

GOLDEN TEXT

Prov. 17 : 25. A foolish son is a grief to his father.

DAILY READINGS

M. —2 Sam. 18 : 1-8.	A sad day.
T. —2 Sam. 18 : 9-23.	A sad end.
W. —2 Sam. 18 : 24-33.	David's grief over Absalom
Th. —2 Sam. 19 : 1-8.	Victory and tears.
F. —Prov. 17 : 15-25.	A foolish son.
S. —Isa. 1 : 1-9.	Rebellious children.
S. —Lam. 3 : 17-33.	Comfort in sorrow.

CATECHISM

Q. 101. What do we pray for in the first petition?
 A. In the first petition (which is, *Hallowed be thy name*) we pray, That God would enable us and others to glorify him in all that whereby he maketh himself known; and that he would dispose all things to his own glory.

TIME AND PLACE

About 1023 B.C.; Mahanaim. David's temporary capital, a strongly fortified town situated east of the Jordan and near the Jabbok. This had been the capital of Ish-bosheth's kingdom, ch. 2 : 8. The battle was fought "in the wood of Ephraim," a forest of Gilead, east of the Jordan, and within a day's journey of Mahanaim, ch. 19 : 2.

LESSON PLAN

- I. Tidings Awaited, 24-27.
 By King David concerning the battle.
 II. Tidings Received, 28-32.
 From Ahimaaz and the Cushite.
 III. David's Grief, 33.
 Over the death of his son Absalom.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise, 46; 10; 31 (Ps. Sel.); 125; 129; 578.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—Who had made himself king? Whither did David go? (ch. 17 : 22-24.) Who showed kindness to him, and how? (ch. 17 : 27-29.) Between whose armies was a battle fought? Where? What happened to Absalom?

24-27 Where did David wait to hear the result of the battle? Describe the gate? Where did the watchman stand? What did he see? What did the king say? Why did he think it was good tidings?

28-30 What salutation did Ahimaaz make? What good news did he tell? What bad news did he withhold? What untruth did he tell? Why? Was this right? (Ex. 20 : 16.)

31, 32 Who brought the second report? Who was the Cushite? Who had sent him? (v. 21.) What was his first tidings? What was the king more anxious to know? What did the Cushite tell him about his son?

33 How had Absalom sinned against David? What is the sad wages of sin? (Rom. 6 : 23.) How did David feel towards him? Repeat his heart-broken cry. How has God shown His love to us? (Rom. 5 : 8.)

Seniors and the Home Department—Who was Hushai? (ch. 15 : 37.) What commission was given him? (ch. 15 : 31.) What was Ahithophel's plan? (ch. 17 : 1.) Hushai's? (ch. 17 : 11.) Which did Absalom adopt? Who were the leaders of David's army? What charge did the king give them? (ch. 18 : 5.) The result of the battle?

24-27 Who sent messengers to the king? How many were sent? Which started first? Which arrived first? How fast could such messengers sometimes run?

28-32 How did Ahimaaz greet the king? Give other examples? (1 Sam. 21 : 31; 25 : 23.) To whom did Ahimaaz ascribe the victory? Through whom can we conquer? (Rom. 8 : 37.) About whose safety was David anxious? How has God shown His interest in our salvation? (John 3 : 16.)

33 Whither did the king go? What did he wish? Who expressed a similar wish? (Ex. 32 : 32; Rom. 9 : 3.) Why did Christ die? (2 Cor. 5 : 21; 1 Pet. 3 : 18.) How should this influence us? (2 Cor. 5 : 14, 15.)

Prove from Scripture—That our sin may bring sorrow to others.

Practical Points—

1. "Blow, blow, thou winter wind!
 Thou art not so unkind
 As man's ingratitude."
2. To be patient, when we have just to sit still and wait, is nobler than to work hard or to fight bravely.
3. When God is on our side, "all is well" with us. In the darkest hour we can sing:
 "God's in his heaven—
 All's right with the world."
4. "Is the young man safe?" Parents and teachers ask the question with bursting hearts, for they recall their own temptations. They, too, were young once. Let it be the care and pride of the young people to relieve them from all anxiety, and not to grieve them by their heedlessness.
5. When it is our duty to say unwelcome things, we should put as much kindness as possible into our speech.
6. David was ready to die for his rebellious son. Christ has died for a world in rebellion against Him.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. Picture David waiting by the gate.

2. What news did Ahimaaz bring? What further, the Cushite?

3. How does David's love resemble the love of Christ?