

KINDNESS AND
CRUELTY.

THE boy who is kind to dumb animals has something noble about him, no matter what a mischief, or how fond of boyish pranks he may be. But the boy who is cruel in his fun is in danger of becoming a bad man. In our picture we see a boy who has been amusing himself in tormenting a poor little dog. He has pelted it with stones till it has run in terror to the water's edge. Here it has found a kind-hearted lad to protect it. See how quickly the dog knows it can trust its new friend, as he takes it up in his arms. The heartless boy would throw another stone, but a third lad runs up and touches his arm, remonstrating with him. We hope he will feel what a small, mean, and cowardly thing cruelty to God's little, helpless creatures is.

"He prayeth best who loveth best,
All things, both great and small,
For the dear Lord who loveth us,
He made and loveth all."

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF CHRIST.

A.D. 29.] LESSON III. (Jan. 20.)
CHRIST THE BREAD OF LIFE.

John 6. 25-35. Memory verses, 33-35.

GOLDEN TEXT.

He gave them bread from heaven to eat.—
John 6. 31.

OUTLINE.

1. Earthly Bread, v. 25-31.
2. Heavenly Bread, v. 32-35.

TIME.—Probably about April, A.D. 29.

PLACE.—Capernaum, where Tell Hum now is.

RULERS.—Herod, in Galilee; Pilate, in Judea.

HOME READING.

- M. Christ the bread of life.—John 6. 25-35.
Tu. Misunderstood.—John 6. 36-46.
W. Bread from heaven.—John 6. 47-55.
Th. Spiritual teaching.—John 6. 56-63.
F. Christ, the water of life.—John 4. 7-14.
S. The manna.—Exod. 16. 11-18.
Su. Eternal life by faith.—1 John 5. 9-13.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. *Earthly Bread*, v. 25-31.
Why did Jesus escape from the people? Verse 15.
How did he and the disciples reach Capernaum? Verses 16-21.
What question did the people ask Jesus?
What reason did he give for their seeking him?
For what did he tell them to labour?
Who would give them enduring good?
What question did the people then ask?
What is the work of God?
What did they ask about a sign?
What did they say about their fathers?
How did God provide for their need? (Golden Text.)
2. *Heavenly Bread*, v. 32-35.
Who had given the people bread from heaven?
Who is the true bread of God?
What did the people ask?
What did Jesus in reply say of himself?
Who should never hunger?
Who should never thirst?
Who murmured over Jesus' saying? Verses 41-51.
How did he explain the true bread? Verses 52-56.
What effect had this teaching on the disciples? Verse 66.
What says Isaiah about those who hunger and thirst? Isa. 55. 1.



What invitation does Jesus give? John 7. 37.
Who gain in this gracious invitation? Rev. 22. 17.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. What we should seek for first?
2. Who only can give us the bread of life?
3. How we nevermore hunger?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Who sought Jesus? The multitude that he had fed. 2. For what did Jesus reprove them? For not hungering and thirsting after righteousness. 3. What did Jesus say would enable them to "work the works of God?" Belief in Christ. 4. Who is the "Bread of God?" The Lord Jesus Christ. 5. What is the Golden Text? "He gave them bread from heaven to eat."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The divine authority of Jesus.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

How does Jesus explain the Ten Commandments?
By teaching us that they forbid sin, not only in outward actions, but also in the thoughts and purposes of the mind.
Matthew 5. 21, 22.

TRUE sensitiveness does not speak of itself.

KEEP THE SOUL ON TOP.

LITTLE Bertie Blynn had just finished his dinner. He was in the library, keeping still for a few minutes after eating, according to his mother's rule. She got it from the family doctor, and a good rule it is. Bertie was sitting in his own rocking-chair before the pleasant grate fire. He had in his hand two fine apples—a rich red and a green. His father sat at the window reading a newspaper. Presently he heard the child say: "Thank you, little master."

Drop his paper, he said: "I thought we were alone, Bertie. Who was here just now?"

"Nobody, papa, only you and I."

"Didn't you say just now, 'Thank you, little master?'"

"The child did not answer at first, but laughed a shy laugh. Soon he said: 'I'm afraid you'll laugh at me if I tell you, papa.'"

"Well you have just laughed, and why mayn't I?"

"But I mean you'll make fun of me."

"No, I won't make fun of you; but, perhaps, I'll have fun with you. That will help us digest our roast beef."

"I'll tell you about it, papa. I had eaten my red apple and wanted to eat the green one too. Just then I remembered something I learned in school about eating, and I thought one big apple was enough. My stomach will be glad if I don't give it the green one to grind. It seemed for a minute just as if it said to me, 'Thank you, little master;' but I know I said it myself."

"What is it Miss McLaren has been teaching you about eating?"

"She told us to be careful not to give our stomachs too much food to grind. If we do, she says, it will make bad blood, that will run into our veins and make them dull and stupid, so that we can't get our lessons well, and, perhaps, give us headaches, too. If we give our stomachs just enough work to do they will give us pure, lively blood that will make us feel bright and cheerful in school. Miss McLaren says that sometimes, when she eats too much of something that she likes very much, it seems almost as if her stomach moaned and complained; but when she denies herself and doesn't eat too much it seems as if it were thankful and glad."

"That's as good preaching as the minister's, Bertie. What more did Miss McLaren tell you about this matter?"

"She taught us a verse one day about keeping the soul on top. That wasn't just the words but it's just what it meant. At this papa's paper went suddenly right up before his face."

"When in a minute it dropped down, there wasn't any laugh on his face as he said: 'Weren't these the words, 'I keep my body under?'"

"Oh, yes! that was it; but it means just the same. If I keep my body under, of course my soul is on top."

"Of course it is, my boy. Keep your soul on top, and you'll belong to the grandest style of man that walks the earth."

The Sacred Birthday.

Those dimpled hands that Mary's lips
So often and so fondly pressed;
Ah, how their rosy finger-tips
Woke rapture in her virgin breast!
Can mother hearts forget
His birthday liveth yet?

Those boyish hands—obedient, swift,
To learn the master-workman's skill—
To every youth they bring a gift
Of industry and duty still,
Can workmen forget
His birthday cometh yet?

Those healing hands, that banished pain,
Restored the dead again to life,
That broke the mourning captive's chain
And stilled the raging tempest's strife!
Can mourning hearts forget
His birthday bleaseth yet?

Those bleeding hands that on the cross
Were stretched and pierced to save our
race,
That paid the debt, that bore the loss,
And opened wide the gates of grace!
Can ransomed souls forget
His birthday beameth yet?

Those radiant hands that from the tomb
Rose up to God and led the way,
With promise to prepare us room
And guide us gently day by day!
Can trusting ones forget
His birthday dawneth yet?

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A LITTLE TOO SOON.



Fond Father (to friend).—I want you to see my twin boys, old fellow. They're asleep now; they look like a couple of angels when their asleep; stop right into the bedroom!

The boys were not exactly asleep, however; in fact they were right in middle of their usual nine o'clock pillow fight.