

GOLDEN TEXT

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and man. Luke 3: 52.

DAILY READINGS

M.—Luke 2: 40-52. The child Jesus visits Jerusalem.
T.—Deut. 16: 1-8. The Passover feast.
W.—John 5: 17-24. The Father's business.
Th.—John 7: 1-15. The Jews astonished.
F.—Prov. 4: 1-13. Value of wisdom.
S.—Prov. 23: 15-25. The wise child.
S.—2 Pet. 3: 11-18. Growing in grace.

TIME

The spring of A.D. 9, when Jesus was twelve years old.

PLACE

Nazareth, a little village in Galilee, and Jerusalem, the Holy City.

CATECHISM

Q. 2. What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

A. The word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.

LESSON PLAN

I. To the Feast, 41, 42.

As the law required of a boy of twelve.

II. In the Temple, 43-50.

Tarrying to learn more; missed, sought for and found.

III. At Home, 51, 52.

Growing in body and mind, obedient to his parents, and in favor with God and man.

LESSON HYMNS

519; 1 (Ps. 8:1); 538; 521; 535.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—41, 42 Who recognized Jesus as a babe in the Temple? What marvellous escape had He? Who were Jesus' parents? Where did they go every year? For what purpose? At what age did boys begin to go?

43-45 How long did the Passover last? What did it commemorate? Why did Jesus remain behind? Why did not His parents know? When was He missed? Where was He sought first? Where next?

46-49 When did they find Him? Where? What doing? What did His mother say? What did He reply? Who was His father?

50-52 What did Jesus now do? How long in Nazareth? How did He behave? What did God think of Him? What did men think?

Seniors—41, 42 When did Jesus first visit a great city? At what age? With whom did He go? What were the three national feasts? (Ex. 22: 14-16.) What did the law of Moses require as to attendance? What event did the Passover commemorate?

43-45 In what was Jesus most interested? How did He show it? How did Christ's parents manifest their confidence in Him? Why did they not miss Him? What lesson here as to trustworthiness?

46-49 Where was Jesus found? In what company? Describe the manner of teaching. At what were His hearers amazed? On what other occasions astonished? (Matt. 17: 28; Mark 1: 22; Luke 4: 22, 32; John 7: 15, 16.) Why should we search the Scriptures? (John 5: 39; Acts 17: 11; 2 Tim. 3: 15.) About what was Christ's first recorded utterance? What surprise did He express? What lessons to be learned from the Child in His Father House? From the Child "about His Father's business"? When is it the best time to begin to work for God?

50-52 Why did they not understand? Whom should children obey? (Eph. 6: 1; Col. 3: 20.) To whom is true religion pleasing? To whom attractive? How did Christ's quiet boyhood and youth in Nazareth

eth prepare Him for His after work?

Bible Side Lights—THE PASSOVER FEAST—Deut. 16: 1; Ex. 12: 3, 21, 43, 47; John 11: 53.

A DAY'S JOURNEY—1 Kings 19: 4; Jonah 3: 4.

SOUGHT FOR HIM—John 7: 11; 11: 53; Acts 12: 19.

SORROWING—Gen. 21: 15, 16; 1 Kings 3: 26; 2 Sam. 13: 37-39.

WAS SUBJECT TO THEM—Prov. 6: 20-22; 23: 22; Eph. 6: 1; Col. 3: 20.

Practical Points—1. "Twelve years old." A real boy among boys, else his parents would have been anxious about him; but already eager, as boys of twelve are, to shoulder the responsibilities of manhood. Responsibility, like a load carried on the head, makes the back straight and strong.

2. What a beautiful picture, the boy Jesus among the doctors, "nothing about Him forward or impatient, but only the intense eagerness of a child to whom God had given serious vision, and from whom a wise mother had withheld folly."

3. There is only one star safe to steer by, because it alone never changes its place. The only safe guide, for boy or man is God's will, the only work worth while, God's business.

4. Boys, look out for your health. "There is no kind of achievement," said Thomas Carlyle to the students at Edinburgh, "equal to perfect health. What to it are nuggets or millions?"

5. There you have "a boy that is a boy"—obedient to His parents, well pleasing to God, and a favorite with all about Him. A most noble and manly lad.

6. "The child is a charioteer driving two steeds up the long life hill; one steed is white, representing our best impulses; one steed is black, standing for our worst passions." Choose, as Jesus did, the white steed.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. Why did Jesus go to Jerusalem at twelve?

2. Why did he remain behind?

3. What does He mean by "My Father's business."