

an altar of stones with fire on it. Explain the offerings of the first-born of all cattle, the finest and best of all, as a sacrifice upon the altar. (Their form of worship.)

*The First Trial of Faith*—It is only those who are tried who are fit to do God's work. God wanted to see if Abraham's faith and obedience were strong enough for the great plan He had for him. What did God tell him to do? Will he do it? Yes! at once he obeyed.

*Golden Text*—God's voice. (Golden Text.) Tell the story. The lad Isaac was as obedient to his father as Abraham was to God. He did exactly as his father told him. Abraham laid Isaac on the altar (a willing sacrifice) and was about to complete the work, when God's voice again spoke to him. Now come the happy parts of the story (verses 12, 13).

*Our Sacrifices*—God wants us to be willing to give up the things we love most for His sake, if He calls us to do so. He does not always take away our treasures, but we must be willing to give them up for Him, our best things, not poor mean gifts of no value to us. Little girls and boys have to *make sacrifices* sometimes. When we "give

up" some pleasure or treasure for the good of others, that is a sacrifice. Jennie often gave up her play to take care of baby brother. Mary gave up her doll to little sister. Jack, a little street urchin, had saved up his pennies to get a Christmas treat. He met a hungry child crying for bread. He gave her his pennies. Some fathers and mothers are called to give up their sons or daughters to go to mission fields for Jesus' sake. Some have to give up their sons to go to war for their king. We should give up ourselves to God, and do just what He tells us to do. God will never ask us to do anything, however hard, that is not for our good. Repeat (with gestures)—

"Two little eyes to look to God ;  
Two little ears to hear His Word ;  
Two little feet to walk His way ;  
Hands to serve Him every day ;  
One little tongue to speak His truth ;  
One little heart for Him in my youth ;  
Take me, Jesus, let me be  
A willing sacrifice to Thee."

*Story Book*—"The First Trial." (See blackboard.)

#### BLACKBOARD REVIEW

<b>A</b>	<b>Father</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>obeys</b>
	<b>Son</b>		<b>consents</b>
	<b>God</b>		<b>blesses</b>

The exercise may begin by writing a large A upon the blackboard. Then follow with the word FATHER. Question the scholars about Abraham's early history, his call, his faith in obeying, the promise of a son, the long waiting, the birth, at last, of Isaac. Now write the word SON. This is the "only son" (v. 2), i.e., the only son of promise. Show how much Abraham might be expected to prize him and how intensely, in fact, he did love him. Now write the word GOD. He who has given Abraham this son will never sunder them! It is this very God who commands Abraham to slay his son as an offering upon the altar. How strange! Wherefore is it? The sketch may now be rapidly completed. Take, in order, Abraham's obedience through faith; Isaac's consent through like faith and through filial love; God's blessing pronounced on faithful Abraham. Close with Hymn 293, Book of Praise.