." "Because I live, ye shall live also." "Seek ye me, and ye shall live."

#### LESSON VIII. (August 20.)

##### THE RIVER OF SALVATION. Ezek.

47. 1-12.

GOLDEN TEXT: "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Rev. 22. 17.

#### Primary Notes.

[Never forget the review, and let it go back as far as time will allow. Preserve the unity of thought, and continually impress God's loving care.]

*Approach to the lesson.*

Some traveler in a sandy desert lost their way, and wandered sadly about till they were almost ready to die with thirst. What is the only thing that will really refresh us when we are thirsty? If you were very, very thirsty on a hot day, and you should be offered candy, or cake instead of water, would you like that better? Would a silver dollar or a gold piece quench your thirst? No; nothing but water will do, and so these travelers went on seeking for water and trying to find their way out of the desert. At last they met some others, and begged water of them. "We have only enough for ourselves," they said, "but you are not far from a river. Go in that direction," and they pointed it out, "and you will soon find plenty of water."

These people could not give what was wanted, but they could tell where to find it. The lost men dragged themselves on, and at last came to the river. There they found water enough for all, but each one drank for himself. What one drank would not refresh another. They paid

