

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS.

THIRD QUARTER.

LESSON VI. (Aug. 5.)

JESUS AND THE CHILDREN. Matt.

18. 1-14.

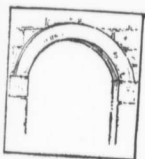
GOLDEN TEXT: "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God." Mark 10, 14.

Primary Notes.

BY JULIA H. JOHNSTON.

Introductory. Open with the prayer-verse sung softly:

"Lord, may we hear thy word,
Speak now to us, we pray;
O, may we do thy blessed will,
And please thee day by day."



Review lesson titles, texts, and truths of the month past with special care. Lead on from the lesson upon the transfiguration to this present one by making vivid the scene at the foot of the mountain

when Jesus and the three disciples came down to find there a man whose son had an evil spirit which the disciples left behind had tried in vain to cast out. Show the love of Jesus in coming down from the glory of the hour on the mountain, when the heavenly visitors talked with him, to help these suffering ones whom he knew were waiting for him below. God's voice spoke out of the bright cloud above saying, "This is my beloved Son," and afterward Jesus said to his followers, "As the Father hath loved me, even so have I loved you." O, what love! He showed it to this poor father now, and to the son who needed help so much. Is Christ the very same now? Yes, he loves all, and he loves us, just as he did the people long ago when they could see his face and feel his kind hand. We will write for our lesson truth to-day, in the column where we are adding one each week, "Jesus loves us." The lesson story will show us this and prove it to be true.

The lesson story. The disciples were talking among themselves one day about what

seemed to them a great question. They wondered who was to be the highest of all in the kingdom of Christ—that is, among those over whom Christ was King. They did the best possible thing when they came to Jesus about this, for he could set them right where they were wrong, and he did. He answered by showing them something first. He called a little child to him, and set the little one down in the middle of the people gathered there. Do you suppose some one had to drag that little child to the Saviour's side when Jesus called him? O, surely not. I think the wee boy must have run as fast as he could in answer to that sweet call, "Come to me." And there, close beside Jesus, the little one was not afraid while the Lord pointed to him and talked about him and said to them all that unless they became like this little child and were changed from being proud to being lowly, not thinking highly of themselves, but being ready to be taught and led, they could not even belong to his kingdom. Then the Lord told them that whoever humbled himself, or made himself as low as this child, should be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. You remember the story of the palace with the low door, how easily the little children ran in because they were so small, while the taller ones had to stoop low to go through. So, if a big man wanted to come as easily as a child, he had to make himself no higher than a child, by stooping down. Jesus meant that the hearts of the big people would have to stoop low, till they were like the lowly, trusting, loving, obedient hearts of little children, if they would come into his kingdom and be great there.

A little child who does not know the way is willing to follow his father, listen to his voice, and do as he says. Jesus wants all his children to be like this. He told his disciples, too, that in heaven the angels who were told to watch the children were always with God the Father; so no one should think lightly of a child, as if he were worth little. And, if a man with a hundred sheep would go after even one lost one, and be glad when he found it, how much more would Jesus look for lost children, for he was not willing that one should be lost.

Let the little ones come. Who has most care where there are big people and little ones, the big children or the babies who can't take care of themselves? Why, the babies, of course, because they can do nothing. So, Jesus loves you because you are little. He