

WHO LIKES THE RAIN ?

"I," said the duck, "I call it fun,
For I have my little red rubbers on;
They make a cunning, three-toed track
In the soft, cool mud. Quack, quack!"

"I," cried the dandelion "I;
My roots are thirsty, my buds are dry."
And she lifted her little yellow head
Out of her green and grassy bed.

"I hope 'twill pour! I hope 'twill pour!"
Croaked the tree-toad at his gray bark
door ;

"For with a broad leaf for a roof
I am perfectly weatherproof."

Sang the brook: "I laugh at every drop,
And wish they never need to stop,
Till a big river I grew to be
And could find my way to the sea."

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS.

LESSON IV. [Jan. 25.]

PAUL'S COUNSEL TO THE THESSALONIANS.

1 Thess. 5. 14-28. Memorize verses 16-18

GOLDEN TEXT.

Hold fast that which is good.—1 Thess. 5. 21.

THE LESSON STORY.

Although Paul and Silas were badly treated by some of the Jews at Thessalonica, they were welcomed and trusted by others and by many Greeks and good women, who afterward became the Christian church of the city. To them Paul wrote two letters not long after the church was formed. They were written from Corinth, a beautiful city of the Greeks. He felt like a father toward his children, whom he had brought into a new faith, and who needed teaching and encouragement. In the first letter he tells them to be good to the weak; to be "patient toward all men;" to "rejoice evermore;" to "pray without ceasing," and "in everything give thanks."

He also tells them to "prove all things," and "hold fast that which is good;" to abstain from all appearance (first beginnings) of evil." He prays that they may be kept pure and blameless in soul and body until the coming of Christ, and tells them that he who called them is faithful, and will do what he has promised.

Some time when you are older you will read the two letters to the Thessalonians, and find how Paul loved his spiritual children. Then you will know how much more the Lord loves his children in the churches and outside of them.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Whom did Paul leave in Thessalonica? A company of Christians.

Where did he afterward go? To Athens.

To whom did he write letters? To the Thessalonians.

What are they sometimes called? Epistles.

What did he want to do? To help them.

What did they need? To know how to follow Jesus.

Where do we find that teaching? In the New Testament.

What did he tell them to do? To follow that which is good."

What else? To rejoice, to pray, and be thankful.

What did he bid them keep from? The beginnings of evil.

What did he pray? That God would keep them pure.

Whom did he call "faithful"? The Lord Jesus.

LESSON V. [Feb. 1.]

PAUL AT ATHENS.

Acts 17. 22-34. Memorize verses 28, 29.

GOLDEN TEXT.

He preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection.—Acts 17. 18.

THE LESSON STORY.

When Paul went from Berea to Athens he found the most beautiful city in the world. It was full of noble temples and statues and altars, so beautiful that no one has ever been able to make any to excel them since, but the statues were many of them idols, and the temples and altars were for idol worship.

This must have made Paul very sad as he walked about among them. He went into a Jewish synagogue there on the Sabbath, which was not beautiful like the temples, and on week days he went among the people in the great square, or market place. The people were always talking about some new thing, and when they heard Paul talking about a new religion they asked him to preach on Mars' hill, which he did. There was a temple to the god of war there, and it was also a court, but Paul talked of the Prince of Peace. He said he had seen an altar "to the unknown God," and he would tell them about the God they did not know, yet worshipped. He also told them about Jesus who came to call all men to repentance, and who had died for our sins and had risen again. Some laughed at Paul, but a few believed in Jesus.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Where did Paul go from Berea? To Athens.

What was Athens? A city in Greece.

What kind of a city? A beautiful marble city.

What did Paul see there? Great temples and beautiful statues.

What were the people? Idol worshippers.

Who asked Paul to preach? The men of Athens.

Where did he stand? On Mars' hill.

What did he tell them? About the true God.

What of idols? That God cannot be made by men.

What did he want men to do? To repent.

What did they think of Christ? Some mocked and others believed.

Who were believers? Dionysius and Damaris.

"ABLE TO DELIVER US."

One morning the children in a poor little home gathered about a table with no food on it. But the father knelt down and prayed to God for bread and butter and meat, and his little ones began cheerfully to play. Soon there was a knock at the door, and a big basket was handed in. It had the father's name upon it, but he was so sure he had not bought anything that he was going to send it back. But one of the little boys, peeping beneath the lid, said: "Tapa, I'm 'fraid God will be dreadfully disappointed if you don't take these things, 'cause you said once that he liked to give us things we ask for; and you just asked for bread and butter and meat, and here they are." The big basket was taken in, and the bread and butter and meat fed the little children God meant them to. He is always glad when we say: "Our God whom we serve is able to help us." He is more glad, though, when we will do right even when it brings us into trouble.

HER ONE TREASURE.

The teacher of a girls' school away in Africa wished her scholars to learn to give. She paid them, therefore, for doing some work for her, so that each girl might have something of her own to give away for Jesus' sake. Among them was a new scholar, such a wild and ignorant little heathen that the teacher did not try to explain to her what the other girls were doing.

The day came when the gifts were handed in. Each pupil brought her piece of money and laid it down, and the teacher thought all the offerings were given. But there stood the new scholar hugging tightly in her arms a pitcher, the only thing she had in the world. She went to the table and put it among the other gifts, but before she turned away she kissed it.

There is One who watched, and still watches, people casting gifts into his treasury. Would he not say of this African girl: "She hath cast in more than they all"?—*Mission Record.*