

THE BEST BEGINNING.

She was only one wee maiden,  
But with willing heart and hand  
She pursed her rosy lips and said,  
"I'm going to be a Band."  
Of course she asked her mother,  
As any maiden would,  
And got some help in drawing rules,  
And "seeing if she could."

Then off she started down the lane,  
This dainty missionary;  
She had to talk, and talk, and talk,  
For folks are "real contrary."  
"D'you know about these heathen girls,  
How every single one  
Is shut up in a horrid house,  
And can't have fun?"

"And nothing nice to eat at all—  
Just like sour milk or tea  
Without a scrap of sugar?  
(I'm very glad 'tain't me.)  
And then they're so afraid to die;  
They don't know 'bout our Lord,  
Who came to take us all to heaven  
By trusting in his word."

"Don't you think we ought help them  
Before we're grown up quite,  
To save these little heathen girls  
By sending them the light?"  
She didn't have to go so far,  
This little maiden wee,  
Before she found another one  
Who did with her agree.

So they 'lected Molly secretary,  
And Ethel took the chair,  
And though their minds were very hazy  
As to what their duties were,  
That day they made an iron rule  
That each who joined must seek  
One other member; then the Band  
"Adjourned to meet next week."

And Molly brought Clarinda,  
And Ethel found out Dan.  
And him they made the president  
Because he was a man.  
Now it wasn't very long, be sure,  
With such a stringent rule,  
Before there really was a throng—  
In fact 'twas all the school.

And they studied about the heathen,  
Prayed for their souls so sad,  
And they worked to gather pennies  
To send the tidings glad.  
They had exhibitions, concerts,  
And all such things, you know,  
For the bigger people all waked up  
By the stirring going on below.

So, just one little maiden,  
Who works with heart and hand,  
Is the very best beginning  
For the Missionary Band.

A little child in India said that she liked her teacher's religion better than hers. "Why?" asked her teacher. "I like your Jesus because he loves little girls," she said.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL BY JOHN.

LESSON VI. [May 7.]

THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES.

John 15. 1-11. Memory verses, 6-8.

GOLDEN TEXT.

I am the vine, ye are the branches.—  
John 15. 5.

A LESSON TALK.

In the East the cultivation of grapes is very common. There are whole fields of grape-vines, which are called vineyards. Perhaps you have seen a vineyard in our land. You will believe that many men are needed to take care of the tender vines. They must be trained just right, and the branches that do not bear fruit must be cut off. When this is done the branch dies. The men who care for the vines are called husbandmen. When Jesus spoke these words about the vine and the branches he knew that the disciples would understand what he meant. It was a picture lesson he gave them, and he meant it for us too.

You must never think that a child cannot bear fruit. Little branches often bear the sweetest fruit. The secret of fruit-bearing is found in the tenth verse. "If ye keep my commandments," Jesus said, "ye shall abide," and abiding, you shall bear fruit.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

What does Jesus call himself in this lesson? The vine.

What does he call his disciples? The branches.

What are branches for? To bear fruit.  
What kind of branches bear fruit? Living branches.

Why cannot a dead branch bear fruit? It has no life.

What fruit may a child bear? Love, peace, patience, goodness.

What child can bear such fruit? The child who abides in Jesus.

What is it to abide in Jesus? To love and obey him.

Who is pleased when we bear good fruit? Our Father in heaven.

What does he tell each one to do? To "continue" in his love.

How can we do this? By keeping his commandments.

What is a good prayer for us?

"Lord, we would abide in thee,  
Little children though we be?  
Make us branches of the Vine,  
Always, only, truly thine."

LESSON VII. [May 14.]

CHRIST BETRAYED AND ARRESTED.

John 18. 1-14. Memory verses, 3-5.

GOLDEN TEXT

He is despised and rejected of men.—  
Isa. 53. 3.

A LESSON TALK.

It was a very long talk that Jesus had with his disciples that last night of his life on earth. Then how tenderly he prayed for them and for all who should believe on him through their word! We are among those who believe because the disciples went everywhere preaching Jesus, so this prayer is for us. Have you read it? It is in the seventeenth chapter of John. You remember that while they were still at the supper Judas went out to betray his Master. He told the wicked rulers where they would be likely to find Jesus, and he even led them to the garden, where he had so often gone with Jesus. This lesson shows us how great was the power of Jesus, and it shows, too, how great was his love, when he would not use this power to save his own life. Remember that the servant whose ear he restored was his enemy. Jesus came to teach us the beautiful lesson of love. Every day we live, we may show by our words and acts if we are trying to follow him in ways of loving-kindness and forgiveness. Are we, like Jesus, ready to love and bless our enemies.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Where did Jesus go after supper? To the garden of Gethsemane.

Who went with him? The disciples.

Who came there hunting for him? A mob of wicked men.

Who showed them the way? Judas.

Who told Judas to betray his Master. Satan.

What did the priests give him? Thirty pieces of silver.

How much was that worth? Nearly twenty dollars.

What might Jesus have done? Killed all these wicked people.

What did he do? He let them take him and bind him.

Why did he do this? Because he came to die for us.

What can we give in return for such love? Give him our hearts.

What shall we do if we are tempted to deny Jesus? Ask him to help us.

THE TALKING FACE.

"I didn't say a single word," said Annie Barton to her mother, who was reproving her for her unamiable temper.

"I know you didn't, Annie; but your face talked."

What volumes your faces say! Some speak of love and kindness, some of anger and hatred, others of pride and rebellion, and others still of selfishness.

We can't help our faces talking; but we can make them say pleasant things, and all should try to have them do so.

Never let a day pass without doing something for Jesus